



NEWSLETTER

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CHINA FOR A GLOBAL SHIFT INITIATIVE



WWF sees the China-Africa relationship as an opportunity for sustainable development and is increasing its staff capacity in Africa to work with China. In July further momentum was generated in this growing relation as representatives from China and 50 African countries gathered in Beijing for the Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) – an event that occurs every three years.

On this occasion, China pledged US\$20 billion in credit lines to develop infrastructure, agriculture and manufacturing projects in Africa. The package doubled compared to three years ago and involves sectors with both social and environmental impacts. It is therefore crucial that robust strategic assessments are applied when undertaking such projects.

Some of those principles are already acknowledged in the FOCAC conclusions. The action plan makes an explicit link between “energy and resources” and “development”. It encourages cooperation in clean energy and renewable resources and states that “high attention” should be paid to “protecting local eco-environment”. The document also incorporates social responsibility for Chinese companies investing in Africa, with the Chinese government committing to guide them in fulfilling such an objective. In addition, China pledged to increase efforts to improve forest protection and management in Africa, an essential step to ensure livelihood for local communities, to develop national economies and stabilise the world’s climate.

Bringing all this to reality will require financial institutions to play their part when channeling funds to (sustainable) projects. The Chinese financial regulator – China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) – has welcomed WWF’s support in training representatives from the sector in integrating environmental and social risk in lending and investment portfolios. WWF is keen to ensure that this applies also to overseas investment and in the roll-out of the FOCAC package.

China’s trade and investment in Africa can be a driver for sustainable development and nature conservation, but this will not happen automatically. That is why WWF is harnessing its 32 years in China and its over 40 years in 16 countries in Africa to work with policy-makers and companies and develop effective natural resources governance. WWF is now the only NGO with dedicated teams in China and in African countries working on the Africa-China relation. We do this because effective natural resources governance is necessary not only to deliver long-term benefits to Africa, but also to enable Chinese investment to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

Donald Pols
Programme Director
WWF’s China for a Global Shift Initiative

CHINA & AFRICA

WWF and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

On 19-20 July 2012, Beijing hosted the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the most important political event on China-Africa relation.

In the past year and during the FOCAC week, WWF engaged with Chinese and African officials as well as with African Ambassadors in Beijing to include environmental sustainability in the conclusions of the Ministerial Conference.

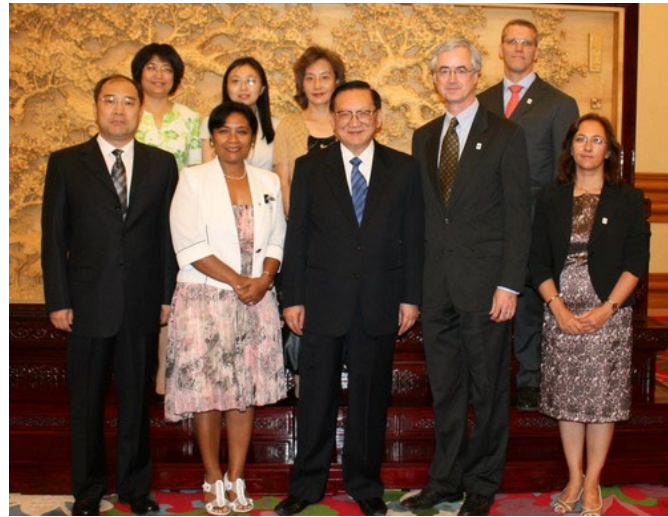
WWF had the honour to facilitate a meeting of two co-founders of FOCAC, Lila Ratsifandrihamanana, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar, and Tang Jiaxuan, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of China to discuss ways to enhance environmental considerations in the FOCAC package. The same topics were raised by Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana in a meeting with WWF Director General Jim Leape and Lu Shaye, Director General of the Department of African Affairs at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jim Leape was also invited to address on corporate social responsibility at the 4th Conference of Chinese and African Entrepreneurs, opened by Premier Wen Jiabao on the eve of the FOCAC Ministerial Conference. WWF was the only NGO invited to speak at the event which gathered 1,500 decision-makers and business leaders.

To deepen the discussion, on 16 July WWF organised a conference on the theme “China and Africa: Shaping the Economies of the Future”. The event was in cooperation with the China Council on International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), with the participation of the African Development Bank, China’s Ex-Im Bank and representatives of African Embassies.

The week wouldn’t have been so productive if we had not had in Beijing our colleagues from Africa: Laurent Some (WWF Africa and Madagascar Programme based in Kenya), Suparna Biswas (Gabon), Basile Yapo (Cameroon), Christine Tam (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Patrick Matakala (Zambia), David Duli (Uganda), Florencio Marerua (Mozambique), Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana (Madagascar), Louise Scholtz (South Africa).

This is a summary in pictures of the FOCAC week for WWF.



On 17 July, Tang Jiaxuan (front middle), Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, met with Lila Ratsifandrihamanana (front left), WWF Director General Jim Leape (front right) and WWF delegates. © MFA



On 18 July, WWF Director General Jim Leape addressed the 4th Conference of Chinese and African Entrepreneurs on corporate social responsibility. © CLAUDIA DELPERO / WWF



Meeting of WWF Director General Jim Leape (right) and WWF's China for a Global Shift Initiative Leader Li Lin (left), with Wan Jifei, Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), after the 4th Conference of Chinese and African Entrepreneurs. © LI NAN / WWF



Speakers and guests attending the meeting on “China and Africa: Shaping the Economies of the Future” organised by WWF and CCICED: Liu Guijin (Former Director General of African Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Former Chinese Government's Special Representative for African Affairs), Lila Ratsifandrihamanana (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Madagascar), Victor Sikonina (Ambassador of Madagascar to China), Anthony Okon Nyong (Manager of Compliance and Safeguards Division of the African Development Bank (AfDB)) and WWF staff.



H.E. Mr. Nolana Ta-Ama, Ambassador of Togo and Dean of the Diplomatic corps in China, speaking at the WWF event.



Li Ganjie, Vice Minister for Environmental Protection and Secretary General of CCICED, addressing the WWF event.



H.E. Mr. Jean-Robert Gouloungana (left), Ambassador of Gabon in China, talks with WWF Director General Jim Leape and WWF Gabon Country Director, Suparna Biswas.



Wei Jianguo, Former Vice Minister of Commerce (MOFCOM) and Secretary General of China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), talks with WWF staff.



The WWF African team in Beijing: Basile Yapo (Cameroon), David Duli (Uganda), Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana (Madagascar), Suparna Biswas (Gabon), Louise Scholtz (South Africa), Florencio Marerua (Mozambique) and Christine Tam (Democratic Republic of the Congo).



Group photo of the “China and Africa: Shaping the Economies of the Future” event organised by WWF and CCICED on 16 July 2012. All photos: © ZHAN YIJIE / WWF

CHINA & AFRICA



Park guard standing where elephant bones and carcasses litter after mass slaughter of elephants in Cameroon. © WWF-CANON / GREEN RENAISSANCE

Fighting illegal wildlife trade

WWF is running a global campaign calling governments to combat illegal wildlife trade of rhino horn, along with ivory and tiger parts to reduce demand for illicit endangered species products.

As one of the most lucrative international organized crimes, illegal wildlife trade has caused the death of 455 rhinos in 2012 in South Africa. This exceeds last year's record total of 448, and is mainly driven by consumers demand in Vietnam.

2011 also witnessed the highest recorded rates of elephant poaching. Tens of thousands of elephants are believed to be killed each year, mostly in central Africa, for their ivory tusks, and China and Thailand have been identified as the biggest consumer countries.

As regards tigers, in the last 100 years, the world has lost 97 per cent of its wild tigers and today it is estimated that as few as 3,200 are left in the world.

"This campaign is more than just saving species from extinction, it is about promoting the rule of law, protecting rangers and bringing an end to an illegal trade that has countless times proven to destabilize national security," said Lasse Gustavsson, Executive Director of Conservation at WWF International.

A pledge to combat this illegal trade has been made by world leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting on 9 September 2012. WWF hopes the pledge will turn into real action on the ground to protect endangered species.

In a similar development, world leaders highlighted wildlife trafficking along with other severe threats to the rule of law at the 67th Annual Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. It was the first time for poaching and the illicit trafficking of wildlife products to be addressed at such meeting.

WWF continues to raise awareness on this issue and in September announced a partnership with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). 50 African religious representatives from different faiths and countries united against illegal wildlife trade, which is annihilating the continent's elephant and rhino populations.

The situation in Central Africa

"Gabon intends to strengthen its criminal justice system to combat this phenomenon. But such efforts will require a greater international legal cooperation," said Gabon's President Ali Bongo at the United Nations General Assembly's 67th Annual Meeting.

To give a concrete sign of the enforcement of the zero tolerance policy on wildlife crime, in June President Bongo oversaw the burning of 4,825 kilograms of Gabon's seized ivory stockpile, after a full audit supported by WWF and TRAFFIC.

The poaching crisis due to ivory demand by Asian countries is particularly serious in Central Africa.

Between January and March, heavily-armed foreign poachers invaded Cameroon and killed over 300 elephants in Bouba N'Djida National Park. Since the event, Cameroon has bolstered security in its protected areas, including deploying 60 new ecoguards to secure and monitor the park's remaining wildlife.

Central African governments have joined together in search of ways to overcome this crisis by signing a regional plan to strengthen law enforcement and better combat poaching of elephants and other species. Under a trilateral agreement, law enforcement officials are now allowed to operate in all three countries that encompass the Sangha trilateral protected area complex, a network of protected areas straddling the countries of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

Illegal wildlife trade – valued at between \$8 and \$10 billion per year – ranks as the fifth most lucrative illegal transnational activity in the world. This criminal activity puts tremendous pressure on wildlife of the Congo Basin, and threatens the territorial integrity and security of the countries in the region.



Elephant slaughter in Cameroon.
© WWF-CANON / GREEN RENAISSANCE

Video released on elephants' slaughter in Cameroon

On August 12, 2012 - World Elephant Day - six months after the slaughter of 300 elephants in Cameroon, WWF released an exclusive video from the scene of the shocking event. The video was reposted by nearly 2500 times on Sina Weibo (Chinese Twitter), including by Chinese celebrities such as Aya, Leung Wing Kei and Donnie Yen.

<http://t.cn/zWlc273>

BANKING & FINANCE



Li Lifeng, WWF International Freshwater Programme Director, speaking at the training on 21 September.
© WWF

Green Credit Guidelines applying to water projects

“Chinese banks shall develop criteria to assess environmental and social risks of credit related to water projects, as required by the Green Credit Guidelines,” said Ye Yanfei, Deputy Director General of the Statistics Department of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), at a training for financial institutions co-organised with WWF.

The workshop on “Water resources and risk management” was held on 20-21 September 2012 in Suzhou and was attended by 18 Chinese banks, including China Development Bank, the Export-Import Bank of China, the Agricultural Development Bank of China, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank and the Bank of Communications.

Considering that the Chinese government plans to invest 800 billion CNY on hydropower construction from 2011 to 2015, the training was organised for the banks to fully realise and manage the environment and social risks of water projects.

This is the second of a series of training sessions organised by WWF and CBRC on the implementation of the “Green Credit Guidelines” issued in February. The first was in April and focused on renewable energy projects.

Yan Denghua, Director of the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, said in his speech that we need to strike the balance between nature and development, and while building water projects to improve our lives, we can’t ignore their ecological aspects.

“Sustainable investment by the banking sector is the driving force of sustainable development. We hope Chinese banks can apply the best practices and international standards both domestically and when ‘going global’,” said Li Lifeng, WWF International Freshwater Programme Director.



Construction site of the locks of the Three Gorges dam on the Yangtze river. © Michel Gunther / WWF-Canon

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

New report on China ecological footprint to be released soon

The new “China Ecological Footprint Report” will be launched by WWF in December, presenting the state of the environment and level of demand of natural resources in China.

One of WWF-China flagship reports, the China Ecological Footprint Report is launched every two years.

As part of WWF’s footprint work in China, Andrea Westall, Head of the One Planet Economy Unit at WWF UK, participated in two policy research workshops organized by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), respectively on “Environmental Protection and Social Development” and “Sustainable Consumption and Green Development”. On the latter one, Westall introduced WWF’s footprint research work, and suggested on the priority working fields towards sustainable consumption by indicating the structure of China’s demand on natural resources.

Another workshop gathering high level experts was co-organised by WWF and the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection in September. At the event, Li Zuojun, Deputy Director of the Resource and Environmental Policies Institute at Development Research Center of the State Council, said that footprint as a comprehensive indicator provides an overview of the demand being placed on the whole ecological system, and the footprint report could be used for China’s sustainable development.



A Chinese farmer hoeing his organic crops in Hubei province. © Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK

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.



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.

www.wwfchina.org

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