



Innovative mechanisms for financing biodiversity conservation: An exchange of experiences between Europe, Mexico and China

Hosts: European Commission

Organizers: CIRAD - Centre International en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement

Date: December 16, 18:15-19:30,

Venue: Contact Group 9 Meeting Room Universal building, main floor

Format: Side Event

The side event is part of a broader ongoing EU project aimed at assessing opportunities for expanding the use of innovative financing for biodiversity in Mexico and China. One of the key elements of this project is to facilitate the exchange of experience and information between Mexican, Chinese and European experts on financing biodiversity conservation.

There are a number of areas where the European experience has been identified to be of interest to future developments in Mexico and China. For instance, Europe has interesting examples of biodiversity-friendly products that are produced through the combination of payments for environmental services and organic certified agriculture, as well as widespread ecological fiscal transfers between regions. There are also several ongoing or planned initiatives in Mexico and China from which lessons could be drawn for Europe, such as public-private projects engaging the private sector with water-related PES, wildlife management, and nature-based tourism. China's tourism industry is booming, and represents a significant opportunity to generate funding for conservation. China also boasts one of the world's largest ecological restoration programs ("Grain for Green").

Furthermore, improving the tracking of biodiversity-related funding and engaging with businesses (e.g. impact investment) seems to be a common future interest of all parties. The side event, therefore, aims to present a group of promising Mexican, European and Chinese experiences, facilitating discussions and exchange of information around concrete examples.

Agenda:

Moderator

Hon. Laure Ledoux, Head of Negotiations, European Commission

Exchange of experiences

For Mexico:

"Investing in Biodiversity Conservation". **Hon. Lorenzo Rosenweig**, Director Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature, Mexico.

And

“Water Funds for biodiversity conservation”. **Hon. Colin Herron**, Water Funds, The Nature Conservancy, Mexico.

For China:

“Mechanisms for Biodiversity Finance in China”. **Dr. David Meyers**, BIOFIN – UNDP, China

For Europe:

“The European Experience on Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity Conservation”. **Dr. Driss Ezzine-de-Blas**, CIRAD, France

Open discussion