

US-China Climate Change and Forests Initiative: Workshop on Policy and Technology for Climate Change and Forests

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Background:

The US-China Climate Change and Forests Initiative is a 3-year program under the US-China Change Working Group. Program implementation is led by the US Forest Service and supported by the US Department of State. The initiative facilitates communication and cooperation across four workstreams, including:

- 1) Strengthen communication on forestry-related agenda items under UNFCCC negotiations;
- 2) Technical cooperation in measuring, monitoring, and reporting forestry-related GHGs;
- 3) Facilitate technical and policy cooperation to promote the synergies between forest mitigation and adaptation to climate change (including pairing forest demonstration sites in China with the Hubbard Brook and Santee Experimental Forests); and
- 4) Share best practices and technical experiences in U.S. and Chinese overseas forest investments.

Workshop Description:

The US-China Workshop on Policy and Technology for Climate Change and Forests was held October 18th-22nd at the Experimental Center of Tropical Forestry in Pingxiang City, Guangxi Province, China. This workshop was the first activity under workstream 3 and brought together representatives from the US Experimental Forest sites, Chinese forest pilot sites, policy experts, managers, and scientists from the Chinese State Forestry Administration, Chinese Academy of Forestry, and US Forest Service. The meeting provided a bi-lateral forum to discuss international and domestic policies on climate mitigation and adaptation, to learn about research and decision support tools for land managers to address climate change, to visit field sites at the Experimental Center of Tropical Forestry to learn about site-specific forestry and climate research, and to identify common interests for future cooperative activities.

Workshop Highlights:

- Multi-Function Forest Management – The Chinese presented multi-function forest management, a set of silvicultural treatments to enhance carbon sequestration and adaptation.
- Decision Support Tools – The U.S. presented numerous decision support tools to integrate science and forest management including the USDA Climate Hub Toolshed. The Chinese expressed a strong interest in learning more about tool applicability in China.
- Climate Scorecard – Participants discussed the USFS Climate Scorecard and possible linkages and application with SFA's strategy and action plans on climate change.
- Long-term Data Collection – Both US and China delegations decided to further explore long term data sets to identify possible joint analyses of climate impact on ecosystem services.
- Extreme Events – Workshop participants identified extreme events and impact on forests a priority theme for future activities under workstream 3.

Next Steps:

- Information sharing – Immediate follow-up will include sharing information, resources, and tools on climate change and forests including links to decision support tools, forest management plans, and the USFS climate scorecard.
- Workshop in U.S. – USFS plans to host at least 2 workshops over the next two years at US Experimental Forest sites to address a variety of themes of mutual interest.

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