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**"The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Promoting a Sustainable  
Agriculture and Food Sector" (China)  
Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting Report**

**Date:** 11 April 2023

**Venue:** Tencent Conference Room ID 329-315-388

**Steering Committee Chair:**

- Mr. LIU Ning, Deputy Director General, Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

**Steering Committee Members**

- Mr. WANG Quanhui, Lead Expert in Energy & Ecology, Rural Energy and Environment Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Mr. LI Junsheng, Professor, Natural Resources Survey Center, Ministry of Natural Resources of China
- Mr. ZHUANG Yan, Director of International Organization Programs, Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
(Apologies. Mr. ZHUANG provided guidance after the meeting)
- Ms. ZHANG Linxiu, Director of International Ecosystem Management Partnership, United Nations Environment Programme
- Mr. YANG Youzhi, Director of Bureau of Baoshan Ecological Environment  
(Apologies. Represented by Ms. ZHU Xiumei from Bureau of Baoshan Ecological Environment)
- Mr. ZHOU Yingkao, Director of Tengchong Branch of Baoshan Ecology and Environment Bureau

**Other participants** are from:

- Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences



Meeting Group Photo

## I. Meeting Background and Content

This meeting is the fourth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Promoting a Sustainable Agriculture and Food Sector" (TEEBAgriFood China) Project. At the meeting, PSC listened to reports from the project implementation team on 1) implementation progress, 2) preliminary results of the Tengchong application, and 3) the scope of the Heilongjiang application. PSC provided and gave guidance and suggestions on the two study reports and the next project plan.

## II. Key points from the PSC

The PSC expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project implementation and considered the project results achieved so far to be rich and comprehensive, and the next steps feasible. Guidance and recommendations mainly include:

### 1. On the preliminary results of the Tengchong study

The results of the Tengchong study are close to reality and are helpful in promoting industrial structure adjustment and green transformation in Tengchong. It is hoped that the research will be further strengthened to provide operational-level guidance on the implementation of national strategies at the local level, such as in domains of food security, biodiversity conservation, carbon emission reduction, and carbon sink increase.

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The report briefly introduces the support of the transformation of Tengchong's agro-food system to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework but is not sufficient. It is recommended to more closely integrate with the Framework and expand on how the implementation of related policies will support the implementation of Action Targets 7, 10, and 14, among other aspects.

The current report is scientifically sound, but the text and graphics are not sufficiently visual and accessible to non-specialist readers and need to be further enhanced. The executive summary needs to be added.

## 2. On the Heilongjiang study design

There is a difference between the agricultural system represented by Heilongjiang and the southwest agricultural system represented by Tengchong, thus the two cases can complement each other. Soybean expansion is a national policy and is a very good topic.

The purpose of soybean expansion is to increase yields, which in turn are related to soybean breeding and yield improvement. In addition, the competitive relationship between rice, corn, and soybeans, their market benefits and scope for expansion, as well as the relationship between farming and nurturing, soil and land degradation, and the impact of climate change should be considered.

## 3. Widely listen to the suggestions of experts in multiple fields, and enrich the forms and channels of policy recommendations

The policy research on the transformation of the agro-food system needs to listen to the suggestions of managers and experts in multiple fields, including agriculture, environment, and biodiversity. It is recommended to increase the participation and interaction of multi-disciplinary personnel in the later stages of the project to enhance the level of policy recommendations and expand the impact of the project results. This can be done through workshops and the high-level closing event to share and exchange ideas around the sustainable transformation of agro-food systems, using Tengchong as an example.

As a study guided and supported by UNEP, it can have its unique perspectives. It is recommended that a top-down approach be considered to work on policy guidance to help improve local policy orientation. For example, proposals can be made through the UNEP level to the Ministry of Environment and Ecology, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; or taking advantage of the role of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's

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Political Consultative Conference to submit proposals. Currently, the China Biodiversity Action and Plan is preparing its plan for the next ten years, the content of which is also relevant to this project.

#### 4. Diversify the type of promotional products and channels

Video promo is a good approach for publicity, but where it is broadcast, and how many views are received, are important for the effects it may reach. It is recommended to expand the dissemination channels, such as through various websites and self-media platforms. Publishing short articles in the media can also be considered to expand the audience's reach.

#### 5. High-level closing event

The project team proposed to hold a high-level project closing event in Tengchong, which was strongly supported by the local authorities of Baoshan and Tengchong.

#### 6. Comparison and exchange of studies from other project implementation countries

As an international project coordinated by UNEP, what are the follow-up plans in terms of comparison and communication among different implementation countries? Entry points for international sharing can be based on community development, from the perspectives of cost-effectiveness, livelihoods, and poverty alleviation, while referring to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### III. Responses

The project implementation team accepts all the advice from the PSC, based on which the two reports will be revised, and project activities improved. In particular, the PSC will be asked to assess and provide guidance on the feasibility of the improved operational-level policy recommendations.

Regarding the interactions among the project implementation countries, UNEP has organized 2 virtual symposiums. The project team will consult the TEEB office on the planned global/regional activities before the project closure and report back to the PSC.

As an important outcome of the project, the Tengchong TEEBAgriFood application report will be published as a UNEP publication. The project implementation team would like the chair of the PSC to provide a foreword to the publication on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Ecology of China.