



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

To continue scientific cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management and sustainable development in natural heritage sites and further support the “China-Croatia ‘Belt and Road’ Joint Laboratory on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”, among:

The **Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences** (hereinafter individually referred to as “CIB_CAS”), located in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, operates under the flagship of the Chinese Academy of Sciences of the People’s Republic of China and is headquartered in Chengdu; on the one part,

and

The **University of Zagreb** (hereinafter referred to as “UNIZG”), based in Zagreb, which operates under the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, on the other part,

and

The **Faculty of Science University of Zagreb** (hereinafter referred to as “Faculty of Science, UNIZG”), based in Zagreb, Horvatovac 102a, Croatia, 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 Centre for Ecological Environment Protection* (signatories: CIB_CAS, 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_CAS 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 Centre for Ecological Environment Protection* (signatories: CIB_CAS, UNIZG, Jiuzhaigou National Preserve National Park PRC and Plitvice Lakes Management Bureau Republic of Croatia, signed in October 2019)
- *MoU on Agreement on the China-Croatia ‘Belt and Road’ Joint Laboratory on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (signatories: CIB_CAS, UNIZG, FACULTY of SCIENCE_ UNIZG, signed in October 2019)

Both countries are deeply aware of the scientific importance, technology and high level of education for economic and social development and are currently pursuing a number of areas of common interest, and participation in development activities on the basis of reciprocity will be mutually beneficial.

For scientific, technological and educational cooperation, the Parties have agreed on the following terms of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

Article 1.

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

Mission and Vision: to be a Centre of excellence for cutting-edge research, development, and demonstration of innovative ecosystem management and sustainable development. On the basis of the characteristics of the natural environment, talents, and technical conditions, to improve the level of biodiversity conservation and promotion of “green silk road” initiative through implementation of cooperation research, academic exchange, joint cultivating students, exchange of ideas and advanced technology, personnel and technical training, technology demonstration, policy proposal.

To build an internationally influential world first-class international cooperation research platform for international collaboration on biodiversity and ecosystem services strengthen the voice and influence of China and Croatia in the world, and contribute our knowledge and efforts to building a community with a shared future for human beings. Enabling knowledge building and technology transfer through cooperation with research institutions, universities and government agencies.

Based on the core values of professionalism, cooperation, innovation, respect and care, integrity, commitment, and excellence, we promote creative ideas and purpose through the following strategic directions:

- (i) World-class research
- (ii) Attracting talent through world-class resources and networking opportunities through joint programs with top universities and laboratories ranging from basic research to large-scale field implementations
- (iii) Developing competencies and skills through high-level research activities, well-resourced postgraduate courses and international exchange programs
- (iv) Development of state-of-the-art facilities to support research and development activities in priority areas established under the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory.

Article 2.

For the purpose of advancement of scientific progress, under the umbrella of China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory, Parties shall encourage, develop and facilitate cooperative activities in the essential elements of key scientific and academic questions and technologies relevant to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, sustainable utilization of biological utilization, climate change mitigation and adaption, waste and contaminant management, etc. 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 are carried out on the basis of the following principles:

- mutual benefit based on a general balance of advantages, mutual access to the research, technology development and educational activities of each contracting Party,
- timely exchange of information that may affect cooperative activities,
- adequate protection of intellectual property rights.

Article 4.

The forms of cooperation shall be governed by laws, regulations and policies in force in both countries. The Parties shall, to the extent possible, encourage the involvement of participants in cooperative activities under this Agreement with the aim of creating comparable opportunities for participation in their scientific and technological research and development activities.

Article 5.

Cooperative activities can take the following forms, but are not limited to them:

- multidisciplinary approaches are strongly encouraged in joint scientific projects, research and field investigations in the area of biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable development,
- exchange of experience, publications and participation in international research and scientific events are supported for mutual benefit and to promote scientific progress,
- bilateral exchange of scientists, experts, PhD students and reciprocal visits of technicians or administrators in the field of natural sciences,
- joint supervision of doctoral students, which can be decided and financed by professors from CIB_CAS and UNIZG or through the establishment of a single double degree program,
- joint organization of scientific seminars, conferences, symposia, workshops, summer schools and technical training courses, as well as the participation of experts in these activities,
- concerted actions,
- exchange and sharing of equipment and material,
- exchange of information on practices, laws, regulations and programs relevant to cooperation under this Agreement,
- other modalities recommended by the Steering Committees that are consistent with the policies and procedures of all Parties.

Article 6.

All Parties shall establish composition bodies in their respective countries, as a branch of the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory in their own countries. The bodies of the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory shall be organized in three levels:

- Decision making: head of the Joint Laboratory and Steering committee for both countries,
- Operative: Working groups,
- Supporting: Administration.

The Joint Laboratory Heads shall be appointed by each party and are responsible for including, but not limited to, designing implementation plans, organizing research groups, and managing financial funding for their own parties of the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory. Steering committee as an advisory body made up of senior experts provides strategic suggestions.

Working Groups includes scientific, professional or educational teams or individuals carrying out validated and certificated activities by Steering committee from all Parties.

Each Party administrates work activities in accordance with the legal acts of its country and in accordance with the principles defined in Article 1 and Cooperative activities pursuant to Article 5. A secretary, respectively from each party, shall be responsible for communication and coordination of collaborative activities and daily routines.

Article 7.

Either party will support each other in providing workspaces and laboratories and in carrying out field work. Either party will visibly signpost of the joint China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory. The implementation of the joint activities will be accompanied by official and public announcements as required.

All parties shall establish a regular joint operation mechanism, formulate management regulations, and hold regular meetings to discuss future development. All parties shall jointly

organize regular exchange visits, forums, seminars, trainings and teaching, actively participate in international academic organizations initiated by each other, jointly cultivate students, and support the introduction of outstanding talents and the transfer and transformation of scientific and technological achievements.

A meeting participated by the Joint Laboratory Head and selected staff shall be held in turn in both countries every two years to review advances, discuss the strategic framework and future plans of the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory.

Article 8.

All Parties shall individually or jointly seek funds through various channels to maintain the normal operation of the China-Croatia BES Joint Laboratory and to carry out joint activities. The sharing of resource sharing and cost savings will be encouraged.

Article 9.

Each Party shall take all reasonable steps and use its B&R efforts, within the framework of the laws and regulations in force in the territory of each Party, to facilitate the entry into, stay in and exit from its territory of persons, materials, data and equipment involved in or used in cooperative activities established by the Parties under the provisions of this MoU agreement.

Article 10.

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 (five) years and may be renewed by mutual agreement of the Parties (tacit renewal) following an evaluation in the penultimate year of each successive period.

Article 11.

The present 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 for amend this MoU have been completed.
- Be notified in writing by either Party upon six months' notice. The expiry or termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of the arrangements made under it, nor the specific rights and obligations.

Article 12.

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

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this MoU agreement.

Done at, Chengdu on Nov. 18, 2024 in three copies, in the English language.

Place & Date:
Chengdu, Nov. 18, 2024

CLASS:
NUMBER:

Signed by:

Chengdu Institute of Biology,
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Deputy Director General (Presiding)

University of Zagreb,
Faculty of Science,
Croatia
Dean

University of Zagreb,
Croatia
Rector



KLASA: 605-01/24-01/11
URBROJ: 251-58-10208-24-1
U Zagrebu, 8.11.2024 10:39



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
SVEUČILIŠTE U ZAGREBU



Primljeno: 29.10.2024.		
Klasifikacijska oznaka:	Ustrojstvena jedinica	
605-01/24-01/34	251-25-04/1	
Uredžbeni broj:	Prilozi	Vrijednost
251-25-04/1-24-2	-	-