



April– June 2017

Volume 6
Issue 2

UNEP-IEMP *Bulletin*

MISSION

To provide science, technology, policy and capacity support to developing countries to integrate ecosystem management approach into their national policies and development plans to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services for human well-being.

MANDATE

To synthesize science findings for decision-making on ecosystem management and is supported by three inter-related initiatives:

1. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
2. Making the Case through Assessment and Demonstration
3. Science-Policy Interface

Inside this issue:

Chief of Staff first official mission to Beijing	1
Dr. Monika Macdevette's visit to Beijing	2
Pilot project on Sand and Dust Storms with UNCCD	2
Prof. Linxiu Zhang's keynote presentation at the International Seminar during Belt and Road Summit	3
UNEP-IEMP delegation visit to CERN Luancheng Station	4
EbA South team mission to three pilot countries	5
Upcoming events	5
Staff Updates	5

UNEP-IEMP Bulletin will be issued on a quarterly basis to inform you of our achievements and lessons learned through activities and projects executed. Please feel free to share with us your feedback to further improve our work and the information shared with you. Please forward these directly to info@unep-iemp.org

UN Environment's Chief of Staff First Official Mission to Beijing

Expressed confidence that the Centre will continue leading the efforts in steering the UN Environment-China collaboration



UN Environment China team with Ms. Anne Le More, Chief of Staff, UN Environment
Photo: Cao Hui

UN Environment China team hosted a town hall meeting to welcome Chief of Staff Ms. Anne Le More on her first official mission to Beijing. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shigang Zhang, Country Coordinator, UN Environment, China and witnessed the participation of more than 30 colleagues. In his opening remarks, Mr. Zhang said *"Chief of Staff's visit will help us understand the global priorities of UN Environment leadership and also help set the strategic direction of our work."* Ms. Anne Le More lauded Centre's achievements and stated that given China's important role in the sustainable development discourse, it will continue leading the efforts in steering the UN Environment-China collaboration. She highlighted several priorities of UN Environment based on the vision of the Executive Director Mr. Erik Sohleim, namely: climate change, ecosystem management green economy, livelihoods oceans, environment nexus with security and health. She further mentioned that South-South Cooperation and 'Belt and Road' initiative is also among the top priorities of UN Environment leadership.

Emphasizing on Executive Director's directives, she said that we should collectively strive to make research more relevant and insightful; communicate better through advocacy to influence governments, private sector, policy-makers; strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders which will help us make a positive impact in people's lives. Prof. Linxiu Zhang, Co-Director, UNEP-IEMP provided an overview of Centre's milestones, governance structure and introduced the future plans under the recently launched flagship programme on 'Climate, Ecosystems, Livelihoods' (CEL). She also thanked the UN Environment leadership's unstinted support in the past years and expressed confidence that UNEP-IEMP will continue receiving regular guidance and support for its future endeavors, particularly under the framework of CEL and other South-South Cooperation activities.

Dr. Monika Macdevette, Officer-in-Charge, UNEP-IEMP mission to Beijing

Continuing the cooperation momentum with Chinese partners



Dr. Monika Macdevette, Officer-in-Charge, UNEP-IEMP with members of UN Environment China and UNEP-IEMP team. Photo: UN Environment China

During the official mission as Officer-in-Charge of UNEP-IEMP, Dr. Macdevette had meetings with Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Ministry of Environment and Protection (MEP), National Development and Resource Commission (NDRC), Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC), Tsinghua University, Chinese Academy of Environment Sciences (CAES) among others.

She apprised the partners on leadership change and continued dialogue with them to enhance existing cooperation and explore emerging opportunities like the 'Belt and Road' Initiative. In her bilateral meetings, both partners

UNEP-IEMP signs a formal contract with UNCCD to conduct a pilot project on Sand and Dust Storms in China

The project will inform decision/policy makers on implications for the development of risk communication, public health advisories and further public health interventions, including early warning system

UNEP-IEMP formally signed an agreement (through its host Institute of Geographic Institute and Natural Resources Research) with UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) to conduct a China pilot project on sand and dust storms (SDS) vulnerability assessment.

This project will carry out a comprehensive vulnerability assessment (in sectors including population, agriculture and infrastructure) of SDS in the Three-North Forest Shelterbelt Program (TNFSP) region by mapping hot spots which are sensitive and vulnerable to SDS. This project will work with international and Chinese partners and aims to show some initial results at the 13th Conference of Parties, UN Convention on Combating Desertification in China this September.

To begin with, UNEP-IEMP will organize an inception workshop to deliberate on the conceptual framework and methodology of SDS vulnerability mapping. The Centre and its partners will identify hot spot areas with regard to SDS vulnerability mapping and highlight a set of best

reviewed joint initiatives and expressed confidence to take it to the next level, by collaborating on new projects/concepts and idea implementation. They also renewed their commitment to further strengthen South-South Cooperation and play a key role in the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Her mission also allowed UNEP-IEMP to strengthen its collaboration with UN Environment Headquarters and facilitate smooth implementation of various programmes during the leadership transition.

practices to combat desertification for controlling SDS in the project area.

A final report highlighting the aligned methodology, results of the case study and policy suggestions will be developed to reach out to wider audiences. UNCCD will coordinate and support communication between UNEP-IEMP and other research teams to ensure compatibility and alignment of the methodology.

The project will involve agencies like: Institute of Desertification Studies (IDS), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF); Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE); Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Chinese Academy of Science (CAS); China Meteorological Administration (CMS); United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other local experts.

Prof. Linxiu Zhang, Co-Director, UNEP-IEMP keynote presentation at the International Seminar on Sharing Experiences in Poverty Reduction in Belt and Road Countries

Emphasizes on the need to enhance public investment on rural human capacity



Prof. Linxiu Zhang delivering the keynote presentation during the International Seminar organized on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Summit. Photo: Weidong Wang

Prof. Linxiu Zhang, Co-Director, UNEP-IEMP and Director and Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) gave a key note presentation at the ‘**International Seminar on Sharing Experiences in Poverty Reduction in Belt and Road Countries**’ during the recently concluded Belt and Road Summit in Beijing.

The purpose of the Seminar was to provide a platform for China and other countries along the Belt and Road to learn from each other’s most valuable experiences in poverty reduction and discuss the feasibility of establishing a long-term mechanism for experience sharing and cooperation on poverty reduction. In her presentation entitled, ‘**Poverty Alleviation Through Investing in Health and Education: Experiences from China with implications to Belt and Road Countries**’.

Prof. Zhang stated the importance of early childhood education and providing nurturing support in the poverty areas. She emphasized on the urgency for public investment on rural human capacity as an effective way for long-term poverty reduction and sustainable development.

She said “I am deeply grateful to the organizers for inviting me. This is a subject of profound importance in our journey to achieve the SDGs. The Belt and Road countries have the potential to play a leadership role by exchanging best practices, knowledge sharing, forging new paths in meeting the challenges collectively.”

Prof. Zhang began her talk by highlighting the significance of poverty alleviation as a universal goal and shed light on the efforts and commitment made by the Chinese Government to address poverty through health, nutrition and education. She further highlighted pathbreaking efforts by some research groups such as Rural Education Action

Program (REAP) which are at the forefront of promoting health and nutrition policy in China.

Prof. Zhang also discussed at length on the urgent need of breaking the poverty cycle by investing in early childhood development and seeing investment in children as part of the overall process of development. She further stated that it’s crucial that human capital inequality (pertaining to health and education) is also address in an adequate manner.

The Seminar discussed the way forward for sharing such poverty reduction experiences along the Belt and Road countries for our common sustainable development.

The event was co-hosted by the Delegation of the European Union to China (EUD), China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), and China Internet Information Center (CIIC). It was supported by EU -China Policy Dialogues Support Facility II (PDSF II).



Delegates at the International Seminar on ‘Sharing Experiences in Poverty Reduction in Belt and Road Countries’. Photo: Weidong Wang

UNEP-IEMP Delegation Visits Chinese Ecosystem Research Network's Luancheng Station

Both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and concrete actions being undertaken to deal with the challenges in agricultural production, including impacts of climate change in China and globally



UNEP-IEMP delegation led by Dr. Monika Macdevette with Prof. Yanjun Shen, Head of CERN Luancheng Station. Photo: CERN team

UNEP-IEMP delegation led by Dr. Monika Macdevette, Officer-in-Charge, UNEP-IEMP and Deputy Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) paid a visit to the Luancheng Agro-Ecosystem Experimental Station in April.

Prof. Yanjun Shen, Head of the Station and Professor of the Center for Agricultural Resources Research, Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology provided a brief overview about the Station's inception, achievements and international collaboration activities. Established in 1981, the Luancheng station is a field station of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), which is a part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and one of the largest national ecosystem monitoring and research network in the world. It serves as a demonstration base for modern agricultural technologies in the Hebei province. In 2005, the station became a member of the China National Ecosystem Observation and Research Network (CNERN).

The research conducted at the station focus on the long-term investigations of farmland ecosystem, water and nutrients transfer and regulation mechanisms, modern water-saving technologies, molecular breeding, precision agriculture and regional sustainable agro-ecosystem demonstration models etc.

Prof. Yanjun Shen said *"The new challenges that the farmers are facing – whether derived from climatic or other conditions – force them to adapt the strategies of their cropping systems. We advise the farmers to understand the crop plantation cycle to enhance their yields. We also provide trainings to African countries to sensitize them on such issues. The experts here*

also lend policy advice to the provincial and Central Government through the Chinese Academy of Sciences."

Praising the efforts, Dr. Monika Macdevette said *"CERN research shows both influence at the community level and as well as designing research projects."* She further added, *"The station is showcasing concrete action on ground where experts guide local farmers to better adapt to the increasingly variable weather by planning their crop yields. Such activities truly reflect that science is real and helps in effective decision making which is relevant, targeted and successful."*

Until date, the station has collaborated and communicated with international partners from more than 20 countries and nearly 30 research institutions.



Wheat plantations managed by the CERN Luancheng Station. Photo: Diwen Tan

EbA South Team's Field Missions to the three Pilot Countries

Facilitating the EbA planning and implementation in Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles

EbA South Project Management Unit (PMU), Technical Advisor (TA), and Task Manager conducted field missions in Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles from end of March to June 2017. The purpose was to review the project progress and support the national teams in planning and implementing activities for the remaining duration of the project. For each country, a detailed work-plan and budget revision were jointly compiled with an aim to achieve all project targets within a project cycle. Highlights of each mission are listed below: A) **Nepal:** It was observed that the Long-term Research Programme (LTRP) has made sound progress. An automatic meteorological station for the use of ecological data collection has been established at the long-term research monitoring site in Chiti, Lamjung District and is operational. B) **Mauritania:** The TA's mission supported the team in updating two site-specific protocols and developing a new protocol for a new identified site, indicating selected interventions to be concluded and the associated timeline, for combating desertification. Project site Benichab, made a good example of dry-land ecosystem restoration by 70 hectare planted and at-least 28,320 seedlings produced with high involvement of local communities. C) **Seychelles:** The PMU mission encouraged the team to showcase their good practices such as successful school projects through project web platform. The adaptive management was well applied in the on-the-ground implementation, particularly in addressing issues related to crab attacks. Lastly, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on May 23 between the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) for low-carbon demonstrations in the island of Curieuse (Seychelles) for 100% renewable and solar schools.



Seedlings planting activity led by National Mangroves Restoration Expert in Seychelles under the EbA South project. Photo: EbA South



EbA South project officer Diwen Tan meeting with Minister and Principle Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles. Photo: EbA South

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20, 2017— IGSNRR, CAS, Beijing , China Third Science Advisory Group Meeting

August 21, 2017— IGSNRR, CAS, Beijing , China Fifth Annual Steering Committee Meeting

STAFF UPDATE INCOMING



Dr. Dagne Mojo Yadate, International Research Fellow, UNEP-IEMP

Dr. Dagne Mojo Yadate joined UNEP-IEMP in June 2017 as an international post-doc research fellow under the CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI). Under the present fellowship, he will conduct research on the socio-economic and ecological impacts of natural resource management interventions in Ethiopia. In addition, he will also take part in a project entitled "Response of typical ecosystem to climate change and the regional ecological security in Altai region between China and Mongolia."



*Qinghai Lake, the largest lake in China is located at the crossroads of several bird migration routes in Asia.
Photo: Diwen Tan*

A production of the UN Environment's International Ecosystem Management
Partnership

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