

Expert meeting 2. Development: Nature Conservation for Sustainable Development

Lead Expert: Duan Biggs (Research Fellow, University of Queensland) (**DB**)

Moderator: Youngbae Suh (President, Korea National Committee for IUCN) (**YS**)

Speakers:

- Inger Andersen (Director General, IUCN) (**IA**)
- Jung, Tae Yong (Professor, Graduate School of Int'l Studies, Yonsei University) (**TJ**)
- Yeo-Chang Youn (Professor, Seoul National University) (**YY**)
- Duan Biggs (Research Fellow, University of Queensland) (**DB**)

Panellists:

- Yvo de Boer (Director General, GGGI) (**YB**)
- Jong Min Kim (Executive Director, National Institute of Ecology) (**JK**)
- Yoko Watanabe (Asia Regional Coordinator/Senior Biodiversity Specialist, GEF) (**YW**)
- Chan-Ho Park (National Institute of Biological Resources) (**CP**)

Introduction by Youngbae Suh

Prof Suh welcomed participants and thanked them for taking part. He explained that following the 2012 WCC, the Ministry of Environment of S. Korea, Jeju Self-Governing Province and IUCN decided to hold a new global conservation forum. This Forum shows Korea's commitment to advancing global discussions and visions of for the conservation of nature in partnership with the IUCN. He explained that the outcome from this Expert panel would feed into the WLD for deeper discussion the following day.

The Objectives of the session:

1. Review the status of progress towards sustainable development, focussing on the Korean experience.
2. Evaluate the role and contribution of nature conservation to green growth and sustainable development.
3. Evaluate how alternative perspectives about how conservation in different cultures and countries in the world can be fostered to achieve nature conservation in a way that creates opportunities for businesses and local development and therefore support sustainable development.
4. Capture and relay to the WLD what is that world leaders can do to advance innovation and creativity to generate more opportunities for nature conservation for businesses, growth and sustainable development.

Dr Biggs opened the session by thanking Korea for the efforts they have put into conservation and also for creating the space to engage in important issues facing conservation and sustainable development. He explained the format of the session and highlighted the fact that it would end with participants providing technical input into the next day's WLD sessions.

Prof Suh then introduced the 4 invited speakers.

Ms Andersen, speaking about Nature-based solutions for sustainable development began by paying tribute to Korea and Jeju. Korea has stepped forward showing the world real leadership, stewardship, green growth and biodiversity. There are thousands of people working on this. Leadership matters. We count on Korea to speak up and show the way.

The story of sustainable development is complex and important. There is much to consider, although messages need to be kept simple. Specifically, there are three key issues:

Firstly, human progress and nature conservation are not mutually exclusive. Ms Andersen reminded delegates that we live in a very important time. We hold in our hand a determination of the future of our planet. Never before have we been in this situation. What we do or don't do now will determine the future of the planet not only for the next generation but much longer. 2015 is a year of action – we have the WLCF in Korea, Addis Ababa later on and COP 21 where we will have to find a bold agreement on climate action. Sustainable development is at an important juncture. We have to act together now.

Secondly, programme development and growth opportunity. Poverty reduction cannot come at the expense of nature conservation. Nature Based solutions (NBS) are key: nature offers us real solutions. If we think we can work now and pay later, no way. Nature will send us an invoice: heavy rains, floods, droughts, natural catastrophes. The invoice will be much larger than the cost of what we are doing now. At IUCN we are proud of the term NBS. Nature can help to address problems. Through innovative science, we can establish a new relationship with the planet. How can we do it, what can we do to have nature work with us and not against? The answer is by understanding that the cost of using nature is cheaper than building our own infrastructure.

Ms Andersen then gave some examples to prove this point. She asked, “The air we breathe, the food we eat, where do they come from?” From the infrastructure we rely on. It is cheaper to rely on a mangrove to spawn fish, to buffer hurricanes than to build something. For example, in NYC during the 1980s and 1990s, they had to invest in clean water. They could build a massive infrastructure with a water cleaning facility, or they could invest in Catskills protected area. Water was collected and cleansed for NYC at a fraction of the cost than a hard infrastructure. Beijing has a similar story. We need to invest in natural infrastructure. Kampala Uganda. Wetlands – the nakiwombo wetlands provide a service that is worth \$2million but the costs to maintain it are a fraction of that. Real savings are available.

We must consider species that are under threat - as species disappear, ecosystems begin to disintegrate. Nature offers us extraordinary opportunities. Disasters and disaster risks are mitigated by nature. For example, in Nepal following the devastating earthquake. Where IUCN had worked on protecting roads with afforestation and reforestation, the damage was far less than in areas where this had not taken place. Investing in the future makes things better for the long term budget.

When we talk about sustainable development, it is not just the future; it is the moment we live today. There is an extraordinary burden and opportunity to harness strength and structure. We have what we need to go forward.

Professor Jung spoke next on the issue of how sustainable development has led to economic growth in Korea. When considering the question the link between sustainable development and economic growth and how has it led to economic growth in Korea? He had wondered how to answer at first. He used to believe that growth could not take place without environmental sustainability being damaged.

Korea has had to pay a lot because to date as “we have not done things right” with regards to sustainable development. His main message was “don't make same mistake as Korea made”. Because during economic development you tarnish the environment, then when you become wealthy and you pay a lot to try and recover the environment. It is essential to protect the environment as you go.

Sustainable Development – has a definition from 30 years ago – We need to think about development now – the present generation needs to act now for the future. The fundamental question is how? There are three important pillars to sustainability – economic, social, environment. How do these contribute to sustainable development?

For social sustainability, you have to invest in human capital for social inclusiveness. For environmental sustainability, you have to invest in natural capital and for economic sustainability you have to invest for poverty reduction. We need to harmonise the economy and the environment. Korea has done this well in recent years.

Inclusiveness is becoming more important. We have integrated policies. We need to strengthen social capacity and growth potential. In Korea – this decade we are taking industrial development and harmonising it with the environment. Our country has had a remarkable performance over last half century, economically for now. The next challenge is to do well environmentally too.

SDGs goals 8, 9, 10, and 11 are really important for Korea. Of course, all 17 are relevant but these four are most important. So what are the challenges for sustainable development? The next step is to get the balance of three pillars of sustainability in Korea. At the moment, they are not balanced. There is focus on economic growth, development strategies and so on. We are looking at environmental and economic harmonisation – but not enough, yet.

Social protection and inclusiveness is the real challenge in the future. Without considering this, then we cannot claim to be achieving things.

So to summarise, at present we are witnessing unbalanced interactions between the three pillars, but I hope that we understand the challenge so we can move to a more balanced future. Environmental and nature conservation is one of the keys to achieve this.

Dr YUEN took the floor to talk about how the Ecosystem Services approach can strengthen biodiversity and conservation based business and development opportunities in Korea.

He began by outlining the necessary conditions for a sustainable society: Economy, Social policy and healthy ecosystems. They can provide services for human society – provisional services, food timber energy. They help regulate the environment for stability and resilience and provide shelter and opportunity for labour and employment. Ecosystem services – The fundamentals of ecosystems must be conserved and biodiversity is an element of this.

Korea has experienced conservation-based development. Until 1960, nearly half the forestland was denuded. A reforestation project was completed and in the mid-80's the and now we enjoy the services from this system. It is a good example of how conservation has paid off for society.

Dr Yuen then spoke about another case study – common woodlands conserved for 30 years. This area was a sacred place in the past. It was the tradition to conserve the woodlands, pay gratitude to God by community members. In return, the woodlands provided services such as wind and moisture for the community. Woodland has been destroyed for last 100 years due to wars, change in social values and ecology. More than 60% has already disappeared. We have lost existing services due to the loss of these woodlands.

Tourism development is controversial. Dr Yuen spoke of the controversy over cable cars in the Seorak-san National Park. This has affected wildlife species – the mountain goat and

black bear listed in the red list but has boosted the local economy. He stated that he hoped that the leaders of the forum would be able to address key questions on where to go next.

Dr Yuen expressed his hope that in the future we would have more dialogue with the business sector. There is a need for the conservation sector and the business sector to work together to secure our future. Which objectives should be prioritised for Sustainable Development in protected areas? We have to look at local livelihoods versus the protection of ecosystems and we have to balance the benefits and burdens of sustaining Ecosystem Services. How can we make institutions shoulder the burden of people whose economic activities are constrained for nature conservation?

Duan Biggs began his discussion on cultural values in nature conservation for sustainable development by explaining how impressed he was with Korea and what had been achieved, given that the Korean experience contrasts very strongly from southern Africa where today we are facing the levels of poverty Korea had 40-50 years ago.

He explained that for conservation today, one of the biggest challenges – comes from within the conservation community itself. The problem is that there are different interpretations of what conservation is and what needs to be done to achieve it. To move forward, we need a statement and vision of what we want and what goals we need to achieve it.

For example, we are to end poverty in all its forms and yet Goal 15 of the SDGs asks us to protect and restore – It's hard to do both at the same time; to protect the habitat and develop an economy to benefit the local people. What is needed is local innovation. People do this in different ways across the world. But due to different cultural values, there are challenges. These challenges include a belief about what is desired and what is seen as right or wrong.

Mr Biggs gave the example of Namibia and Southern Africa, where policy innovation in 70's meant that ownership of wildlife was transferred to private community groups. They could manage wildlife as they wanted and benefit from it. Conservationists felt that assigning property rights was a better way to sustain the economy and simultaneously conserve wildlife and the results prove that this is correct. Similarly, the CAMPFIRE Programme in Zimbabwe has had good results.

Trophy hunting has played an important part in this. . It sustains the local communities. In Zimbabwe, over 90% of income has come from trophy hunting. It works because it pays. But it is very controversial. But if have to choose between conservation success or not, it is better to tolerate the hunting rather than to lose habitats and species altogether. Europe and the US have put in strong objections. They would like to ban hunting altogether and can enforce this by banning imports from southern Africa. It's a conflict between a pragmatic approach of survival and a more sacred value and approach from Europe and North America. It's not only about hunting. The controversial debates of legalisation or rhino horn trade. At the root of the debate is the same tension. The southern African perspective is that the conservation of wildlife should pay for itself. This is opposed by those who feel that conservation should be based on the intrinsic value of wildlife and nature, and that hunting or use of wildlife has no part to play in conservation. . The costs of tensions are high and if the anti-use perspective wins, the cost to wildlife and communities in southern Africa will be high. .

Dr Biggs concluded by reminding delegates that at the WLCF, the discussion was focused on the relationship between nature conservation and sustainable development. The diversity of approaches is encouraged because it helps innovation and makes locally driven innovation possible. What we need going forward are agreed global principles for conservation. It is necessary for costs and benefits should be considered and fairly

distributed and communities who live with wildlife should bear the costs as well as the benefits.

The next part of Experts' Meeting was the Moderated Panel building on keynote speeches: "Nature Conservation for Sustainable Development". In this section, questions were asked of the invited experts exploring some issues related to the keynote speeches made.

The Panel consisted of: Yvo de Boer - Director of the Global Green Growth Institute
Yoko Watanabe – GEF Asia Pacific
KIM Jon Min – National ministry of Ecology, South Korea.

Issues relating to the speeches that had been made in the first part of the meeting were discussed with specific reference to what **leaders can do to ensure advance nature conservation for sustainable development.**

Question 1: What can leaders do to ensure that the conservation of biodiversity is accounted for to a greater extent in the formulation of policies and strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and economic growth?

Yvo de Boer replied to this question first explaining that what triggered his interest in this question were the four years he had spent in the accounting profession in KPMG. He learned that accountability is very important. He stated that Ms Andersen had referred to the fact that later this year, the international community will adopt the SDGs for the next 15 years and that it would be critical to give conservation a place there but even more so – to assess all SDGs from the perspective of conservation. The way to do this is through accounting. At the moment, we see a war of capitals: Financial capital and natural capital. The problem is that those two capitals are not finding common ground. As long as politicians and economists cannot express themselves in a way that all can understand, it will be hard to find a solution. Politicians need to find a way to create relationships and to build a more valuable society by stimulating relationships.

He concluded by saying that if we can use notions such as Social Capital, Manufacturing, Intellectual Capital to bring Financial Capital and Natural Capital together, we will come closer to the point where we can give politicians and business people a serious argument that allows them to step beyond a simple agenda.

Ms Watanabe from GEF spoke next. For her, the value of Biodiversity in accounting is a very powerful tool that can really show the economic value of biodiversity and influence financial and economic policies. How can we better value the biodiversity, and reflect that nationally? She felt that much could be done to bridge accounting to policy, particularly in testing where we can incorporate the accounting and Natural Capital accounting into the larger policy environment. Leaders can make a different use of the accounting information and make a difference in the policies.

Politics and planning have, until now been focussed on the environmental sector but Ms Watanabe stated that it is necessary to go beyond pure protection to sustainable use. Multisectoralness is a key point for the World Leaders to bring in the message.

Question 2: What are some of the best examples of conservation-oriented, nature-based solutions for sustainable development and economic growth in Korea that you think should be brought to the attention of leaders? What role can Korea play in demonstrating leadership to achieve conservation and nature-based solutions for sustainable development and growth?

Dr. Kim began his answer by stating that accounting should be based on the assessment of biodiversity. Different views have been shown to us today on results. The human development index is high in Korea compared to the economic footprint. He explained that over the past 50 years, leadership and populism have been effective in the conservation of Korea's nature. Green belts have worked well and 1bn USD annually is used to keep 4 large rivers clean as drinking water since late 90's. Leadership changed from grey to green rapidly.

Since 2002 – 2 presidents have been elected by localisation policy and the relocation of HQs of government and large public companies from Seoul to local areas have also helped. This led to the remodelling of urban areas and has provided better opportunities for people. He gave the example of President Park having driven innovation and peace for sustainable development, and the green economy and job creation. Science and technology-based approaches and effectiveness are prerequisites for nature-based solutions. They make leadership as well as populism more acceptable.

Dr Kim concluded by stating that for him, peace and science were the key elements for Nature Based Solutions.

The panel next moved to answer some questions from the floor.

The reforestation in Korea has been claimed as one of most successful forest restoration programs. .

As we are losing over 60% of village woodland, the question is, has this success come at the cost of neighbouring countries who must supply the timber for Korea's growing economy.

Prof Yuen replied by explaining that in some situations, some burden might be transferred to the developing world in the process of reforestation in Korea. No timber could be extracted at that time, so on the way to economic development, they had to use timber from foreign sources. At that time, we were producing 10 cubic metres per hectare. So they had to wait – and had to rely on other sources. Today South Korea is reaching a production of cubic metres 100 per hectare – and can now pay back and work together with the developing world. Countries have to work to invest in one part and pay back to the other part. The World Leaders Dialogues can help to install such cooperation.

Prof Chan spoke next. He stated that 99% economy of Korea's economic success came from industrialisation which inevitably, at an early stage meant sacrificing some important natural value. But if you see the current Korean economic performance, 99% of the economic activities come from non-natural-based activities. We cannot continue like this.

One way of harmonising the two is Community-based activity. 90% people in Korea live in urban areas. Korea has to think about the new options. How to make urban areas greener. By doing so, we could give more opportunities to the poor in urban areas. That could generate more income. In the case of Korea, we should focus on making urban areas green and job creation giving more opportunities to work in urban areas. South Korea has done good work so far.

The delegates next took part in a Roundtable discussion session. Questions covered were based on what was discussed in plenary and expert panel. At the end of the session, delegates were asked to give their top three answers to pass on to the Dialogues the following day. The questions and their answers are listed below.

1. How can leaders support the need to incorporate and account for longer-term time horizons in policy-making and strategy around nature-based solutions for sustainable development? (i.e. get beyond short term election cycle policy making and 'quick wins')

- a) Create financial mechanisms that enable opportunities to invest in environmentally and socially sustainable approaches.
- b) Recognise that political cycles tend to favour cheap initial investments rather than those that may have long-term benefit but higher start-up costs. To address this requires better consideration of the costs of externalities in investment decisions.
- c) Show the monetary value of ecologically and socially sustainable approaches.

2. What are some of the best examples of conservation-oriented, nature-based solutions for sustainable development and economic growth in Korea that you think should be brought to the attention of leaders?

- a) mainstreaming
- b) reforestation and forest management policy and best example
- c) public support, better communication and stakeholders

3. What role can Korea play in demonstrating leadership to achieve conservation and nature-based solutions for sustainable development and growth?

1. The role of the corporate sector: In South Korea the role of the corporate sector is also important. The activities of firms need to provide a place for the benefit of people such as through ecosystem services benefits. For example, companies have played a role in the restoration of the devastated forest resources in Indonesia. Companies that use a lot of resources can improve their image through the restoration of ecosystem services areas where they extract natural resources.

2. The evaluation and assessment of ecosystem services. The government should exert more effort in ecosystem services assessment. In Korea for example, redefining the development direction of urban ecosystem for city urbanization can play an important role in the valuing and conservation of ecosystem services.

3. Poverty reduction and successes of nature conservation. South Korea represents an example of how economic development and nature conservation can function together. But South Korea can do more to demonstrate leadership to other countries. However, there should be an emphasis on both the successes and the failures in the Korean story.

How can nature-based solutions for sustainable development and growth be better packaged, communicated and promoted?

- a) Mainstream NBS within financial and production sectors.
- b) Enhance and utilize role of education;
- c) Test/pilot studies to get the attention of leaders, policy makers, and public.
- d) Understand the species and ecosystem integrity crisis (e.g. disaster), and communicate it in a simple, innovative manner to public and decision makers.

4. What balance should leaders strike between nature conservation for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation for biodiversity's sake?

a) The tensions within the conservation sector itself are too high and are undermining the achievement of outcomes on the ground - leaders need to facilitate processes for these to be resolved.

b) Biodiversity is indicator of ecosystem health and human well-being. Although the direct impacts on society are not yet clear they are an indicator of longer term impacts and on human well-being - global leaders should help advertise this message.

c) Where are other players? Business and finance need to be at events like these, and also the holders of traditional knowledge need to be empowered to play a more powerful role in global fora like this.

Finally, Dr Biggs asked panellists for their reflections on the session.

Ms Watanabe spoke first. She felt it had been a fruitful discussion. To make natural capital and conservation to be mainstreamed into sustainable development and economic growth we need to go beyond the comfort zone of this group. We all understand each other but we need to reach out to other sectors and local communities and those who are working with the nature on the ground and see what messages we can bring up.

Mr de Boer said that one thing he had learned from his years at KPMG was that you get better results by speaking to the sustainability officers for a longer term focus if you link those to the risks for the corporations themselves. .

Dr Biggs concluded by setting out the four key messages to come out of this meeting:

1. Korea has actually been a tremendous success. It has succeeded in taking its people out of poverty through successful development. .

Korea can play a leadership role and show other countries how they have done it and how to improve (based on their experience).

At the same time, transition from industrialised society dependent on external natural resources use, to an economy less based on resource and degradation is achievable.

2. The time to act is NOW. We have technology but we need to make positive changes and harness this now. As Mr de Boer mentions, we need to engage other partners in these discussions. Finance, business people and those who hold knowledge in different places.

3. Natural resources are being used faster than ever before. Often these resources originate from people in distant countries. We need dialogues between countries. Where are the resources coming from? Conservation in one place can harm other areas – need to watch out about this.

4. We need to have global and local policies at the same time. Leaders need to ensure that locally innovated practices can continue to be fostered even if they may not work everywhere.