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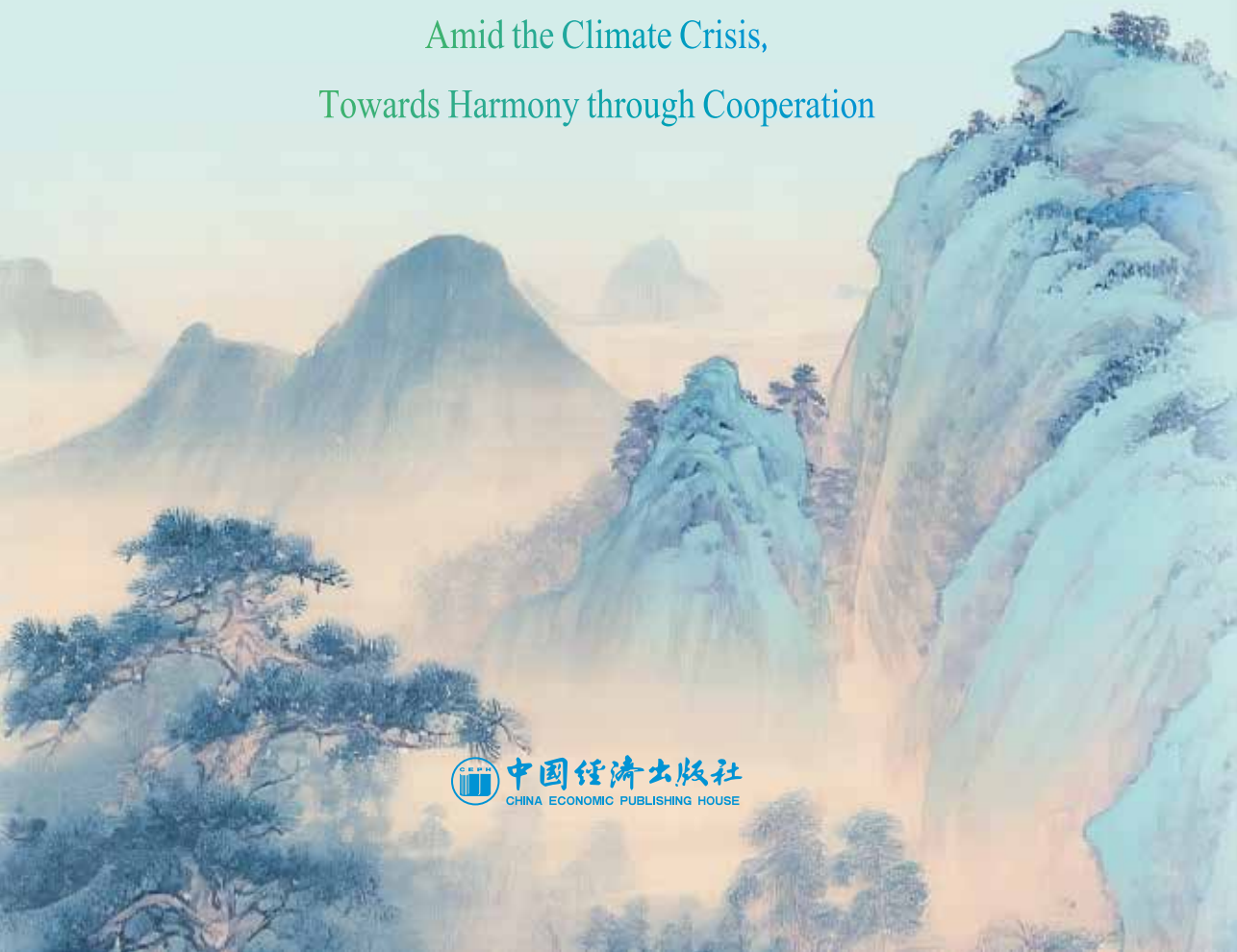
HARMONY AND COEXISTENCE

China's Civil Society in Global Climate Governance

(Condensed Edition)

Written by the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)

Amid the Climate Crisis,
Towards Harmony through Cooperation



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This condensed edition provides an overview of the book *Harmony and Coexistence: China's Civil Society in Global Climate Governance.* For the complete content, please refer to the Chinese edition (ISBN 978-7-5136-8332-6).

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Preface

Origins of Harmony

As crises deepen and inequalities widen,
this initiative brings together dispersed actions, turning them into replicable public solutions.

0.1 Crisis and Awakening: The Call of an Era for Global Climate Governance

The polar ice caps are melting at an accelerating pace,
tropical cyclones are striking more often,
droughts are degrading land,
and rising seas threaten coastal communities,
……

As we have entered the third decade of the 21st century, climate change has shifted from an environmental challenge to an existential issue that concerns the right to life of billions of people. Global climate governance now stands as one of the most urgent arenas for translating shared ideals into practical action.

Adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) launched a sustained international effort to keep global warming within 1.5°C. Building on that framework, governments, international organizations, and civil society have jointly advanced key mechanisms—including the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund in 2022.

In this ongoing process, non - governmental organizations have emerged as indispensable actors: they connect policy with the public, bridge institutions and communities, and contribute constructively to decision - making.

From transnational networks to community - based scientific initiatives, it is clear that beyond governmental pledges, effective climate governance requires broad public awareness and locally grounded action.

0.2 From Learning to Contribution: The Growth Trajectory of China's Civil Climate Efforts

The development of China's social organizations has evolved in step with the country's national sustainability strategy and the global momentum toward climate governance.

- In advancing Ecological Civilization, social organizations have integrated climate issues into environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.
- Through rural revitalization initiatives, they have explored pathways combining eco-tourism, low-carbon livelihoods, and community income generation.
- In pursuit of the "dual-carbon" goals, social organizations have strengthened talent cultivation and technical capacity to address the complex challenges of climate change.

These efforts, aligned with both national strategies and global frameworks, have enabled civil society to contribute dynamic and innovative approaches to policy implementation and local action.

As of October 2025, approximately 3,000 social organizations in China focus on climate-related issues — a twelve-fold increase since 2010. Together, they are gradually forming an interconnected chain of action that links policy advocacy, public education, community practice, and international cooperation.

As the world's largest developing country, China's progress in climate governance has become deeply intertwined with global efforts.

1992	China signed *the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, becoming one of its first parties.
1998	China signed the *Kyoto Protocol*.
2009	China announced its goal to reduce carbon intensity per unit of GDP by 40%-45%.
2020	China pledged to achieve "carbon peaking and carbon neutrality".
2021	"Ecological Civilization" was written into the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, marking a shift from "passive adaptation" to "proactive leadership".

Policy implementation at the "last mile" always requires the active engagement and feedback of civil society.

1990s	China's environmental NGOs were still in their early stages, focusing primarily on pollution control and environmental awareness.
2007	(Turning Point) The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report confirmed that "there is more than a 90% probability that human activity is causing global warming." In the same year, China released its *National Climate Change Program*, and civil society organizations began to systematically engage in climate issues.
2013	More than 20 cities launched nationwide campaigns promoting low-carbon living.
2015	During the *Paris Agreement* negotiations, Chinese NGOs submitted position papers to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the first time.
2016	Following the implementation of the *Charity Law of the People's Republic of China*, climate-related philanthropic initiatives gained formal legal channels for public fundraising.
2017	Twelve Chinese foundations established dedicated climate funds, with total funding exceeding RMB 30 million (approximately USD 4.2 million).

0.3 Harmony and Coexistence: Co-Creating a Shared Climate Future

"Harmony and Coexistence" is not only a core philosophy of Chinese traditional culture, but also the underlying rationale and methodology guiding China's civil climate actions.

Humans and Nature: Through models such as "patrol + infrared camera monitoring", social organizations integrate biodiversity conservation with community livelihoods. Their field data and findings are included in international evaluation and reporting platforms.

Humans and Humans: By promoting collaborative and mutually reinforcing organizational models, civil actors enhance professionalism and coordination in addressing gender and climate-related issues.

Nations and Communities: Through regional and thematic forums, civil organizations in complex local contexts advance inclusive and professionally driven collaboration, bridging the gap between civil participation and official dialogue.

China's Civil Society in Action: Facing the Climate Crisis, No One Is a Bystander

- From the early stage of *learning by doing* to today's *collaborative co-creation*,
- from isolated initiatives to interconnected and platform-based cooperation,
- from campus lectures and youth trainings to local ecological protection and participation in multilateral dialogues—Chinese social organizations have evolved into active, indispensable players in global climate action.

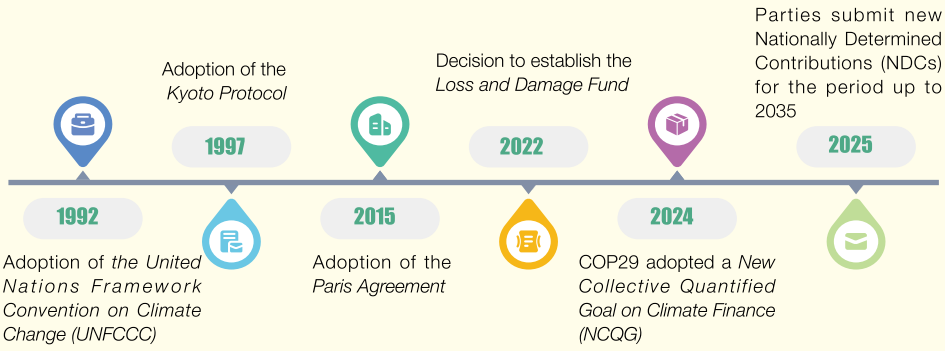
Countless small yet steadfast choices are collectively reshaping the world.

- A teacher explaining "carbon neutrality" in class.
- A villager participating in snow-leopard patrols.
- A young delegate sharing community stories at an international forum.

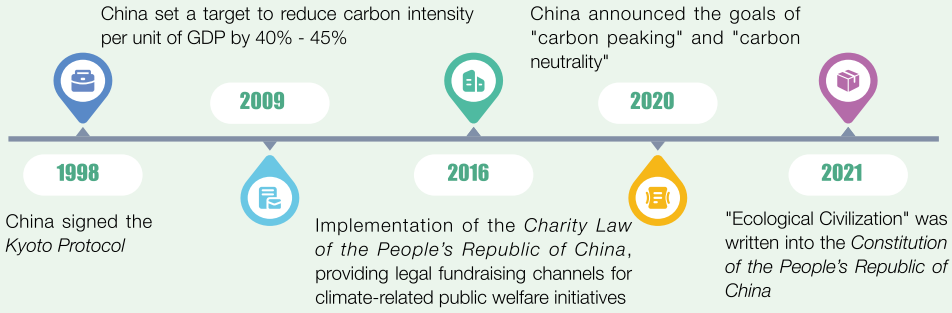
Over more than thirty years of progress, Chinese social organizations have not only built a professional, collaborative ecosystem for climate action, but also taken on a growing sense of responsibility and agency in global climate governance.

Chronology of Key Milestones

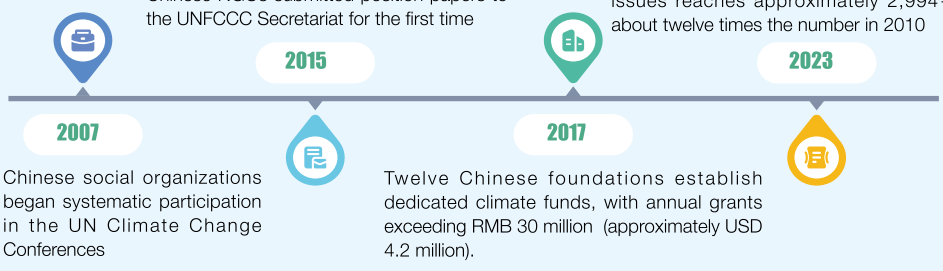
Global Climate Governance Timeline



Parallel Timeline: China's Policy Milestones



Parallel Timeline: China's Civil Society Milestones



Chapter 1

Gentle Voices, Lasting Impact: From Learners to Contributors

From *learning by doing* to *collaborative co-creation,* China's civil climate movement has, over the past three decades, evolved alongside institutional progress and international engagement.

Through continuous participation, civil society has both accumulated grassroots experience and evidence, and developed the capacity to sustain collective advocacy and coordinated action across multilateral platforms.



From Learners to Contributors: Three Decades of Transformation in China's Civil Society

The growth of China's social organizations has paralleled the improvement of national governance systems for social administration. Since the late 1980s, the steady establishment of social management mechanisms and foundation regulations, including the development of industry associations, chambers of commerce, and the reform of social organization governance, has created a more enabling environment for civil participation and institutional innovation.

According to data released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China, as of June 2025, the total number of registered social organizations in China had reached 864,800. The diverse ecosystem—comprising social groups, private non-enterprise units, and foundations—has provided an organizational foundation for multiple actors to engage in climate-related initiatives.

The engagement of Chinese civil society in climate action has gone through a gradual process—from emergence to learning, from collaboration to contribution.

2007 | Chinese social organizations entered a new phase of internationalization.

2007 | At COP13 (Bali), the China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN) participated for the first time as official observers, marking a significant step toward understanding rules, mechanisms, and communication practices through on-site learning.

2009 | At COP15 (Copenhagen), CCAN members engaged in renewable energy exhibitions, youth activities, and media outreach, gaining visibility and beginning to explore more systematic pathways for international communication.

2010 | CCAN released its first Joint Position Paper of Chinese Civil Society Organizations, expressing coordinated stances through over 20 side events, dialogues, and forums—bridging Chinese civil actors with international partners and policy processes.

From "Observation and Learning" to "Engagement and Advocacy"

Chinese social organizations gradually transitioned from observing and learning to speaking and acting within the negotiation process, forming a distinctive pathway of participation, "promoting communication through evidence, and advancing governance through advocacy and rules."



→ In December 2007, during COP13, CCAN representatives met with then UN Deputy Secretary-General Sha Zukang and shared views on civil society engagement in climate governance.

At the national level, the establishment of an integrated climate-ecological governance framework has created new entry points for civil society engagement.

Through localized projects and evidence-based evaluations, NGOs have gradually formed an iterative cycle of "pilot-evaluation-expansion-institutionalization", making their participation in policymaking and legislation increasingly normalized and structured.

📖 Since 2011, CCAN members have established *a climate legislation research taskforce*.

📖 By conducting field interviews and collecting firsthand data, the group produced thematic reports that were later referenced in professional legal publications.CCAN members were also invited to participate in consultations organized by relevant ministries, contributing insights on legislative pathways and institutional implementation.

◎ This technical and process-oriented engagement has enhanced civil society's understanding of policy mechanisms, while enabling grassroots organizations to bring replicable, data-driven insights into policy dialogues.

◎ Many ongoing local projects have achieved measurable and scalable results, which were later showcased in various multilateral forums.

◎ By linking real-world case studies and verifiable data to policy discussions, these initiatives have bridged "national aspirations, local governance, and civil innovation", demonstrating how grassroots practice informs national policy.

📖 In high-altitude and border regions, adaptation projects have delivered tangible outcomes.

◎ Through solutions combining clean energy, sanitation facilities, and disaster-prevention equipment for community volunteers, these projects have improved the living conditions of vulnerable populations.

◎ Their methodologies were later presented at the Marrakech Climate Conference as examples of effective community-based adaptation.

◎ Other initiatives integrated clean energy and sanitation infrastructure with agricultural resilience programs, enabling rural communities to exchange best practices and improve livelihoods through knowledge sharing and collaborative implementation.

📖 Projects focusing on climate and gender capacity building have achieved multi-dimensional empowerment.

Through thematic trainings, institutional optimization, and talent development, these programs have strengthened practitioners' professional competencies and cross-sector collaboration, forming a "knowledge-organization-network" framework that enhances collective action capacity.

Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN): A Civil Society Bridge Linking the UNFCCC, C20, and East Asian Platforms

About CCAN

Organization Structure: Founded in 2007, with its secretariat hosted by the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO).

Mission: To promote information sharing and collective climate action, enhancing network members' capacities in science-based advocacy, policy dialogue, and public communication.

Core Work: As one of the earliest networks in China focusing on climate change, CCAN maintains close coordination with the global Climate Action Network International (CAN-I).

It has long engaged in initiatives such as capacity building, policy research, international exchange, climate communication, and joint advocacy actions. Each year, it organizes 3-5 training sessions and workshops, and holds annual strategic meetings to promote peer learning, knowledge exchange, and collective action among members.

Policy Research Dimension

CCAN has established thematic working groups focusing on climate legislation, urban low-carbon strategies, and NGO policy advocacy, producing research papers and contributing to policy discussions.

As of May 2025, CCAN's network covers 21 provinces and municipalities across China, comprising over 50 member organizations and forming a cross-regional, multi-issue collaborative network.

International and Multilateral Engagement

CCAN has consistently participated in UNFCCC processes, the C20 (G20 Civil Society Summit), and the East Asia Climate Forum, building a three-track mechanism that connects "local practice-network cooperation-multilateral advocacy."

This model has allowed Chinese civil society's practical experience to gain visibility and steady influence on the international stage.Over the past 17 years, CCAN has supported 114 participants in attending the UN Climate Change Conferences.

Between 2015 and 2019, it submitted multiple position papers to the UNFCCC and took part in discussions on rules and procedures.During the UNFCCC Tianjin Sessions, CCAN played a key role in facilitating domestic–international communication and strengthening connections between civil organizations and policy systems.

Through initiatives such as the East Asia Climate Forum, CCAN has built cross-border collaboration platforms, breaking information barriers, fostering regional understanding, and advancing equitable and just transitions toward low-carbon economies.

These efforts have promoted multi-stakeholder cooperation and led to the publication of joint outcomes during UNFCCC sessions.

Chapter 2

Empowering Action: Collective Effort for Transformative Change

CCAN mobilizes diverse partners—from youth education and community engagement to ecological conservation, cultural exchange, and gender collaboration—to foster multidimensional innovation and collective impact.

By linking localized project design with international knowledge exchange, it integrates climate action into fields such as education, livelihood, and cultural preservation.

Through these interconnected efforts, a broad network of actors has emerged, building replicable community—based practices and offering China's civil society solutions to global climate governance.

Youth Climate Education and Capacity Building

Empowering the Young People: Climate Change Education for the Future

The China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) launched this initiative in 2012. It developed bilingual teaching materials including Climate Change Education Reader and Youth Climate Action Practice Handbook, and established a training system composed of basic, advanced, and professional instructor workshops. The program has reached 21 provinces and municipalities, training over 1,200 teachers.

Through collaboration with South Korean educators and international organizations, the program has maintained continuous participation in UN Climate Change Conferences for 17 years. It aligns with SDG13 and SDG4, forming a practical network that now connects more than 600 schools.





↑ *Climate Change Education Reader and Youth Climate Action Practice Handbook.*



→ *Climate Board Game "From Forest to Future".*

↓ CANGO's representatives presenting at a UNFCCC COP 27 session





↑ April 2023: Launch ceremony of the *Climate Angels project.*



↑ Climate education expert (Li LI) conducting training workshops for local teachers.



↑ Students from partner schools participating in Climate Angels science and climate learning activities.



→ *Climate Angels* project members presenting outcomes during a COP29 side event.

Nurturing Young Climate Leaders: Building a Youth Climate Leadership System in Zhejiang

In 2023, the Green Zhejiang organization launched the Climate Angels program, engaging over 20 primary and secondary schools. The project developed standardized curricula, trained 120 teachers, and encouraged campus-based innovation. It produced a bilingual video series that reached more than 300,000 viewers.

The initiative also established the COP Youth Observer Program, which selected eight university students to participate in international conferences between 2021 and 2024. In 2024, the program enabled primary school students to attend side events at COP29, reaching a total more than 3,000 students.

Ecological Conservation, Biodiversity, and Climate Resilience

Building Climate Resilience through Panda Villages: From Habitat Protection to Community Coexistence

In 2009, the Chengdu Future Community Social Work Center launched the Panda Village Conservation Initiative. The project established 30 square kilometers of panda habitat across Sichuan and Gansu through community-based conservation, engaging over 1,000 local villagers in conservation and ecological livelihood programs.

In 2016, a public-benefit documentary on the project was released.

In 2017, a dedicated protection base was established.

In 2023, the online platform Cloud Panda Village was launched.

By October 2024, the project had engaged 728,000 participants in forest protection covering 2,100 hectares, and supported 119 forest households, increasing their annual income by an average of RMB 2,000.



↑ June 2019: Researchers from the College of Life Sciences, Peking University, conducted field studies at sporadic panda community conservation site in Jungle Hill, Sichuan.



← Wild Giant Panda: A wild giant panda in their natural habitat.



↑ November 2023: The Future Forest team launched distribution of Panda Forest Ecological Public Welfare Fund in sporadic panda community conservation site in Jungle Hill, Sichuan.



→ Poster of the public-benefit documentary *Protecting Panda Villages*.

Collaborative Governance: Joint Efforts for Seagrass Meadow Conservation and Climate Resilience in Tangdao Bay

The Qingdao *Huangdao District Qingyuan Environmental Service Center* (abbreviated: *Qingdao Qingyuan*) partnered with multiple organizations to launch the Seagrass Conservation Alliance. The initiative created an online platform, *Eco Micro News*, and established the "Environmental Protection Box" program, engaging over 30 local families.

The project promoted exemplary cases of marine ecological restoration through diverse approaches, including online science columns, interactive activities such as World Seagrass Day, and policy advocacy workshops that supported conservation planning and reporting mechanisms.



→ During an offline event, volunteers showcased seagrass seedlings and young shoots to the public.



↑ Volunteers worked together to plant seagrass along the Tangdao Bay shoreline.

Community Climate Risk Response and Resilience Building

Empowering Communities: Fostering Local Climate Resilience

Since 2018, the Amity Foundation has explored a "Community Development Fund + Micro-Governance" model to strengthen local climate risk management. The initiative established a fund of RMB 160,000 in Sichuan Province to support community-led projects and develop a risk mapping tool for local use. In 2022, the program entered a practical consolidation phase, and by 2025 it aims to expand to new pilot counties such as Anxian, promoting small-grant mechanisms.

Over seven years of practice, the model has evolved into a "Government – Social Organization – Community" partnership, making climate resilience a core aspect of community competitiveness.



↑ A technical expert introduces community risk management projects.



↑ Project team members and villagers discuss the "Community Development Fund + Micro-Governance" model.



↑ Villagers restore pathways damaged by rainstorms through a self-organized "Work-for-Safety" initiative, improving travel safety.



↑ Community members collaboratively draft and refine local climate risk maps.

Integrated Climate Adaptation Solutions for Agricultural Communities: Enhancing Climate Resilience in Yanta Pear Orchards

Since 2020, the Mengnan Sustainable Development Service Center in Kunming, Yunnan Province, has implemented a climate adaptation project in Yanta Village. Through community-based risk assessments, climate education, and technical training, the initiative engaged local farmers in developing adaptive strategies such as frost prevention and water-saving irrigation. These efforts not only improved the resilience of pear orchards to climate risks but also enhanced farmers' income stability and provided practical experience for rural climate adaptation.

In 2020, the project introduced an IPCC-based risk assessment framework and integrated local measures such as frost prevention and water storage ponds.

In 2022, mulching with pruned branches was promoted, saving 200 tons of water per hectare and improving irrigation efficiency by 40%.

In the same year, 10 farmers were supported in developing pear-processing businesses, forming a "Risk Assessment – Knowledge Integration – Action-based Adaptation" model.

By 2024, drip irrigation systems had been piloted, reducing water use by more than 50%.



↑ Description of climate risks in Pear Orchards (illustrated by Chen Rui).



↑ Comparison of Pear Orchards management before and after project implementation.



↑ Dr. Li Chunliang (right) conducts field guidance on climate-resilient pear cultivation in Yanta Village.

Cultural Heritage and Climate Adaptation

Exploring Climate Imprints: Protecting the Ancient Villages of Huizhou Architecture in Wannan

In 2023, the *Qingye Community Development Center* in Anhui launched a project to preserve ancient Huizhou-style villages in southern Anhui that are increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events. The initiative examined traditional site selection and architectural wisdom—such as the use of terrain, waterways, and ventilation—to develop models of climate-adaptive sustainable tourism. It promoted the restoration of ancient buildings through a blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern techniques, developing a "Climate Imprint" cultural route. Local residents were encouraged to participate in homestay development, handicraft production, and other creative community initiatives, transforming the area into a living laboratory for climate adaptation.



1. The ancient village of Likou, a riverside settlement rich in Huizhou heritage.
2. A corner of a traditional Huizhou courtyard residence.
3. Horse-head walls—a hallmark of climate-adaptive architecture in Huizhou buildings.
4. The skylight courtyard—an example of ventilation wisdom in traditional Huizhou architecture.

Gender equality and climate governance

South－South Cooperation: Women-Led Climate Adaptation Practices in Border Minority Communities

In August 2023, the Ruili Women's Development Center in Yunnan launched a women-led climate adaptation project in Gaomeng Village. Aligning with UN SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), the project encouraged women to play leading roles in community climate action. Through their participation, women enhanced community climate resilience and generated replicable, scalable experiences for inclusive rural development.

Key outcomes include:

- Using storytelling activities such as Amei's Climate Story to raise villagers' awareness of climate change.
- Promoting low-carbon and green agricultural practices, including forest and watershed protection.
- Training 27 women's groups, including cross-border ethnic women's teams.
- Introducing drip irrigation, repairing water channels, and establishing cooperative partnerships.
- Planting 18 mu (1.2 hectares) of banana and 27 mu of sesame crops.
- Improving villagers' understanding of climate adaptation and preparing to replicate the model in neighboring villages.





1.Women's group leader Yang Yudong (left) shares climate-related knowledge with local villagers.
2.Members of the cooperative showcasing their green farming practices.





3.A villager demonstrates eco-friendly planting methods promoted through the cooperative.
4.Women's group leader A Nu tells the story Amei's Climate Story to fellow villagers.



↑ December 2024 — Workshop on capacity building for social organizations.



↑ November 2024 — Gender-focused social organizations participated in the *Beijing +30 Asia-Pacific Forum on Social Organizations*.



↑ April 2025 — CCAN members engaged in international exchanges with NGO networks from Japan and Myanmar.



↑ March 11, 2025 — The symposium *"Advancing Policy Collaboration for Climate Resilience"* was held in Hefei, Anhui Province.

Synergizing for Progress: Exploring Pathways for Gender-Responsive Climate Governance among Social Organizations

In 2023, the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) and its Shaanxi & Jiangsu partners jointly launched the project "Strengthen Chinese CSOs' Capacity to Promote Mainstream of Climate and Gender Considerations". The initiative provides a replicable approach to integrating gender perspectives into climate governance.

Key achievements include:

- Engaging gender equality experts and climate departments to co-design workshops and develop localized curricula.
- Providing institutional grants of RMB 80,000–200,000 to support 40 organizations in project implementation and capacity enhancement.
- Building online communities and launching the "Social Organization Atlas", covering over 200 organizations and publishing quarterly reports.
- Facilitating Green Jiangxi Environmental Exchange Center leading to establishment of the first women committee under an environmental NGO in Jiangxi Province. The recommendations provided by social organizations to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, strengthen environmental management, etc. were adopted by relevant chemical industrial parks in Shandong Province.

Innovative Practices and Climate Action Empowerment

Partnering with Civil Society to Advance Business Alignment: Bringing the Green Value of Inclusive Carbon Accounts to All

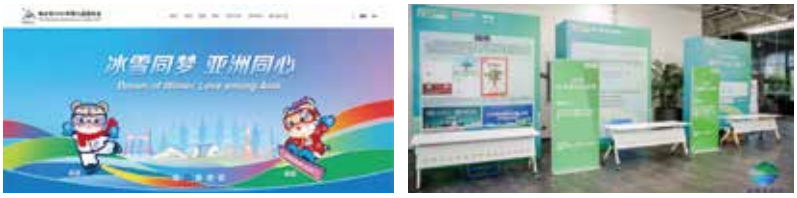
Civil society organizations partnered with Smart Energy Chain to launch an inclusive carbon account for new energy vehicle users.

As of June 2025, the number of users exceeded 1.2 million. For every kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed, 0.5–0.8 kg of carbon emissions were reduced, generating 1.4 times the equivalent carbon credits, which can be redeemed for electricity or goods.

Through the Multi-Regional Carbon Inclusion Platform, a total of 1,962 tons of certified carbon reduction transactions were completed in 2024 within the new energy vehicle charging service sector.

During COP29, CANGO and its partners jointly released the *2024 White Paper on Carbon Inclusive Development*.

In rural areas, 187 homestays installed 400 charging piles, earning the UN Summit Innovation Award for outstanding demonstration of low-carbon development.



↑ Scenes from Online and On-site Events of the Harbin Asian Winter Games.



↑ Launch of the *2024 White Paper on Carbon Inclusive Development* .

Carbon Neutrality Public Communication: Empowering Civil Society to Contribute to Carbon Peaking and Neutrality

To enhance the communication capacity of Chinese civil society organizations on climate issues and collect outstanding public communication cases,

CANGO and WWF Beijing Representative Office jointly launched the "CN Initiative" in 2022.

Focusing on renewable energy, the project established a three-tier expert database and training mechanism. Over the past four years, 23 NGOs have produced outstanding public communication initiatives on carbon peaking and neutrality.

The initiative has built a model combining training, expert guidance, and case promotion, fostering capacity building and innovation. Selected projects were showcased during major international climate conferences, including COP29.

Looking ahead, both partners will continue to explore ways to amplify the project's international impact and establish effective empowerment mechanisms.



↑ In 2022, the CN Initiative held a workshop in Beijing to enhance communication capacity on climate action.



↓ A CN Initiative video featuring Tianjin enterprises on energy efficiency was screened during COP29 Civil Society Events.



↑ Posters from the *"Chasing the Light"* series produced during China Climate Action Week in Shanxi Province.

Connector and Enabler: From Awareness to Action – The Role of Media in Advancing Climate Action

Over the past five years, *China Sustainability Tribune* magazine has consistently documented and contribute to China's progress toward its "dual-carbon" goals.

- Through systematic content production, brand storytelling, and collaboration across media and industry platforms, the magazine has established an influential pathway to translate climate awareness into tangible action.Launched the "Pathway to Carbon Neutrality" column, offering diverse perspectives and solution cases supporting China's dual-carbon targets.
- Introduced the "Carbon Reduction and Philanthropy" column, encouraging citizens to integrate low-carbon practices into everyday life.
- Launched flagship initiative, "GoldenKey - Building a Platform to Show SDG Good Solutions and Success Stories of Private Sector in China", with the State Grid Corporation of China and the China Electricity Council, featuring thematic competitions and exchanges that highlight innovative contributions from the private sector to the SDGs.
- Released the Climate Action Report: China's Corporate Climate Innovation Practices 2023 during COP28 China Pavilion events.
- Co-hosted university forums and initiated the "Global Sustainable Consumption Initiative", expanding youth and media engagement in climate communication.



↑ Launch of the "Global Sustainable Consumption Initiative."



↑ Release of the Climate Action Report: *Start from Action: Observation Report on Low-Carbon Transition of Enterprises in China 2023*.



→ Cover of the *China Sustainability Tribune*, showcasing the annual sustainability feature.

Chapter 3

Policy Engagement: From Public Voices to Policy Support

By continuously engaging in legislative consultations and public policy dialogue, Chinese social organizations have contributed constructively to national discussions on climate governance. With accumulated experience from both domestic and international participation under the UNFCCC framework, their efforts have gradually evolved from observation to contribution, offering diverse perspectives and complementary expertise that support China's policymaking process in climate and sustainable development.

3.1 Engaging in Climate Legislation: Providing Technical and Policy Support

In response to the Motion on Strengthening Climate Change Legislation submitted to the National People's Congress, Chinese social organizations, together with academic and professional communities, have provided data, research, and advisory inputs to support policy formulation.

- Professional research and consultation were carried out jointly with academic institutions and think tanks, contributing technical insights and practical references to the legislative process.
- Regional workshops and policy dialogues were conducted through networks such as the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Management in East Asia (PEMSEA), facilitating exchange and capacity development.
- Policy recommendations and expert inputs were shared through consultation meetings and thematic submissions, helping to inform evidence-based legislative discussions.

3.2 Participate in Local Green Thematic Research and Collaborating to Advance Climate Governance

Using Zhendong Town in Jiangsu Province as a representative example, various modle of "green transition" practice have been Developed.

- By connecting the problem - governance chain with "on - site assessment – government synergy – industry rectification – environmental education", the governance has been expanded from "problem disposal" to a long - term mechanism of "community participation".
- For the green industrial transition in resource - based regions, a low - carbon seminar focusing on the steel industry was launched in Shanxi to help high energy consumption and high emission industries identify low - carbon paths and policy tools.



↑ Aerial View of Part of Zhendong Town (Photographed by Green Jiangnan)



↑ Stainless Steel Washing Center in Zhendong Town Put into Operation

Long-term Promotion of "Carbon Neutrality for Major Conferences and Events" Demonstration

- In 2010, a meeting of a subsidiary body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Tianjin offset about 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions through a 5,000 - mu "carbon neutrality forest" in Shanxi. Over the years, this practice has been continued in the 2004 APEC Meeting in Beijing, the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou, and many other large - scale events and conferences. Meanwhile, funding models, monitoring and evaluation methods have been explored in projects such as "Corporate Carbon Neutrality Forest" and "Ecological Carbon Sink Forest".
- The China Green Carbon Foundation has continuously advanced through the practice of "policy suggestion – standard formulation – pilot demonstration – benefit synergy – international exchange", becoming an important practitioner and innovative driver in China's forestry and grassland carbon sink sector. It contributes "public welfare strength" to the country's climate governance and also provides references for international actions.



→ Poster of "Brahmaputra, the Last Secret Land – Motuo Biodiversity and Culture Public Welfare Exhibition"

Grounded Evidence and Institutional Alignment:

- The ShanShui Environment Protection Development Center supported the establishment of community-based wetland protection stations and science education posts, recruiting and training local wetland stewards and volunteers. By leveraging existing conservation and educational resources, the project created the first community wetland conservation science center in a provincial capital, organizing diverse public awareness and education activities on ecology.
- The Institute of Science and Technology Strategy facilitated technical linkages between wetlands and carbon sink initiatives, promoting multi-level collaboration among urban parks, enterprises, and rural communities. The project encouraged green and low-carbon demonstration practices, advancing integrated development between urban low-carbon transformation, rural revitalization, and renewable energy utilization.



Under the guidance of the local Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Anhui Huaihe National Wetland Park jointly established by the Shanshui Environment Protection Development Center was officially inaugurated in 2023.



Chapter 4

The Multilateral Stage: From Engagement to Advocacy

Through collaboration across multilateral and regional platforms, Chinese civil society organizations have gradually strengthened their role in contributing experiences and sharing solutions within global dialogues. This inclusive engagement has enabled more consistent dissemination and recognition of community - driven practices and evidence - based approaches.

4.1 Voices from Civil Society: Chinese NGOs' Integration into Global Climate Governance Platforms

Since 2007, Chinese social organizations working through networks have participated in the UN Climate Change Conferences (COP) as accredited observers, steadily engaging in international exchanges and dialogue. Over time, their participation has evolved into a structured practice of submitting position papers, co-organizing side events, and contributing to media and policy discussions.

With the accumulated experience of over 22 participating organizations and more than 110 delegates, Chinese civil society has developed a more prepared, collaborative, and constructive presence within the global climate governance process.

Representative Milestones

- Submitted position statements to the UNFCCC Secretariat during multiple COP sessions, reflecting the perspectives and experiences of Chinese civil society.
- Organized and co-hosted thematic side events, including "Women and Climate Change" and "Communication and Public Participation", amplifying voices from Chinese organizations in the China Pavilion and other international platforms.
- Engaged in dialogues with negotiators, international networks, and research institutions to promote discussions on loss and damage, gender equality, youth engagement, and community-based adaptation.
- Launched the "COP Companion" initiative during COP29 in 2024, providing pre-conference training and communication guidance for social organizations and enterprises, and supporting multiple observer organizations from China in co-hosting side events and exchanges.





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1.Dialogue between China's climate envoy and representatives from social organizations.

2.CANGO representatives submitting a statement to the UNFCCC Secretariat (COP21, 2015).

3.Side event "*Engaging new players in climate action to make collective impact*" jointly organized at COP29.

4.Thematic event "Women and Climate Change" held at the China Pavilion during COP28 (2023).

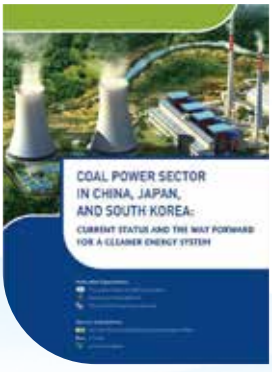
4.2 Second Track Dialogue: Fostering Collaboration through the East Asia Climate Forum

The East Asia Climate Forum has serve as a collaborative platform for environmental NGOs from China, Japan, and South Korea to engage in sustained policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action on climate change. It serves as a regional hub for sharing experiences and promoting collective efforts in climate governance.

The forum contributes to advancing global climate governance from an East Asian perspective, embodying regional dialogue, cooperation, and innovation in multiple dimensions.

- Deepened regional understanding and public engagement, breaking communication barriers, strengthening mutual trust, and building shared regional awareness.
- Promoted trilateral collaboration among China, Japan, and South Korea, fostering substantive partnerships and coordinated regional actions.
- Provided a Second Track Dialogue mechanism, integrating civil society insights and innovative practices to explore sustained cooperation opportunities.

Chinese social organizations have become consistent contributors and active facilitators within the East Asia Climate Forum, offering experience, knowledge, and constructive policy perspectives from China's civil society.



↑ Report *"Coal Power Sector in China, Japan, and South Korea: Current Status and the Way Forward for a Cleaner Energy system"* (English edition).



↑ The 6th East Asia Climate Forum (2018, Xi'an, China).



←Release Report "*Coal Power Sector in China, Japan, and South Korea:Current Status and the Way Forward for a Cleaner Energy Future*" in the Press Conference during COP24 (Katowice, Poland)

4.3 Youth Voices: Stories of Chinese Youth on the Global Climate Stage

Chinese Youth as Emerging Contributors to Global Climate Governance

Emerging Stage (2005–2009): Entering the UNFCCC Arena as Observers and Youth Teams

- In 2005, Chinese youth delegates participated in COP11 for the first time as part of an *International Youth Delegation*.
- From 2006 to 2008, Chinese youth continued to attend COP12 and COP14, gradually gaining experience in international engagement.
- In 2007, the Shanshui Conservation Center was established, marking the formation of China's first youth-led climate network.

Organizational and Collaborative Stage (2010–2014): From "Participation" to "Initiative"

- The International Youth Summit on Energy and Climate Change (IYSECC) was launched, creating a regular mechanism for youth-led thematic discussions.
- Youth groups began organizing independent advocacy and collaboration initiatives, fostering long-term engagement across regions and topics.

Capacity Enhancement Stage (2015–2019): Systematic Engagement in Multilateral Processes

- During COP21 in 2015, the Shanshui Conservation Center organized and sent a team of 22 young representatives to participate in the U.S. Climate Action Network's youth session, presenting "China Youth Responds to Climate Change".
- At COP23 in Bonn, Chinese youth joined global peers in promoting the integration of youth leadership into international climate action and policy dialogues.

Diversified Impact Stage (2020–Present): From "Participants" to "Contributors and Collaborators"

- Youth organizations such as "Climate ×" have deepened international cooperation through academic exchanges and joint research, advancing cross-cultural understanding on climate governance.
- In 2025, with the establishment of the China Youth Climate Delegation under the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), youth networks have continued to collaborate with the UNFCCC and international partners, sharing innovative practices and policy insights.
- At COP30, Chinese youth are expected to present new perspectives and collective experiences on the global stage, contributing to inclusive and action-oriented climate governance.

Chapter 5

Bridging the World: Partner Ecosystems and Shared Visions

Through open collaboration and scalable solutions, Chinese social organizations are building cross - cultural, cross - sector, and global partnership networks.

By transforming localized experience into regional and global public goods, they are working toward a shared vision of "*Harmony between Humanity and Nature*."

5.1 EU-China NGO Twinning Program: A Bridge for Cross-Cultural Cooperation

Purpose: Adopting a "small-scale, deep collaboration" approach, the project promotes cross-regional cooperation and resource sharing. It aims to transform short-term exchanges into long-term joint creation.

Core Mechanism: Mutual learning through field visits, dialogue, and thematic workshops.

Focus Areas: Environment, climate, gender, and sustainable development.

Operational Approach: Staff from both sides engage in medium- and long-term institutional cooperation, combining hands-on practice with theoretical reflection to enhance mutual understanding and collaborative capacity.

Implementation Practice: By participating in field visits, workshops, and research sessions, participants identify small pilot projects and foster "learning through collaboration" — forming a model of "understanding, co-creation, and shared solutions."

Expected Outcomes: Enhance cross-cultural translation and contextual adaptation capacity, and establish long-term partnership networks.

Key Focus: Strengthen engagement with European civil society organizations and academic institutions, facilitating exchanges in policy dialogue, youth capacity building, and knowledge sharing.



→ European civil society exchange partners participating in the China Pavilion side event hosted by CANGO during COP25.

5.2 Collaboration Between Social Organizations and Enterprises: Supporting Chinese Companies from "Going Global" to "Integrating Globally"

As Chinese enterprises advance in globalization, social organizations are becoming trusted partners for sustainable development by leveraging their expertise, credibility, and value-based guidance. They help enterprises evolve from profit-driven entities to responsible global actors. Through collaboration and shared initiatives, social organizations are becoming valuable allies in Chinese companies' pursuit of global corporate responsibility.

For enterprises "*going global*", it is essential to deepen their understanding of and respect for local communities, cultures, environments, and social responsibilities.

In response to the challenges faced by companies operating abroad, social organizations—drawing upon their local experience and credibility—can help enterprises better recognize social sensitivities, reduce operational risks, and enhance positive social and environmental outcomes.

For enterprises "integrating globally", it is vital to strengthen ESG practices.

Social organizations can play a key role in the "value co-creation" process, assisting enterprises in linking overseas operations with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enhancing public awareness, and turning ESG principles into visible impact and community trust.

In the long term, collaboration between social organizations and enterprises helps shape a responsible image of Chinese companies in global competition.

Through joint public initiatives and communication, this partnership fosters a more positive and credible narrative of "*investment with empathy and local engagement*".

Epilogue: Toward a Planet Where Humanity and Nature Thrive in Harmony

As "translators" and "facilitators", Chinese social organizations have been bridging diverse voices and perspectives. Through dialogue, reflection, and participation, they have helped transform valuable experiences and lessons from climate action into shared social assets—shifting from "being present" to "*creating within context*".

China's civil society continues to contribute wisdom and momentum to global climate governance, turning the vision of "harmony and coexistence" into practical, scalable, and sustainable action frameworks.

- Turning fragmented challenges into clear pathways for solutions.
- Connecting dispersed efforts into collaborative networks.
- Transforming one-off successes into replicable and lasting practices.

By inspiring more organizations, enterprises, and individuals to find their role within this shared vision, partnerships are evolving *from projects to mechanisms and from collaboration to community.*

More schools, communities, enterprises, and partners are finding their own voices and shared values in this process.

Through continued dialogue and cooperation, China's local experiences are becoming shared global knowledge for a common future.

China Climate Action: NGOs Landscape



