

# Politics



## Networking Meeting – Nature-Based Solutions in China for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

### 交流会 — 中国基于自然的减缓和适应气候变化解决方案

As an important component of the global efforts to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement, Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) represent a wide range of actions to preserve and restore ecosystems that can store carbon, mitigate climate-change impacts and support biodiversity. NBS have a promising potential if they can be further enhanced and scaled-up, and if emissions reductions of implemented measures can be effectively quantified and credited under carbon market programs. In 2019, China highlighted NBS' potential to facilitate climate action and increased its awareness at the UN Climate Action Summit.

As the implementing organization of the Carbon Market Cooperation Project supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, AHK Greater China Beijing invited over 30 representatives from governmental organizations, enterprises, and further stakeholders related to environmental technologies and carbon markets to a Networking Meeting on September 2 to discuss recent developments, challenges and opportunities in the field of NBS in China.

With a particular focus on forests and other land-based ecosystems, two renowned experts from the China National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) gave a deep insight into the latest developments, policies, and implications for NBS in China. Already earlier this year, both organizations launched a cooperative research project on NBS to support its further development in China and explore its role in the collaborative governance of climate change and biodiversity conservation.

As Director of the Strategy and Planning Department of NCSC, Dr. Chai Qimin accentuated NBS' underlying approach of gaining a better systemic understanding of the harmonious co-existence between humans and nature to mitigate and adapt to climate change. To achieve the targets envisioned at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019, NBS needs to be incorporated and

作为实现《巴黎协定》目标的全球努力的一个重要组成部分，基于自然的解决方案（NBS）代表了保护和恢复能够储存碳、减缓气候变化影响和支持生物多样性的生态系统的广泛行动。如果能够进一步加强和扩大NBS以及能够在碳市场计划下有效地量化和计入所实施措施的减排量，NBS将有很大的潜力。2019年，中国在联合国气候行动峰会上强调了NBS促进气候行动的潜力，以及对其认识的不断加深。

作为德国联邦环境、自然保护和核安全部支持的碳市场合作项目的执行机构，德国海外商会联盟-北京邀请了30多名来自政府组织、企业和其他与环境技术和碳市场相关的利益相关方的代表参加9月2日举办的交流会，以讨论中国在NBS领域的最新发展、挑战和机遇。

来自国家应对气候变化战略研究和国际合作中心（NCSC）和大自然保护协会（TNC）的两位著名专家从基于森林和其他陆地的生态系统出发，深入探讨了中国NBS的最新发展、政策和影响。今年年初，这两个组织启动了一个NBS合作研究项目，以支持其在中国的进一步发展，并探索其在气候变化和生物多样性保护方面的协同治理中的作用。



*Over 30 representatives from various sectors attended the Networking Meeting*

各个领域的30多名代表参加了此次交流会

国家应对气候变化战略研究和国际合作中心战略规划处主任柴麒敏博士强调了NBS的基本方法，即更系统地理解人类与自然和谐共处，以减缓和适应气候变化。为实现2019年联合国气候行动峰会设想的目标，

enhanced in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and overall development strategies and plans. Accordingly, NBS will also be an integral part of China's renewed NDCs, which will be submitted by the end of the year, as Dr. Chai revealed. At the same time, China is enhancing actions in key areas including the conservation, management, and restoration of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems. China's current target for 2030 is to increase the forest stock volume by around 4.5 billion m<sup>3</sup> and 43 million hectares on the 2005 level. By giving a brief outlook, Dr. Chai concluded that upcoming summits such as the UNFCCC COP 26 could be suitable opportunities to have NBS further mainstreamed.

Moreover, Dr. Xiaoquan Zhang, Chief Science Officer of TNC China and expert on methodologies and projects of forest carbon, gave an overview of the current status quo of NBS in the carbon market. By presenting a variety of different statistics and quantifications of land-based NBS projects in China, Dr. Zhang outlined a rather subdued picture due to the still rather limited number of concrete projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and other standards. Regarding NBS projects in forestry, China's carbon market currently counts 15 registered and only 2 issued projects, mostly in afforestation and reforestation with an issued volume of about 144 ktCO<sub>2</sub>. Using Beijing as an example, the expert further explained that the originally high price for forests (CNY/CO<sub>2</sub>) has adjusted to the price level of non-forestry, while the general amount of assigned credits is constantly increasing.

Following the in-depth presentations of the two speakers, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. Of particular interest was a question concerning the difficulty of quantification and crediting of emissions reductions from NBS measures. Dr. Zhang emphasized that there are already several policies and targets in China. It is, however, more important to think about how to better implement such policies and planning. He further elaborated that the government turned its priority towards improving forest quality (i.e. volume per hectare) rather than the forest area, due to the limited space in China. However, monitoring forest quality remains a difficult challenge. Dr. Chai further commented that China is more practical at this stage. He made clear that baseline data, targets, possible policies, and appropriate policy tools for NBS are not clearly identified yet. Despite general optimism of the government, options for concrete actions are still limited and need to be further enhanced, also by including the private sector and market mechanisms.

需要将NBS纳入国家自主贡献、国家适应计划以及总体发展战略和计划中并对其进行加强。因此，正如柴麒敏博士所透露，NBS也将成为中国新的国家自主贡献的一个组成部分，并将在年底提交。与此同时，中国正在加强关键领域的行动，包括森林和其他陆地生态系统的保护、管理和恢复。目前，中国2030年的目标是在2005年的基础上增加45亿立方米和4300万公顷的森林蓄积量。柴麒敏博士对此进行了简要展望，其总结称，即将举行的《联合国气候变化框架公约》缔约方大会第二十六届会议等峰会可能是将NBS进一步纳入主流的适当机会。

此外，中国大自然保护协会首席科学家、森林碳方法和项目专家张小全博士概述了碳市场上NBS的现状。张小全博士介绍了中国基于土地的NBS项目的各种不同统计数据 and 量化数据，并概述由于清洁发展机制、核证碳标准和其他标准项下的具体项目数量仍相当有限而造成的一种相当平缓的局面。关于林业方面的NBS项目，中国碳市场目前登记了15个项目，仅发行了2个项目，主要是造林和再造林项目，发行量约为14.4万吨二氧化碳。他进一步解释称，以北京为例，原来的较高森林价格(CNY/CO<sub>2</sub>)已调整至非林业价格水平，但总分配额度正在不断增加。



*Options for concrete NBS actions need to be further enhanced, also by including the private sector and market mechanisms*  
需要进一步加强具体NBS行动方案，也可纳入私营部门和市场机制

在两位专家的深入介绍之后，与会者有机会进行提问。尤其引起关注的是一个关于难以量化和计算NBS措施所致减排量的问题。张小全博士强调，中国已提出若干项政策和目标。但更重要的是考虑如何更好地实施这些政策和计划。他进一步阐述称，由于中国的空间有限，政府将重点转向提高森林质量（即每公顷数量），而非森林面积。但监测森林质量仍是一个严峻的挑战。柴麒敏博士进一步发表意见称，中国现阶段更加务实。他明确表示，NBS的基线数据、目标、可行政策和适当的政策工具尚未明确确定。尽管政府总体上持乐观态度，但具体行动的选择仍然有限，需要进一步加强，还需要纳入私营部门和市场机制。