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NATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
AUSTRALIA-CHINA
RELATIONS
澳中基金会

Australia-China Joint Workshop on Biodiversity Law and Governance

20-21 June 2022

Call for Papers

Biodiversity sits at the heart of our planet's ability to sustain life; and at the centre of our social, economic, and environmental well-being. However, the Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) finds that one million species risk extinction unless immediate action is taken. The report calls for 'transformative change' across societies and economies to reverse current trajectories of biodiversity loss. The Global Assessment also emphasises the critical role of environmental law and governance in bringing about required revolutionary shifts.

Australia and China are two of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries, facing significant extinction threats due to human activities, such as land-use change, pollution, invasive species and climate change. Both countries are dealing with the challenges of ensuring appropriate environmental law and policy to cope with the ecological crisis in the countries and globally. China is the host of the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP 15). The aim of COP 15 is to conclude the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) - the collective direction for global biodiversity governance for the next decade.

Negotiations of the GBF are on-going with the second phase of CBD-COP15 still to be convened. International dialogues that reflect lessons learned and future prospects could help inform the negotiation and implementation of the GBF. With the support from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, the Centre for Environmental Law (CEL), Macquarie University, and the Research Institute of Environmental Law (RIEL), Wuhan University, are hosting the Australia-China Workshop on Biodiversity Law and Governance on 20-21 June 2022.

The workshop aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and people-to-people connections between Australian and Chinese stakeholders. The intended outcome is to enhance mutual

understanding between academia, practitioners, and NGOs while collectively enabling efforts to address global and transnational biodiversity challenges.

Topics of the Workshop

We welcome papers on law and policy related to biodiversity conservation that explore topics such as but not limited to:

1. The direct drivers of biodiversity loss: land and sea-use change; over-exploitation of species; climate change; pollution; invasive species
2. The indirect drivers of biodiversity loss: e.g. underlying values; unsustainable consumption and production; colonialism
3. Addressing climate change through conservation policy/Nature-based Solutions
4. The interface between science and policy
5. Mainstreaming biodiversity
6. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Indigenous and Local Knowledge
7. Legal and policy frameworks for innovative conservation finance
8. Global governance and international cooperation
9. Protected Areas
10. Interconnected governance regimes across biomes (e.g. marine and terrestrial)
11. Equity and participation in the negotiation and implementation of the GBF

Abstract submission

We invite proposals for presentations on any of the above themes. Abstracts should be no more than **300 words**. The due date for abstracts is **10 June 2022**, and they should be sent to **Mr Jiliang Chen (jiliang@ghub.org) with cc to CEL Director Associate Professor Nengye Liu (nengye.liu@mq.edu.au)**. The Organizing Committee will review abstract on a rolling basis. Early submissions are encouraged. Selected presenters will be invited to contribute their paper to an academic publication.

Program

The workshop will be held online. The workshop will be conducted in an interactive format, involving presentations, panel discussions, and Q&A. A detailed program will be available in early June.