

## V. International Values

### **Ecological Civilization: A Distinctive Approach to Environmental**

**Governance:** Ecological Civilization emphasizes the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature while promoting ecological, economic, and social well-being. In many respects, its goals align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to climate action, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development.

Unlike conventional approaches that often treat environmental protection and economic development as competing priorities, Ecological Civilization seeks to integrate ecological integrity, cultural heritage, human well-being, and long-term prosperity within a shared framework. Within this vision, forests are viewed not merely as natural resources, but as foundations of ecological security, cultural identity, climate resilience, and societal development.

To support this vision, China has established an institutional framework that includes Ecological Conservation Redlines, Ecological Compensation Mechanisms, the National Park System, and other governance innovations. Qianjiangyuan National Park illustrates this approach by combining biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, community participation, ecological compensation, and sustainable ecotourism. Its experience demonstrates how environmental protection and improved livelihoods can be pursued together, offering valuable insights for global discussions on sustainability and environmental governance.

**Lessons Learned:** China's history of deforestation and recovery offers lessons for global ecological governance, especially in desertification control, reforestation, and urban forestry.

The process of forest conservation and restoration presents various challenges, and much work remains to be done in China. By working together with the international community, sharing experiences, adjusting and refining plans, and striving for progress, the forest ecosystem will ultimately improve better.

**Multi-level Cooperation:** China's policy model, "common construction, common governance and common sharing", integrates government leadership, scientific research, enterprise investment, and community participation, combining top-down and bottom-up approaches.



*Scientific Researchers supporting Qianjiangyuan National Park (Source: Biodiversity Science WeChat Official Account).*



*Farmer scientists contributing to Qianjiangyuan National Park (Source: Global Times).*

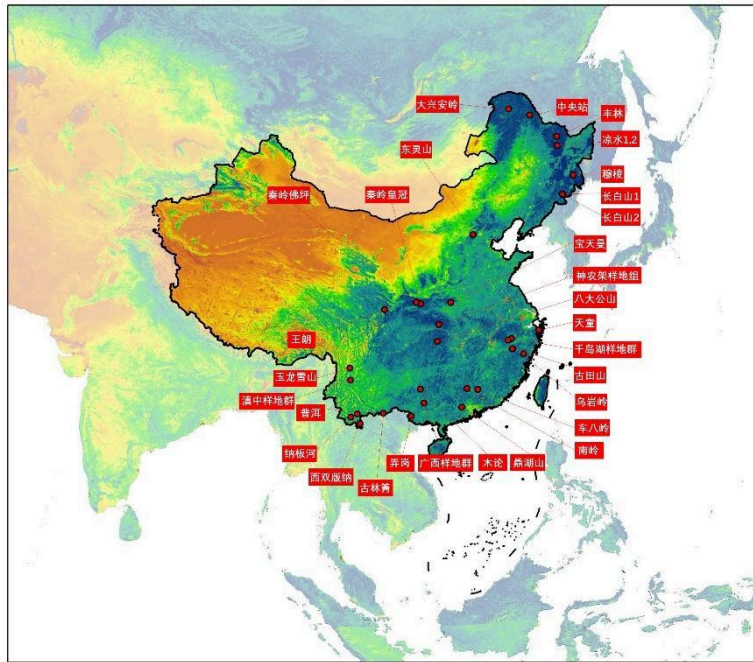


*Corporate contributions to Qianjiangyuan National Park (Source: Chinese Academy*

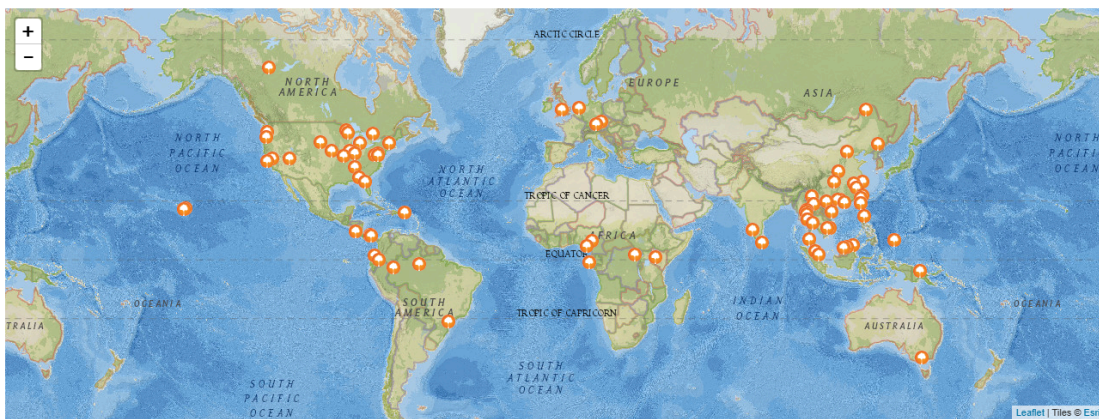
**Cultural Wisdom and Local Adaptation:** Rooted in traditional ecological thought and enriched by diverse ethnic and religious traditions, China’s ecological civilization offers both inclusive and universal values. The international can practice forest ecological protection and social prosperity according to local conditions.

**Scientific Supporting and Collaboration:** Forests are highly complex systems, continuous research in ecology and forestry ensures evidence-based, sustainable scientific guidance for effective management.

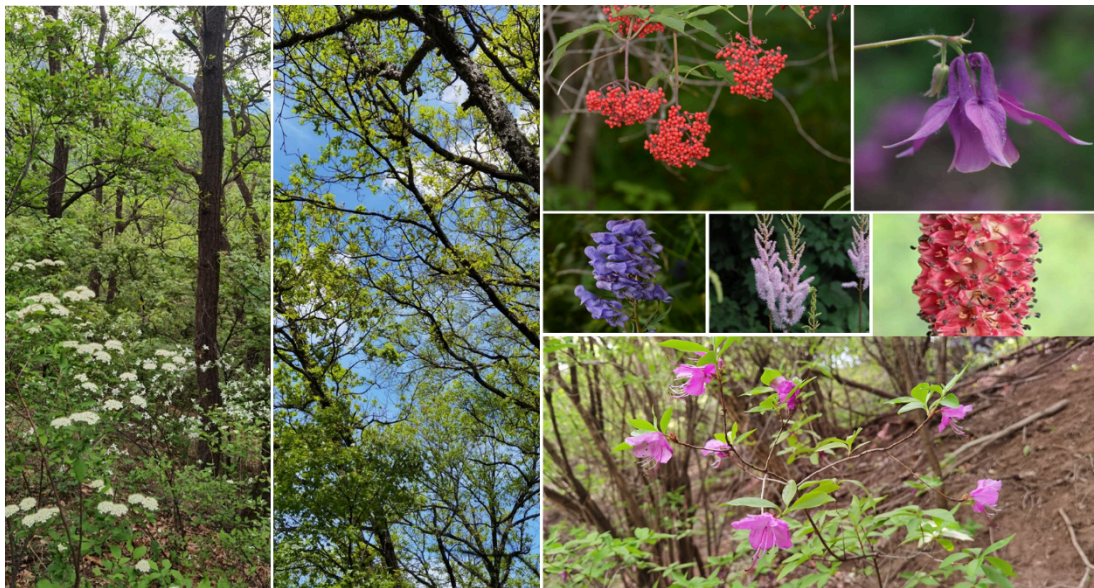
For example, the Chinese Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Network (CForBio), established in 2004, includes 30 large-scale plots spanning tropical to boreal zones, monitoring over three million of trees and more than three thousand of woody species, making it one of the world’s largest long-term forest monitoring systems. Research from CForBio has revealed how forest communities sustain ecosystem stability, demonstrated forests’ role in climate-change mitigation, and guided degraded forest restoration, plantation transformation, and urban forest development. By connecting scientific research, conservation practice, public participation, and policy innovation, these efforts not only support China's carbon neutrality commitments but also provide a compelling example of how Ecological Civilization can be built through collective action. Collaboration with the international ForestGEO platform exemplifies cross-border scientific cooperation, offering valuable lessons for global forest conservation and ecological civilization. This spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, collective problem-solving, and a shared vision for humanity’s future, demonstrates the hope of building a sustainable and harmonious global home.



The Chinese Forest Biodiversity Monitoring Network (CForBio) Origin: CForBio



The Forest Global Earth Observatory (ForestGEO) Origin: ForestGEO





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XXXXXXXXXX-XXXX.mp4

The Beijing Donglingshan Warm-Temperate Forest Dynamics Plot has become a platform for the joint construction and sharing of biodiversity resources in the fields of scientific research, education, and beyond.

## Summary

Forests are both vital ecological foundations and cultural pillars of Chinese civilization. Through historical lessons and modern practices, China has contributed institutional, technological, cultural, and social innovations to global ecological civilization.

The Chinese experience demonstrates that forests provide not only ecological functions but also sustain cultural continuity and human prosperity, offering pathways for a future of shared harmony between humanity and nature.

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