



# WWF CONFERENCE REPORT

## Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

Opportunities and challenges to creating  
sustainable development pathways



WWF Conference  
1 December 2015  
The Wanderers Country Club, Illovo, Johannesburg



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
IEA	International Energy Agency
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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Seedlings are nurtured at a small community tree nursery outside the Okomu Wildlife Sanctuary in Nigeria.

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## INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment in 2000, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has sought to enhance economic cooperation, common development and cultural exchanges between China and Africa in what is a vital geopolitical relationship.

China and Africa's relations and long term prosperity are increasingly threatened by economic and social challenges driven by environmental degradation, among them a loss of biodiversity and habitat, soil erosion, pollution, the illegal wildlife trade and climate change. Nevertheless, through the declarations and action plans that follow each engagement, FOCAC has the potential to play a pivotal role in ensuring that Chinese investments bring long-term benefits to African countries which are set to experience unprecedented development in the decades ahead.

FOCAC could influence the way in which development unfolds by ensuring that the environment is protected and natural resources are sustainably managed, which would provide lasting benefits for long-term, intra-regional and inter continental trade. But given the rapid pace of developments, the flip side of this scenario is that poor planning and riding roughshod over environmental considerations has potentially disastrous socio-economic consequences for the continent of Africa.

It is for these reasons that WWF offices in China and Africa have been engaging and working with key stakeholders and decision makers around FOCAC, with the view to influencing the policy that underpins these plans.



**Louise Scholtz**, WWF South Africa, co-ordinated the conference in Johannesburg

The most recent of these engagements was a high-level WWF conference ahead of the 6th FOCAC meeting which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in December 2015. Four panels examined in detail the issues surrounding the wildlife trade, forests, infrastructural development and mining, and renewable energy.

The WWF conference brought together African and Chinese stakeholders from academic think-tanks, the diplomatic corps, the private sector and civil society to explore the role of FOCAC and Chinese investments in driving sustainable development in Africa, particularly in the light of the UN's recently announced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# PANEL 1

## WILDLIFE TRADE – “Addressing cooperation on wildlife trade between Africa and China”



This rhino survived an attack by poachers in the Tugela Nature Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

© Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK

## BACKGROUND

Sustainable utilisation of Africa’s wildlife resources can lead to positive development and growth for trading partners. By contrast, unsustainable wildlife trade depletes Africa of its natural wealth, and illegal trade leads to a growth in organised criminal activities and losses of revenues from taxation of legal trade.

The recent United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on “Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife” was a milestone in the global fight against wildlife crime. Co-sponsored by China and several African States and adopted by all 193 UN Member States, the resolution reflects an unprecedented level of support from the global community for concrete actions to curb this serious transnational organised crime.

Poorly regulated trade brings with it the problem of illegal harvest and illicit trade in wildlife resources. In Africa, this is due to a variety of factors including the lack of knowledge as well as a lack of appropriate and effective governance over wild resources, and low resource management capacity.

WATCH THE VIDEO



**Deon Nel:** *Acting Executive  
Director for Conservation,  
WWF International*

Inadequate laws and policies, law enforcement capacity and training and a lack of efficient co-operation at national and sub-regional levels between agencies (particularly between law enforcement personnel, customs officers and the judiciary) further exacerbate the situation. Appropriate judicial follow-up and suitable penalties after detecting wildlife crime are compromised by a lack of collaboration between mandated authorities in exporting and transit countries and absence of collaboration with their relevant counterparts in China.

Furthermore, there is also strong evidence of the growing involvement of organised criminal networks in the illegal trade (including timber, abalone, pangolin parts, rhino horn and elephant ivory), some involving Chinese nationals. Demand in China and other countries for wildlife products from African States (many of them sourced and traded illegally) fuels the crisis of poaching and illegal harvest in Africa.

WATCH THE VIDEOS



**Julian Rademeyer** (*Analyst, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime network*)



**Jo Shaw** (*Manager, Rhino Programme, WWF SA*)



**Fei Zhou** (*Head of China Office, TRAFFIC*)



## PANELISTS (from left to right)

Moderator: Marie Parramon-Gurney (International Union for Conservation of Nature)  
 Fei Zhou (Head of China Office, TRAFFIC)  
 Julian Rademeyer (Analyst, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime network)  
 Jo Shaw (Manager, Rhino Programme, WWF South Africa)  
 Julie Thomson (East Africa Coordinator, TRAFFIC)

## DISCUSSION

The first panel of the day was moderated by Marie Parramon-Gurney from the IUCN who set the scene and highlighted some critical questions. Most important among these was the need to reflect on the relationship between the SDGs and wildlife trade, and in particular the direct impact wildlife trade has on the natural capital, economic and social resources of African countries.

Panellist, Julie Thomson (East Africa Coordinator, TRAFFIC) sketched the problem with figures that highlighted the rapid increase in illegal wildlife trade over the past decade. For example, in 2007 only 13 Rhino were killed in South Africa but by 2014 over 1200 Rhino had been poached. Thomson also emphasised the increase in illegal timber trade. She used the example of rosewood, which was making its way from Africa to China and being used to reproduce antique furniture. Thomson concluded that although Asia was the main market for illegal wildlife trade, Asian countries were not doing this alone, they were working in collaboration with African countries.

Dr Jo Shaw (Manager, Rhino Programme, WWF South Africa) addressed the question of the drivers of illegal wildlife trade. She emphasised the need to put people at the centre of conservation noting that the traditional notion of conservation ignored the intrinsic relationship be-





Confiscated weapons and illegal ivory elephant tusks confiscated in Odzala National Park in the Congo.

© naturepl.com / Bruce Davidson / WWF

## SYNDICATES INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN WEAPONS TRAFFICKING

tween many people living in Africa and the biodiversity upon which they rely for subsistence or income. Shaw questioned the effectiveness of the increasingly militarised response of governments to poaching. She noted that this was being met by a tit-for-tat war with crime syndicates who were becoming far more sophisticated.

Drawing on a report on elephant poaching she noted that there were three main drivers for illegal wildlife trade. These were: 1) The socio economic conditions of people living around the areas where poaching was occurring (this was the biggest indicator); 2) the effectiveness of governance at a national level and, 3) the rising level of wealth in Asia. Shaw concluded by calling for a more holistic response to the illegal wildlife trade.

Julian Rademeyer (Analyst, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime network) looked at the link between illegal wildlife trade and organised crime. Rademeyer noted that syndicates involved in illegal wildlife trade were not limited to this activity but were also involved in weapons trafficking and cash transit heists in South Africa.

He emphasised the human cost of illegal wildlife trade not only to rangers and soldiers who were being killed protecting the wildlife but also to suspected poachers. He explained that suspected poachers were at the bottom of the food chain, coming from very poor communities where they were often the breadwinners. They bore the highest risk and were seen as disposable by the kingpins who reaped all the benefits. Rademeyer emphasised the importance of global cooperation in addressing the surge in wildlife trade. He called for immediate trans border action, in the absence of which the battle against illegal wildlife trade would be lost.

### LISTEN TO THE PODCAST



*Podcast on wildlife trade*

Fei Zhou (Head of China Office, TRAFFIC) explored what China was doing to tackle illegal wildlife trade. He outlined a number of measures being driven by the highest levels of government. These included the inclusion of a strategy on wildlife conservation and illegal wildlife trade in the upcoming Five Year Plan; the issuing of a guidance note to accelerate ecological civilisation, which includes the call for a reduction in the unnecessary consumption of wildlife products; the introduction of inter-agency CITES in 31 provinces; the announcement of USD10 billion by the Chinese prime minister for wildlife protection in Africa; the commitment to phase out the ivory market; the temporary ban on the import of ivory carving from Africa and the ban on trophy hunting for ivory. Zhou concluded by acknowledging the important role WWF and TRAFFIC were playing in pushing this.

# PANEL 2

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY – “Building a sustainable forest industry together”



A logging truck is checked by forest guards in south-east Cameroon.

© Olivier Van Bogaert / WWF

## BACKGROUND

African timber exports to China have increased substantially over the last decade and now comprise over 75% of all African timber exports. At risk are African hardwood species, particularly rosewood species, which are highly prized in China. This demand has put increased pressure on the forests of countries such as Gabon, Mozambique, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has driven increasingly unsustainable forest management and illegal timber trade. However, both sides seek a strong and durable timber industry that will contribute to Chinese and African sustainable economic development. This vision is increasingly being embraced among Chinese and African forest management and timber trade stakeholders, with greater investment in value-added processing prior to export, commitments to improved forest management practices, advancement of FSC certification, and other efforts.

The challenges are still substantial though, from policy and finance frameworks and business environment to governance, technology and capacity limitations. How also can civil society engage and support this transformation to ensure local environmental and social benefits?

This session drew upon existing experience of China-Africa cooperation in the forestry sector and made recommendations to scale up sustainable forest management practices and timber trade. Recent Chinese economic, market, and demand trends provide the opportunity for all key stakeholders to set the industry on a strong and sustainable course.





**CHINA IS  
THE BIGGEST  
MARKET FOR  
AFRICAN TIMBER  
ACCOUNTING  
FOR 70% OF ALL  
EXPORTS**

## PANELISTS (from left to right)

Moderator: Huang Wenbin (WWF China)

Jing Tao (State Forestry Administration, China)

Sahondra Rabesihanaka (Director, Forest Resources Valuation, Ministry of Forests, Madagascar)

Dominic Walubengo (Director Forest Action Network;

Chair of National Environment Civil Society Alliance of Kenya)

## DISCUSSION

Moderator Huang Wenbin (WWF China) gave an overview of the timber trade between Africa and China. He said China was the biggest market for African timber, accounting for around 70% of all exports, and in some countries, like Mozambique, China made up to 90% of the export market. Huang warned that we could not ignore the serious threat deforestation and degradation pose. Drawing on a WWF report on forestry, he noted that in the next 30 years some 200 million hectares of forests are likely to be destroyed, the majority of which would be in Africa.

Sahondra Rabesihanaka (Ministry of Forests, Madagascar) considered what was needed to tackle illegal timber trade and how better cooperation between China and African countries could be achieved.

She said the first step would be to engage in dialogue, both formal and informal, at all levels of government. The next step would be implementing systems to address illegal forestry. For example China should prohibit the purchase of illegal rosewood from Madagascar and both countries should impose sanctions against those engaged in illegal trade. The next step was mobilising communities and raising awareness. Finally, African countries affected by illegal trade with China should draw lessons from each other.

Jing Tao (State Forestry Administration, China) set out some of the trade statistics for Chinese timber imports and some of the measures China was taking to address illegal forestry. He noted that although China may be the biggest market for African timber, Africa only made up a small percentage of around 4-5% of all timber imports. Nevertheless, this did not mean that addressing illegal timber trade between Africa and China was not a priority for the Chinese government. He gave a few examples of measures China was taking in this regard. For example, in 2014 it hosted 13 training courses focused on supporting sustainable forestry in Africa.

Dominic Walubengo (National Environment Civil Society Alliance, Kenya) addressed the need to empower communities and the role of civil society in promoting better cooperation. According to Walubengo, civil society could play an important role by encouraging and hosting platforms for government and businesses to engage communities affected by illegal forestry. They could train communities to replant forests and assist them in understanding contracts so that they could play a bigger monitoring role. Finally, civil society could work with companies and government in addressing corruption and minimising the potential of exploitation.

WATCH THE VIDEO



**Dominic Walubengo.**  
Director Forest Action  
Network; Chair of National  
Environment, Civil Society  
Alliance of Kenya)



# PANEL 3

## MINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE – “Promoting responsible mining and infrastructure between China and Africa – the Belt and Road Initiative and beyond”



Infrastructure in Gabon is developing rapidly with many new roads being built by Chinese companies.

© Sandra Mbanefo Obiogo / WWF

## BACKGROUND

Africa's rich mineral deposits remain largely unexplored and unexploited. At the same time, African infrastructure is underdeveloped. It's expected that an annual investment of 93 billion USD is needed annually to develop and maintain necessary infrastructure to service Africa's economic development needs and unlock Africa's potential.

The 'Belt and Road Initiative', announced in 2013 by Chinese President Xi Jinping, highlights a maritime 'Silk Road' to Africa, expected to boost connectivity between China and the African continent, which could help unlock the latter's potential. Indeed, the increased connectivity could spur economic development and social, cultural, and political ties. However, it also brings risks of environmental destruction, social conflict, and reduced human wellbeing.

This session looked at how to harmonise the opportunity for economic growth, spurred greatly by extractive industries and large-scale infrastructure, with social and environmental aspects to ensure overall improvements in human wellbeing and the maintenance of ecological integrity. It looked at the challenges and opportunities of responsible extractive and infrastructure development in ways that lead to sustainable development, highlighting the concept of development corridors and the role of finance.



Strip-mining for diamonds in the Northern Cape province in South Africa.

© Martin Harvey / WWF

ROAD DENSITY  
ON THE AFRICAN  
CONTINENT IS  
ONLY 20% THAT  
OF THE GLOBAL  
AVERAGE.



## PANELISTS (from left to right)

Moderator: Deon Nel (WWF International)

Richard Malinga (Senior Transport Engineer, African Development Bank)

Christine Tam (Sustainable Trade and Investment Coordinator, WWF Coastal East Africa)

Landry Michael Ramarojohn (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Madagascar)

## DISCUSSION

Moderator Dr Deon Nel (WWF International) began the session by setting out Africa's infrastructure deficit but also its untapped potential. He pointed out the following:

- While less than 70% of people in Africa have access to modern electricity services and less than 30% in Sub-Saharan Africa, not even 7% of the continent's hydropower potential has been realised.
- While the African continent holds around 60% of the world's untransformed arable land, it has 30% food deficit and some of the highest malnutrition rates in the world. Furthermore, only 10% of Africa's irrigation infrastructure has been developed.
- The road density on the African continent is only 20% that of the global average.

According to Nel, the 340 billion USD for 50 projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) will shape the continent's economic, social and ecological infrastructure. For example the 'One Belt One Road Initiative' will increase China's connectivity to Africa.





A coal mine in Gokwe Zimbabwe. Africa's ecological faces threats from uncontrolled mining.

© Sandra Mbanefo Obiagio / WWF

He explained that crude mapping done by WWF and the African Development Bank (AfDB), overlaying Africa's ecological assets with the proposed developments under the PIDA, showed a number of hotspots where areas with high biodiversity value would be threatened.

He concluded by outlining three components of a framework for infrastructure development, also developed by WWF and the AfDB, which would maintain the continent's ecological and social infrastructure. These included: integrated land use planning, financial markets and safeguards; and an empowered civil society.

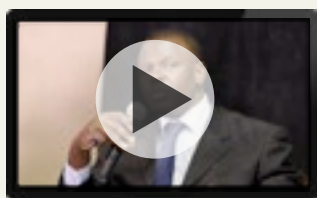
Richard Malinga (African Development Bank) outlined the bank's strategy and objectives, notably the promotion of green growth and building resilience.

Landry Michael Ramarojohn (Madagascan Ministry of Environment) addressed the question of infrastructure development and how it connects to land rights, tenure and vulnerable people. He emphasised the overarching importance of land ownership when dealing with issues of mining and infrastructure development. He noted the complex nature of land ownership, including ownership of mineral wealth below the ground, the actual land, people's connection to particular land, for example ancestral land among others, and the need to reconcile these often conflicting sets of interests.

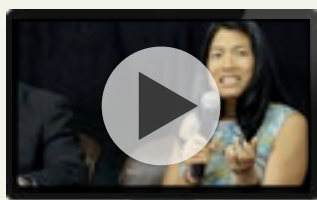
Christine Tam (WWF East Africa) unpacked the 'One Belt One Road Initiative' in more detail. She noted that this initiative, which involves a road and maritime component, spans 65 countries, 4.4 billion people and 30% of the global economy. She said the initiative, which in essence seeks to create linkages in trade, capital, finance and people, was set to double trade between China and the 65 countries involved. She said while there were many potential benefits of this type of concentrated development, there were also many pitfalls, namely, major land use change, impacts on patterns of migration, habitat destruction, the deterioration of ecological services and the potential for conflict around natural resources among others.

To mitigate some of these impacts she stressed the need for increased cooperation in the planning process, the integration of environmental and social concerns early on in planning, and the importance of transparency throughout the process.

#### WATCH THE VIDEOS



**Richard Malinga.**  
Senior Transport Engineer,  
African Development Bank  
(AfDB)



**Christine Tam.**  
Sustainable Trade and  
Investment Coordinator,  
WWF Coastal East Africa

## PANEL 4

**ENERGY –**  
“Renewable energy:  
a win-win situation  
for China and Africa  
cooperation”



Villager on Mafia island with firewood. Many in Africa remain energy poor and rely on firewood for their daily needs.

© Sandra Mbanefo Obiango / WWF

## BACKGROUND

Modern, renewable and affordable energy services are vital to the short and long-term development of Africa. Yet Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular, still has more than 550 million people without access to electricity while more than 650 million still depend on inefficient and hazardous traditional biomass energy to meet their primary energy needs.

The entire generation capacity (40 gigawatts) of the 47 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, home to about 800 million people (excluding South Africa), equals that of New York City, with only 20 million residents (International Energy Agency, 2011). Sub-Saharan Africa is still the world's energy poorest region. At only 43%, the region has the lowest electricity access rate in the world (IEA, 2013). Renewable energy can play an important role in enabling Africa overcome its energy challenges.

But Africa's renewable energy resources currently contribute only 22% of the estimated 100 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity (IEA, 2014). Further development of renewable energy resources in Africa is still held back by a multiplicity of factors, key among which is financing. Other barriers to renewable energy development in Africa include conflicts, corruption, weak governance and the limited development of appropriate policy, institutional and other regulatory frameworks. These barriers pitch the high capital intensity of renewable energy development into a challenging risk landscape.

To meet increasing demand and support economic growth, Africa's power sector in particular needs to install an estimated 7 000 megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity each year. This will require the mobilisation of up to 41 billion USD per year or 6.4% of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP. A large financing gap exists because would-be investment funds are currently spent on the maintenance and operation of the existing power infrastructure, with little remaining to fund long-term renewable energy investments and to broaden its production and distribution (African Development Bank, 2010).

**SUB-SAHARAN  
AFRICA IS STILL  
THE WORLD'S  
ENERGY POOREST  
REGION**





## PANELISTS (from left to right)

- Moderator: Manisha Gulati (WWF-SA)
- Robert Ddamulira (Regional Energy Coordinator at WWF Regional Office of Africa)
- Moritz Weigel (Senior Consultant, UNDP China)
- Sakkie Leimecke (Head of Energy, Nedbank)
- Noel Kulemeka (Chief Socio-Economist, AfDB)
- Christopher Steinbach (Managing Director, Yingli Solar)

## DISCUSSION

Moderator Manisha Gulati (WWF South Africa) focused on the potential of renewable energy in meeting Africa's energy deficit and the win-win opportunities for China and Africa in realising this potential.

Robert Ddamulira (WWF Africa) began by questioning the definition of energy access and pointing out that energy needs differed vastly from continent to continent or between countries. For example, he noted that, while an average American citizen would use 100kw in three days, an average citizen in Tanzania would use the same amount in 392 days and an average Ethiopian in 700 days.

He highlighted three challenges in realising energy access on the African continent. The first was the need for investment in consumer finance because many people simply could not afford renewable energy, and offgrid distributed energy was the only solution in many remote parts. Second, poor governance was a real challenge. Addressing issues of corruption, developing policies that were both implementable and implemented and ensuring that institutions budgets were commensurate to the challenge faced was therefore critical. Third, although technology itself was not a barrier, accessing it was. Thus identifying mechanisms to promote greater technology cooperation with countries such as China was essential.

Sakkie Leimecke (Nedbank) addressed the question of what other African countries could learn from South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme. He said the programme had been successful for a number of reasons. First, an independent office was established to administer the programme, which in the initial stages acknowledged that it did not know much about renewable energy and therefore appointed an independent panel of good advisors and engaged developers and financiers. Second the process was transparent and set deadlines. Third the IPP office was very good at adjusting the programme based on lessons learned.

**WHILE AN AVERAGE AMERICAN CITIZEN USES 100KW IN THREE DAYS, AN AVERAGE CITIZEN IN TANZANIA WOULD USE THE SAME AMOUNT IN 392 DAYS**



China is a leader in solar technology such as this project in the Xian Gang Eco-Village.

© Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK

Moritz Weigel (UNDP, China) addressed the question of the financing of renewable energy in Africa. He said financing was not the key impediment to the proliferation of renewable energy in Africa. He referred to the Clean Development Mechanism under the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol, which was designed to help developing countries reduce their emissions in an economically meaningful way.

He pointed out that while African countries had not taken advantage of this opportunity, China had. He also addressed the changing nature of China's involvement in Africa. He noted that there had been a shift from China merely providing the technology to it partnering with African countries to help them create an enabling environment for renewable energy uptake. He noted that there was a great opportunity for African countries to learn from China's experience with rural electrification.

WATCH THE VIDEO



**Robert Ddamulira**  
Regional Energy Coordinator  
at WWF Regional Office of  
Africa

Noel Kulemeka (African Development Bank) highlighted the transformative power of renewable energy in Africa drawing on examples such as Morocco, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia and Cape Verde among others. He highlighted a number of challenges the bank faces when working with African countries. These included weak enabling environments, limited capacity and lack of skills in the workforce, weak utilities, limited resources and fragmented markets among others. He noted that the private sector would need to play a role in the roll out of renewable energy in Africa but the public sector would also need to create policies, which would enable and incentivise private sector participation.





Deforestation marks the boundary of the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

© Martin Harvey / WWF

BOTH CHINA  
AND AFRICA  
ARE FACING  
PRECIPITOUS  
DECLINES IN  
BIODIVERSITY

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr Li Lin (WWF China)

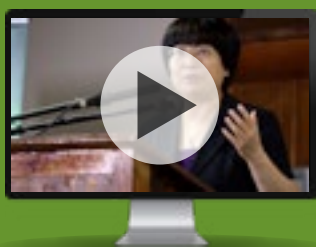
Citing the Living Planet Index, Dr Li pointed out that both China and Africa were facing precipitous declines in biodiversity. In addition, China was experiencing the consequences of heavy air pollution due to the use of fossil fuels, something she hoped could be avoided in Africa's development. However, for that not to happen there were many things that needed to be done.

She urged FOCAC to incorporate the clean goals for sustainable development: To use natural resources or natural capital responsibly, to have responsible infrastructure development, to use clean energy, to work on sustainable finance, and to have an open and inclusive process to engage civil society "so we can all win together".

### She highlighted four main points:

1. The need to protect wildlife and natural resources by eliminating illegal wildlife trade (animals, plants and timber). Producing, consumer and transition countries had a responsibility to act to stop the chain. The national governments in these countries needed to reinforce policies, laws and to collaborate across borders and NGOs also had a role to play. Corruption was a "high frequency" word used often in the first two sessions, which had looked at this issue.
2. In terms of infrastructure there were significant gaps in development, and there was a need to "secure ecological services" to power development. However, ecological and social concerns needed to be "upstreamed and mainstreamed" so that they could be incorporated into the decision-making process as early as possible. There was also a need for more dialogue to promote a better understanding between people, and to ensure more cohesive and clear approaches.
3. Energy access in Africa was a major issue with huge potential for energy poor Africa to be powered through the use of renewable energy. There were signs that this was happening and the prospects for change in the next three to five years were huge. Renewable energy could really help Africa to grow.
4. The China-Africa relationship needed to develop a more holistic and inclusive perspective. NGOs were proven to be constructive partners and catalysts for change. WWF would like to see FOCAC bring more civil society into its processes.

### WATCH THE VIDEO



**Dr. Li Lin**, WWF China.  
Closing remarks.

In conclusion, Dr Li pointed out that China was in the process of embedding the concept of 'ecological civilisation' but the hope was that this would not only be in domestic development but also translate into development overseas. Financial institutions had a critical role to play in leveraging resource and energy efficient investments and ensuring energy access. Finally, China-Africa cooperation could be used to explore a new development path where we could all realise our development goals at the same time living within the limits of our planet so that we could have a future where "people and nature can live in harmony".



**Above:** WWF staff from Africa, Europe and China who attended the pre-FOCAC conference in Johannesburg.

## FOCAC ACTION PLAN

After the 6th FOCAC meeting, an Action Plan was released in which some of the issues discussed were addressed, primarily under section 4.6. WWF, in turn, released a media statement in response, welcoming proposals around the proposals for the control of the illegal trade in wildlife, but also underscoring the need for more integrated planning into the future, something that continues to lag in this relationship. In addition, given the huge emphasis on agricultural development, WWF acknowledges that more work needs to be done in this area.

## MEDIA LINKS

<http://www.powerfm.co.za/news/business/sustainability-in-focus-at-china-africa-summit/>

<http://www.fn24.com/Economy/sustainability-in-focus-at-china-africa-summit-20151201>

<http://laprensa.peru.com/actualidad/noticia-piden-china-que-contribuya-al-desarrollo-sostenible-africa-55554>

<http://sbeta.iol.co.za/business/news/avoid-old-mistakes-1955792>

<http://citizen.co.za/895279/dead-elephant-in-the-room/>

<http://www.enca.com/africa/elephant-room-china-africa-forum>

<http://www.news24.com/Green/News/elephants-the-forgotten-giants-at-africa-china-summit-20151203>

[http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2015-12/04/content\\_22624980.htm](http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2015-12/04/content_22624980.htm)

<http://www.sachinamedia.info/wwf-hosts-sustainable-development-conference-ahead-of-focac/>

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/628/138614.html>



