



Memorandum of Understanding Agreement on the China-Croatia 'Belt and Road' Joint Laboratory on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

In order to continue the scientific collaboration in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable development in nature heritage sites and further promote "China-Croatia 'Belt and Road' Joint Laboratory on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services", among:

The **Chengdu Institute of Biology** (hereinafter be individually referred to as the CIB), located in Chengdu, Sichuan, and working under flagship of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the People's Republic of China with its principal office at Chengdu, Sichuan Province; on the one part,

and

The **University of Zagreb** (hereinafter be individually referred to as the UNIZG) located in Zagreb, and working under the Ministry of Science and Education, Government of the Republic of Croatia and having its principal office at Zagreb; on the other part,

and

The **University of Zagreb Faculty of Science**, (hereinafter be individually referred to as the UNIZG Faculty of Science) located in Zagreb, and working under the Ministry of Science and Education, Government of the Republic of Croatia and having its principal office at Zagreb; on the other part,

Hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties'.

Considering to the:

(i) Signed documents:

- *MOU between the Science and Technology Department of Sichuan Province, PRC and University of Zagreb, Croatia* (signatories: ST Department of Sichuan Province, PRC and UNIZG, signed in June 2011)
- *MOU on the Chinese-Croatian Joint Research Center for Ecological Environment Protection* (signatories: CIB, UNIZG, Jiuzhaigou National Preserve National Park PRC and Plitvice Lakes Management Bureau Republic of Croatia, signed on May 2014)

- *MOU of Ecological Conversation and Sustainable Management* (signatories: Huanglong, UNIZG Faculty of Science, CIB and Croatian Krka National Park, signed in June 2018)
 - *Support Letters of establishing the China-Croatia Joint Lab on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services under umbrella "One Belt one Road" initiative* (signatories: UNIZG signed on April 2019 and Ministry of Science and Education Republic of Croatia, signed in May 2019)
 - *MOU on Marketing Cooperation and Ecotourism* (signatories: Huanglong Nature Reserve PRC and Croatian National Parks Plitvice Lakes and Krka, signed on June 2019)
 - *General Cooperation Agreement between the Chinese Academy of Science and the University of Zagreb* (signatories: Chinese Academy of Sciences and UNIZG, signed in October 2019)
 - *MOU on the Chinese-Croatian Joint Research Center for Ecological Environment Protection* (signatories: CIB, UNIZG, Jiuzhaigou National Preserve National Park PRC and Plitvice Lakes Management Bureau Republic of Croatia, signed in October 2019)
- (ii) Both countries are deeply aware of the scientific importance, technology and of high education for economic and social development which are currently pursuing a number of areas of common interest, and that participation in development activities on a basis of reciprocity will provide mutual benefits.

For scientific, technological and educational cooperation, Parties have agreed with the terms and conditions of this MoU Agreement given as follows:

Article 1.

Based on the resolution of the Chinese government (the Resolution is component part of this MoU Agreement), the establishment of the "China-Croatia 'Belt and Road' Joint Laboratory on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (abbreviation China-Croatia Joint Laboratory BES) was approved with following main values.

Mission and Vision: to be a center-of-excellence for advanced research, development, and demonstration of innovative ecosystem management and sustainable development. Based on the natural environment characteristics, talents, and technical conditions, to enhance the level of biodiversity protection and promotion of "green silk road" initiative through carrying out cooperation research, academic exchange, sharing ideas and advanced technology, personnel, and technical training, technology demonstration, policy proposal. To build an internationally influential, domestic first-class international cooperation research platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, increasing both China and Croatia's voice and influence in the world, and contribute our wisdom and efforts to build a community of shared future for human beings. Enabling knowledge creation and technology transfer by engaging with, research institutions, universities, and government agencies.

Through the main values: professionalism, collaborations, innovations, respect & caring, integrity, dedication, and excellence we encourage creative ideas and spirit of goals through the following strategic thrusts:

- (i) World-class research,
- (ii) Attract talents through world-class resources and network opportunities by joint programs with top universities, and laboratories that span basic research to large-scale field implementations,
- (iii) Competence and capability development through high-level research activities, well-resourced postgraduate courses and international exchange programs,

- (iv) Develop cutting-edge facilities to support research and development activities in focus areas have been set up within China-Croatia Joint Laboratory BES.

Article 2.

For the purpose of advancement of scientific progress, under the umbrella of China-Croatia Joint Laboratory BES, Parties shall encourage, develop and facilitate cooperative activities in the essential elements of key scientific and academic questions and technologies relevant to environment protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable development. This shall be achieved by combining efforts of scientists of the Parties and joint use of their research resources and scientific achievements through:

- Cooperative activity: include any action which the Parties undertake or support, pursuant to this Agreement including joint research projects, joint field investigation, exchange of scientists and students, organization of academic symposiums/ workshops/ summer schools, double degree program and joint-supervision, mutual visits of technical and management experts.
- Joint research: implies research/investigation or technological development that is implemented with financial support from one or all Parties and that involves collaboration by participants or research entities from China and Croatia and is designated as joint research in writing by the Parties or their organizations.
- Participant or research entities are legally employers or students of Parties, what explicitly does not exclude the possibility for other institution to implement in cooperative activities, but in that case, they must be accepted in the written form from all Parties.

Article 3.

Cooperative activities shall be conducted based on the following principles:

- Mutual benefit based on an overall balance of advantages,
- Reciprocal access to the activities of research, technological development and education undertaken by each Party,
- Timely exchange of information which may affect cooperative activities,
- Appropriate protection of intellectual property rights.

Article 4.

Forms of cooperative activities are subject to applicable laws, regulations, and policies of both countries. Parties shall foster, fully practicable, the involvement of participants in cooperative activities under this Agreement with a view to providing comparable opportunities for participation in their scientific and technological research and development activities.

Article 5.

Cooperative activities may take, but not limited with, the following forms:

- Multidisciplinary approaches are strongly recommended in joint scientific projects, research, and field investigation in the area of biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable development,
- Considering to the mutual benefits and for the advancement of scientific progress, exchange of experience, publishing and participation in the international research and scientific events are warmly expected,
- Bilateral exchanges of scientists, distinguish experts, postgraduate students, and the mutual visits of technician or management experts in the field of natural science,
- Joint-supervision of postgraduate students, which can be decided and funded by professors from CIB and UNIZG or through establishment of consequent double degree program,

This MoU Agreement shall:

- Enter into force on the date on which the Parties have notified each other in writing that their respective internal procedures necessary for its entry into force have been completed.
- Be concluded for an initial period of 5 years and maybe renewed by common agreement between the Parties (tacit renewal) after evaluation during the penultimate year of each successive period.

Article 11.

This MoU Agreement may be:

- Amended by agreement of the Parties. Amendments shall enter into force on the date on which the Parties have notified each other in writing that their respective internal procedures necessary for amending this Agreement have been completed.
- Terminated at any time by either Party upon six months' written notice. The expiration or termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of any arrangements made under it, or any specific rights and obligations.

Article 12.

All questions or disputes related to the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by mutual agreement between the Parties.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this MoU Agreement.

Done at, Zagreb on October 28th, 2019 in three copies, in the English language.

Place & Date:

Zagreb, October 28th, 2019

CLASS: 605-01/19-01/46
NUMBER: 380-01/076-19-1

Signed by:

Chengdu Institute of Biology,
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Director General



(Handwritten signature in blue ink)

Signature
Prof. Ning WU, PhD

Faculty of Science,
University of Zagreb, Croatia
Dean



(Handwritten signature in blue ink)

Signature
Prof. Aleksandra Čižmešija, PhD

University of Zagreb
Croatia
Rector



(Handwritten signature in blue ink)

Signature
Prof. Damir Boras, PhD