

A visual summary of the CBD COP15 side event

Recognizing and Managing the Value of Nature's Contribution to People through Food Systems Transformation

14 December 2022, Montreal, Canada



Group photo (photo credit to DENG Jia)



Moderator Ms. Linxiu Zhang (photo credit to DENG Jia)

Mr. HUANG Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the COP15



(photo credit to DENG Jia)

“The G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration calls for an accelerated transformation towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems and supply chains. TEEBAgriFood is a positive step towards building a biodiversity-friendly agriculture and food system, and it also fits well with China’s philosophy of harmony between humans and nature. Currently, under the organization and coordination of the UNEP International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), the TEEBAgriFood’s application is being carried out in Tengchong, Yunnan Province, China, which is a concrete practice to implement the Bali Leaders’ Declaration and a positive exploration of the transformation of global agri-food systems.”

Ms. Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink, Minister for Nature and Nitrogen Policy, Netherlands



photo credit to DENG Jia

“Valuing nature, even monetarily, can give a voice to nature. In combination with mapping impacts and dependencies, it can ultimately enable us to make better informed decisions – decisions that put nature first; decisions that will support the transition to nature-inclusive food systems. It can also open the door to adopting true pricing. This could help consumers to make sustainable choices. Such an approach should go hand in hand with policies on food loss, food waste, and sustainable diets. This all is especially pertinent in the agri-food sector, considering its interdependencies with nature. Exactly this makes the work of TEEBAgriFood so critical. I applaud your work.”

Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Director for Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism, Directorate General for the Environment, the European Commission



photo credit to DENG Jia

“The TEEB and TEEBAgriFood approaches are quite central to what we’re trying to do here at COP15, notably the Goal B of the Global Biodiversity Framework. We see the value of TEEB in providing a common and streamlined approach, that allows both business and governments to measure and value the environmental, social health and economic costs and possible benefits, and then feed this knowledge into better decision-making.”

Ms. Doreen Robinson, Principal Coordinator for Biodiversity and Land, UNEP



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“Our planet has recently welcomed the eighty billion member of the human race and we still grow. We must find better, smarter, and more sustainable ways to provide the food for these populations. And we must do so without destroying the natural capital, the species, the ecosystem services, and the genetic diversity. Transformations can not only take place in farms and fields. It must take place in markets, in cafés, in supermarket aisles, on our plates, in our bellies and in our bins.”

Mr. ZHANG Yaping, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences



“In terms of realizing the value of ecological products, China has actively explored the methods and implementation of the ecological compensation scheme and promoted the establishment of an ecological asset accounting system represented by the Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP), as well as True Value Accounting for the agricultural and food sectors. Such is the concern of this side event: to promote a sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems for the conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded landscapes through systematic, comprehensive, and scientific accounting of the costs and benefits of agricultural activities to nature.”

Part II. Panel discussions

Panel 1



Panelists (photo credit to DENG Jia)

Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, Founder & CEO, GIST; ex-President, WWF-International; UNEP Goodwill Ambassador



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“TEEB for Agriculture and Food recognizes the diversity of the topic of food and recognizes that it is not just about quantities per hectare, but also about the quality of the food, about the extent of employment, about the impact on the environment, soil, climate, water usage, and on society, as the creation and use of human capital that is knowledge and skills, social capital that is the relationship with the village or the community or in the country within which it operates, and of course natural capital which is the essence of plant growth.”

Mr. WEN Zhong, Director, Division of Nature Ecology and Marine Ecology Environment (Soil Ecology), Ecology Environment Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, China



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“Shenzhen requires the establishment of a Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) accounting system in the form of local legislation and regularly conducts accounting and releases results. The GEP accounting results are integrated into the city's ecological civilization assessment. Recently, Shenzhen is exploring the implementation of GEP accounting-based pollution reduction and carbon reduction indicators, as well as the path of linking GEP accounting results to fiscal policies.”

Mr. Martin Lok, Executive Director, Capitals Coalition



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“The TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business are practical guidelines for businesses and finance firms that help them to include the true value of nature in their decision making... In Brazil, for example, a food retail company used the TEEBAgriFood assessment, and the guidance provided through the Guidelines to better understand their impact and dependencies...to show that the organic products and services they provided were better than the conventional examples, and that soil health and productivity after organic planting as well as decreasing food waste really helped to increase a better livelihood for their consumers.”

Ms. Ellie Xiang, Deputy Director of International Cooperation, GoldenBee and Representative of Capitals China Hub



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“GoldenBee introduced natural capital assessment to Chinese businesses and applied the framework and methodology of the natural capital protocol of the Capitals Coalition to guide a group of Chinese and multinational companies to carry out more than 30 natural capital assessment projects. In cooperation with the Capitals Coalition, we introduced the TEEBAgriFood project to China, encouraging agriculture and food companies to comprehensively consider multi capital assessment in decision-making.”

Panel 2



photo credit to DENG Jia

Mr. Vinod Bihari Mathur, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, India



photo credit to Li Li

“Systems thinking is required to bring about transformative change...What we are doing in India through the TEEBAgriFood project to address the challenges and to transform them into opportunities is to run pilots in the areas of organic farming and agroforestry in mountainous areas and plain areas. In these Pilots we are using scenarios for a range of ecosystem services – soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality, climate regulation – to move away from the traditional concept of measuring success from the narrow lens of ‘productivity per hectare’.”

Mr. QUAN Zhanjun, Director of the Institute of Ecology, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen)

“There are currently three main types of technical approaches to biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation in China, TEEB, GEP and Green GDP / Gross Economic-Ecological Product (GEEP). They are different in their approaches, but I think they have all been very effective in promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in China.”

Ms. Benchamaporn Wattanatongchai, Director, Biodiversity National Focal Point Section, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“Thailand is one of the countries that produced a lot of agricultural products, especially rice. The TEEBAgriFood study shows that in total the organic-farming farmers need to increase their product price by around 4% higher than the conventional-farming farmer. But in the long run, the switch to organic can help the environment and can help the consumer to have better health. To achieve this, we need to involve the business sector and consumers because for farmers to change their practices, they need to know they can sell the product.”

Mr. ZHOU Weidong, Director of China Office, World Business Council for Sustainable Development



photo credit to ZHUANG Yufen

“All businesses depend on nature. The food and agriculture sectors have underinvested and under leveraged nature-based solutions. Business leadership is needed for deep rapid and systematic transformation of the food system so that we can both have health people and health planet.”



Audiences (photo credit to DENG Jia)