



October-December 2018

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

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

UNEP-IEMP participated in the side events of the COP24 of the UNFCCC, December 2018



The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP24, was held during 2-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The conference was tasked with finalizing the implementation guidelines for the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement. The representatives of UNEP-IEMP participated in the side events to share the knowledge and experience on climate adaptation.

On 6 December 2018, UNEP-IEMP participated in a side event titled “Emerging Biocultural Innovations for Enhancing Agrobiodiversity, Food Security, and Climate Resilience”. The side event was organized by the China Association for Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, and the Association ANDES (Asociación para la Naturaleza y Desarrollo Sostenible) based in Peru.

Dr. Jian Liu, Chief Scientist of UN Environment and former Director of UNEP-IEMP, gave the opening remarks at the side event. Speakers of the side event included Dr. Yiching Song, a researcher from UNEP-IEMP and the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Professor Yinlong Xu, from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, Professor Zongwen Zhang, of the Biodiversity International China Office, and Dr. Alejandro Argumedo of the Association ANDES (Peru). The speakers presented their cases and experiences of adopting landscape and living lab approaches to support biocultural innovations which link science to community-based adaptation—including community seed banks, participatory plant breeding, and so on in the Himalayan and Andean mountainous areas to enhance agrobiodiversity and livelihood resilience for climate adaptation.

In particular, Dr. Yiching Song shared the work of Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South) with the participants, a project which had been implemented by UNEP-IEMP. The ecosys-

tem-based approach to adaptation is a powerful tool which can both tackle climate change risks and alleviate poverty while promoting transformative, sustainable, and diversified agroecological systems. Based on the existing EbA success stories, China has an opportunity to invest in and incorporate EbA into its policies for agriculture, poverty alleviation, and others by harnessing EbA approaches, such as participatory planting breeding to promote sustainable and inclusive agricultural production. Dr. Song presented a typical case study on EbA in Stone Village, an old Naxi community in Yunnan Province, China, which demonstrates the farmers' seed system enhancements and traditional knowledge revitalization for climate change adaptation in mountainous farming communities of Southwest China.



On 13 December 2018, another side event with focus on the milestones of 'Future Earth' in China and pathways for Paris Agreement targets was co-hosted by the Chinese National Committee for Future Earth, the China Association for Science and Technology, Sun Yat-sen University, the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Association ANDES (Peru). At the side event, Ms. Diwen Tan, EbA South Project Co-Manager, gave a presentation on how to apply nature-based solutions to help adapt to climate change, particularly in the context of South-South cooperation. The presentation drew on records of the impacts on the local people in one project pilot country, Nepal, to highlight the importance of stakeholder inclusion and documenting lessons to ensure long-term sustainability. The subsequent discussion session covered topics on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), gender balance, and science for policy making. Prof. Dahe Qin, academician from both the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), highlighted that China has been devoted to encouraging green technologies and scientific research in developing countries. Through South-South cooperation, CAS overseas institutes were established for research and education in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and seven other countries.

In addition, a project poster was displayed during the first week at the conference, taking the opportunity to exhibit activities and other side events (e.g. Enhancing Agrobiodiversity, Food Security for Livelihood and Climate Resilience), knowledge sharing, lessons learned, and best practices for Ecosystem-based Adaptation with the broader audience.

Ecosystem services assessment and cost-benefit analysis of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions was conducted in Nepal, November 2018

A field visit and a workshop on "Ecosystem services assessment and cost-benefit analysis of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions under the EbA South project in Nepal" were conducted during 15-20 November, 2018. The overall objectives were to analyse the supply and demand for ecosystem services generated at a representative EbA South project site, then to consider how these services may change in different response scenarios, and finally to develop a cost benefit analysis of different scenarios. The process was facilitated by the Natural Resources Economist from "Futureworks" employing their participatory modelling tool "Ecofutures".



The team conducted a field study to Chiti in Lamjung district to visit the project interventions, largely covering forest enhancement, agroforestry and livelihood diversification. The interventions visited included fallow/degraded land revegetation, forest enrichment planting, cropland conversion to agroforestry, and alternative livelihood options such as cardamom plantation and beekeeping.

The workshop was subsequently organised in Kathmandu. About thirty representatives from the Ministry of Forests and Environment, NGOs and academic institutions participated in the workshop to consider the impact of different interventions on the supply, demand and risks to Chiti ecosystem services, comparing the scenarios with versus without the EbA South interventions in the plausible futures – especially taking into account climate change. Importantly, data collection to further conduct the cost and benefit analysis of the project interventions was facilitated. The full study report is expected to be completed early 2019.



UNEP-IEMP Annual Retreat, November 2018



UNEP-IEMP organized its annual retreat on November 6-9, 2018 in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China. Mr. Arthur Hanson, Co-Chair of Science Advisory Group of UNEP-IEMP, Ms. Monika Macdevette, Deputy Director, Ecosystem Division, UN Environment, Mr. Makiko Yashiro, the Director of Regional Office of Asia-Pacific, UN Environment and some researchers of the Chinese Academy Sciences had been invited to participate in the retreat.

At the workshop on the first day, Dr. Linxiu Zhang, the Director of UNEP-IEMP introduced the general progress and institutional development in the past year and the project staff of UNEP-IEMP presented the progress and work plans of projects on Belt&Road, Africa and Greater Mekong-Sub-region portfolios. The participants also discussed how UNEP-IEMP can contribute to the priorities of UNEP headquarter and regional offices and the future plan of implementation of the Flagship Programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL).

In addition to the one-day workshop, the participants also visited the Yucheng Agriculture Station - one of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) stations.