



THINK AND DO

Paulson Institute's Year in Review

20
22

The Paulson Institute

The Paulson Institute is a non-partisan, independent “think and do tank” dedicated to fostering a US-China relationship that serves to maintain global order in a rapidly evolving world. The Institute identifies opportunities for Americans and Chinese to cooperate, build linkages in areas where interests are shared, and offers thought leadership to stakeholders in both countries.

The Paulson Institute’s focus on US-China is dictated by the reality that it is the most consequential bilateral relationship in the world. The Institute operates at the intersection of economics, financial markets, and environmental protection by promoting market-based solutions to ensure green economic growth.

The Institute produces analysis and intellectual products to decode China’s political economy. It supports market-based solutions to climate change and environmental conservation. It works with financial markets and international financial institutions to implement green lending standards and champion innovative approaches to finance low-carbon growth. And it convenes leading experts to inspire bold thinking and help build a new framework for US-China relations.

Founded in 2011 by former Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr., the Paulson Institute is based in Chicago with offices in Washington and Beijing.

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letter from the chairman

This year marked a turning point in history. It was a year in which a series of geopolitical and economic shocks forced us to reckon with the reality that the post-Cold War world is in a new and more uncertain era.

Russia's war against Ukraine ruptured Europe's security architecture and roiled geopolitics. It exacerbated a global energy and food crisis, adding to the already great human toll of the war.

At the same time, the United States and China continued their headlong descent from a competitive but sometimes cooperative relationship to one that is confrontational in nearly every respect. While the Biden Administration attempted to put a floor under the relationship this year, relations remain fraught—and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

This year also brought significant challenges for the global economy. A strong dollar put many foreign banks and emerging economies under stress. Global debt surged to record highs. Inflation climbed to its highest levels in more than forty years. And geopolitical conflict accelerated the transition to a fragmented world of rival economic blocs.

The combination of these challenges made 2022 a decidedly tough year. But the year also brought some cause for optimism.

Notably, this was a watershed year for the fight against climate change. The Biden Administration passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which included \$369 billion in investments toward climate solutions. Combined with other bills passed in 2022—the CHIPS and Science Act and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act—it adds up to more than

\$500 billion in total climate investments. This will have a transformational impact on America's ability to fight climate change and spur other governments around the world to accelerate action.

For its part, the Paulson Institute continued to offer solutions contributing to a more resilient and sustainable world. We convened experts and industry leaders to facilitate a more productive US-China relationship. We highlighted the most innovative and scalable sustainability solutions through the Paulson Prize for Sustainability. We accelerated our green finance and conservation work, delivering on-the-ground demonstration, capacity building, and policy advocacy. And we delivered groundbreaking digital research products on China's political economy through our think tank, MacroPolo.

In the year ahead, we will continue to help promote solutions to the world's daunting environmental and economic challenges. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy reading this Year in Review.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Paulson, Jr.
Chairman, Paulson Institute



letter from the vice chairman & executive director

This has been another busy year at the Paulson Institute. In 2022, we continued to build on our past successes and find new ways of advancing our mission. It was a turbulent year in geopolitics and the global economy, but our team remained committed to driving progress across our primary areas of focus.

A highlight of the year came during the COP 15 UN Biodiversity Conference, held in Montreal, Canada. The conference was long delayed and highly anticipated and culminated in the new Global Biodiversity Framework. Our team at the Paulson Institute played a key role in informing the COP negotiators, and the findings from our 2020 report, *Financing Nature*, helped form the centerpiece of the financing targets in the new agreement. The end result was a major accomplishment and a testament to our approach of “uniting ideas and action.”

Across the main pillars of the Institute, we continued to work on joint projects and initiatives of mutual interest to the United States and China.

Our Green Finance Center (GFC) worked with financial market participants and international financial institutions to promote green growth. It published its flagship Fintech report: *How Fintech Facilitates the Sustainable Development of Green Finance in China*. The GFC created a new digital product for tracking Green Finance in China, the Green Finance Dashboard, and co-hosted several events at the annual climate meeting, COP 27, and participated in large-scale events like the Bund Summit and Beijing Financial Street Forum.

Our in-house Think Tank, MacroPolo, continued to explore China's political economy through creative and distinctive research products. As it celebrated its fifth anniversary,

MacroPolo has become one of the world's go-to resources for high-quality analysis and products to decode China. It premiered the MacroPolo Flash Takes video series and developed groundbreaking digital projects like “Selection 2022,” which features a real-time tracker of China's top leaders.

Our Conservation program worked to protect and unlock the value of China's natural capital. It continued its impactful work on wetlands, national parks, and responsible trade and investment. And other key initiatives, such as the Paulson Prize for Sustainability, continued to support sustainable solutions at the intersection of economics and the environment.

Our team is energized about the work to come. And in the year ahead, we will continue to grow and evolve to effect real change. Thank you for your support of the Paulson Institute.

Sincerely,

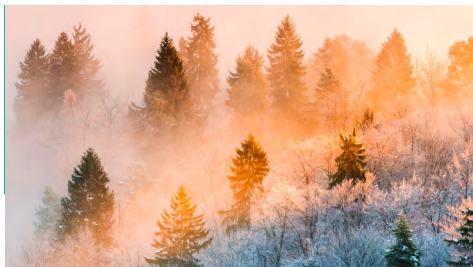
Deborah Lehr
Vice Chairman and Executive Director, Paulson Institute



2022 Timeline

January

- The third season of *Straight Talk with Hank Paulson* premieres with guest Ray Dalio, Founder of Bridgewater Associates.
- Deborah Lehr is appointed to *National Geographic's* Board of Trustees
- Sun Mingchun, Chief Economist at Haitong International Securities Group Limited, is interviewed on the Green Finance Center podcast



July

- Deborah Lehr appears on Bloomberg TV discussing China's zero-COVID policy
- PI hosts Filling the Gap: The Role of Business in Conserving Biodiversity with Edelman Global Advisory virtual event
- Hank opens the fourth season of *Straight Talk* with guest Jason Furman, Professor of Practice at Harvard University and Former Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors.
- Hank's op-ed "Planting trees is not a panacea—we need to save existing forests" is published in *Financial Times*

February

- Hank Paulson receives the Sutherland Award
- Deborah Lehr appears on Bloomberg TV to discuss China and how President Xi Jinping is navigating relationships with Russia and the West



August

- PI premieres MacroPolo Flash Take video series on China's Tech Pivot
- The Green Finance Center welcomes Tang Dingding of the International Finance Forum to their podcast

March

- Hank Paulson hosts Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies on *Straight Talk*
- Fiona Stewart, Lead Financial Sector Specialist at the World Bank, joins *The Green Team Speaks to* podcast



September

- PI releases the 2022 Fintech Report
- Hank Paulson welcomes former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to *Straight Talk*

April

- PI hosts The Future of Global Trade virtual event
- The Green Finance Center hosts Kunal Khatri, UK's Deputy HM Trade Commissioner for the USA, on their podcast



October

- PI hosts a virtual conversation between Hank Paulson and COP 27 Champion Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin
- Hank welcomes best-selling author Walter Isaacson to *Straight Talk*
- Deborah Lehr interviewed on Bloomberg TV about China's 20th Party Congress

May

- Adena Friedman, President and CEO of Nasdaq, on *Straight Talk*
- Patricia Zurita, CEO, BirdLife International, on *Straight Talk*
- Green Finance Center celebrates its fourth anniversary
- Jeremy Grantham, CBE and co-founder of Grantham, Mayo, & van Otterloo on *Straight Talk*

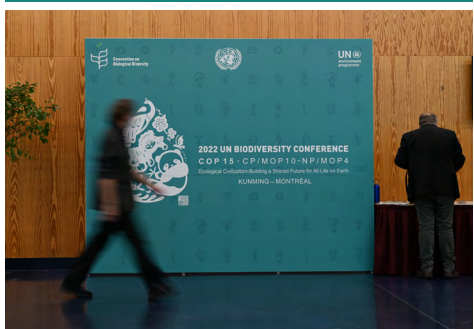


November

- Hank welcomes CNN commentator, David Axelrod to *Straight Talk*
- Members of the PI Conservation team speak at COP 14 on Wetlands
- Hank pens "A Smarter Approach to China" op-ed for Semafor

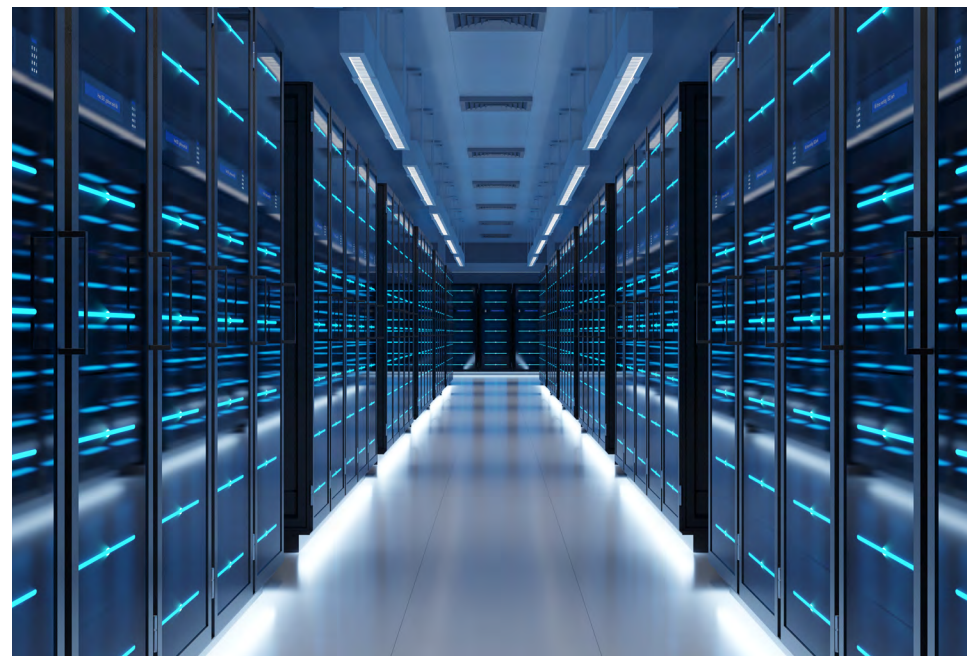
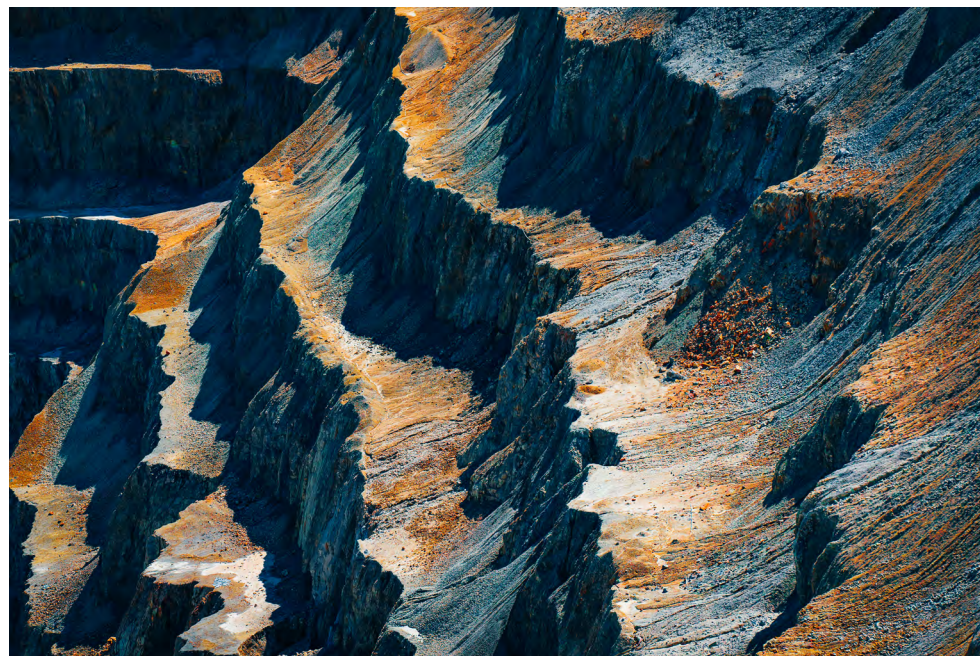
June

- PI cohosts Using Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage to Reverse the Trend of Carbonization
- MacroPolo celebrates its fifth anniversary
- GFC launches Green Finance Dashboard



December

- The Conservation team attends COP 15 in Montreal
- Hank delivers a keynote address at COP 15
- Deborah gives video address at COP 15
- PI awards the annual Paulson Prize for Sustainability in Green Innovation and Nature Stewardship categories



MacroPolo

Decoding China's Economic Arrival

MacroPolo is the Paulson Institute's think tank. Based in Chicago, its team of experts and creators provides incisive analysis, creative research products, and insightful multimedia and digital content. MacroPolo is bringing the think tank into the 21st century. The twin forces of digitization of the economy and the democratization of knowledge have created a new central challenge: content abundance. Overcoming that challenge requires research and content distribution to adapt and diversify fundamentally. What truly matters are valuable insights, deep and differentiated analysis, and the foresight to anticipate trends coming around the bend. This is why MacroPolo believes in: creating distinctive products with a high insight-to-noise ratio; harnessing technology and data to build functional, beautiful, and accessible content; delivering consistently high-quality and forward-looking analysis and best-in-class research; and taking a design-centric approach to simplify complexity.

MacroPolo's core areas are:

Economics | Energy | Technology | Politics

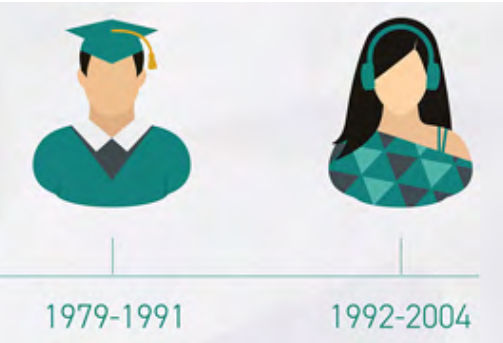
Digital Projects

Covering economics, energy, technology, and politics, MacroPolo’s digital projects provide interactive data and analysis on China’s economic arrival.



Selection 2022 — January 2022

The one-stop shop for all your Chinese political transition needs. Features include a real-time tracker of top leaders’ press mentions in Xinwen Lianbo, the CCP’s “Nightly News,” and a personnel tracker with real-time updates on changes in the Central Committee.



Generation Matters — April 2022

What do Chinese generations have to do with politics? A lot. In China, age indicates everything from career to political prospects to ideological beliefs. This feature shows the importance of generational differences in the political transition. Generations include the Builders, the Pioneers, the Globalists, and the Wallflowers and reveal how modern China was built in four acts.

The Selectorate — September 2022

The arrival of the Communist Party National Congress on October 16 capped off China’s “election” season with the appointment of new leaders to the epitome of political power: the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC). This play on “fantasy football” allows users to select the dream team that will run the world’s second-largest economy for the next five years.



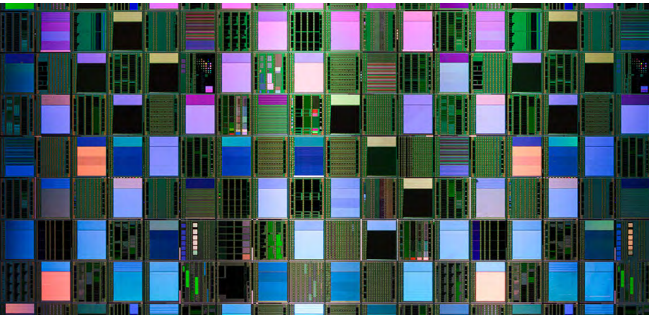
The Committee v2.5 — November 2022

The latest iteration of The Committee now includes complete career and network data for the new 205 full members of the Central Committee. For ease of reference, new personnel are categorized into “Remain,” “Elevated,” and “Newcomer.” As a leading database for the “who’s who” of Chinese politics, its features and search tools will continuously evolve.



Commentary & Analysis

MacroPolo analysts produce regular and insightful commentary, ranging from US-China relations and the Chinese economy to issues related to energy and technology.



The Return of the Technocrats in Chinese Politics

The “red vs. expert” debate has long been a feature of Chinese politics. Contrary to the popular view that the Hu Jintao leadership was the “technocratic” administration, technocrats in high political positions actually bottomed out under him. Since Xi Jinping came into office, the presence of technocrats in the Communist Party has surged—particularly in the aerospace, semiconductor, and advanced manufacturing industries. This piece unpacks the resurgence of technocrats over the past five years and what this means for Beijing’s technological priorities.

South Korea Jumps into EV Race: The Case of Hyundai’s Quiet Success

China’s electric vehicle (EV) industry garners much attention. Yet it is South Korea’s Hyundai that launched a potential “Tesla killer” in the form of the IONIQ 5. How did it catapult from a reluctant embracer to a top contender in the EV race? This piece explains how a unique set of conditions set Hyundai up for viability in advanced markets, potentially closing the door on any real competition from Chinese companies in the US market.

That’s So SiC: China Aims to Master an EV Chip You Haven’t Heard of

An inordinate amount of attention today centers on chips at the frontier. What flies under the radar are the workhorse chips that aren’t at the leading edge but are poised to see wider applications and rising market share. Silicon carbide (SiC) power chips are one such example. Not yet a global leader in SiCs, China’s large EV market, its academic talent in this area, and focused industrial policy may provide just the right mix for it to climb the ranks of SiC chips manufacturing rapidly. Chinese speed might allow it to catch up on a semiconductor that’s literally under the hood but increasingly crucial to the energy transition in transport.

China’s Mortgage Fiasco: To Bail Out or Not To Bail Out?

China’s ongoing housing mortgage crisis will end up being much more significant than the Evergrande default. This is largely because of the scale of the problem and the fact that the solution requires Beijing to spend considerable political capital rather than just financial capital. Chinese homebuyers’ confidence plummeted in the past few years as property developers defaulted. This leaves Beijing with an important question: To bail out, or not to bail out? This piece lays out the choices facing the Chinese government as it grapples with the first major property crisis it has faced in decades.

Green Finance Center

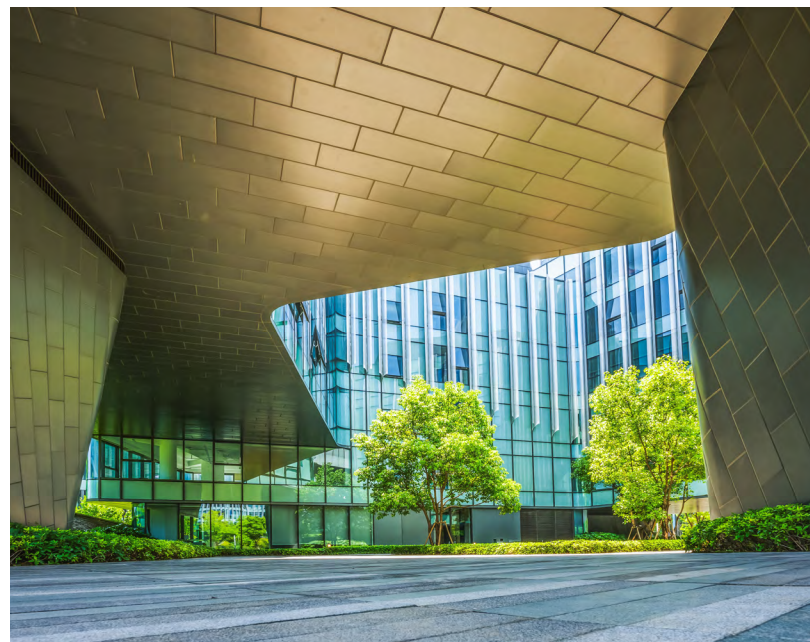
Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy

The Green Finance Center, established in 2018, supports the greening of the financial system by moving green finance from a philanthropic niche to the mainstream of markets—with the recognition that China must be a key player in this movement. The Center houses the Institute's efforts on green finance, including carbon markets development in China, starting the US-China Green Fund, and advising the 2016 G20 green finance study group. Building on these efforts and by focusing on three core areas—carbon, finance, and fintech—the Center promotes market-driven solutions to foster a vibrant international green finance market through thought leadership, advocacy, and expertise. The Center has produced a significant body of work around carbon markets development in China, global sustainable finance, and the need to tackle biodiversity loss in financial markets.



Green Finance Center Flagship Publication: Third Report of How Fintech Facilitates the Sustainable Development of Green Finance in China

The Green Finance Center (GFC) released its third annual report on how fintech developments are helping promote green finance in China. The latest report includes three case studies—*Environmental Risk Screening Tool (ERST) for China's Overseas Investment*, *Huzhou City's ESG Evaluation System*, and *Chengdu Digital Agriculture Platform*—covering themes of biodiversity protection, inclusive development, and green agriculture.



Economic recovery and sustainable investment in the post-pandemic era are a key global concern. On the road to a more resilient recovery, green development is central, with finance and technology as key drivers. As China's green finance market grows rapidly and the scale of green credit and green bonds continues to expand, the demand for fintech will also increase.

—Ma Jun,
Chairman, Green Finance Committee, China Society for Finance and Banking; President, IFS.

Convening Power and Thought Leadership

- The Green Finance Center, led by Deborah Lehr and Gracie Sun, Managing Director of the Green Finance Center and Senior Advisor of the Paulson Institute, was active in various forums speaking on topics like green finance, transition finance, fintech, biodiversity finance, and more. In 2022, they spoke at large-scale events organized by the Bund Summit, the Green Finance Committee, Beijing Financial Street Forum, the International Finance Forum (IFF), the Green Investment Principles (GIP), Global Green Finance Leadership Program (GFLP), and Yi Magazine.
- At COP 27, GFC co-hosted two events with the Institute of Finance and Sustainability in Egypt on green investment in Africa and global collaboration on sustainable finance. The events emphasized the importance of synergies dealing with two crises—climate change and biodiversity loss—simultaneously. Moreover, the Center also amplified the need for emerging markets to adopt green investment principles.
- PI joined the Green Finance Committee's transition finance working group and organized a closed-door high-level seminar sharing international financial institutions' practices on transition finance with the Chinese regulators shaping China's upcoming transition finance framework. In Spring, PI co-hosted one summit with IFF, The Business of Global Climate Change: New Innovation & Hydrogen Industry, to discuss the development potential of the emerging hydrogen market.

Throughout 2022: Quality Interviews & Publications

- Through *The Green Team Speaks to...* series, GFC hosted high-quality and substantive interviews in both podcast and written formats. The coverage expanded to include China's climate finance pilot, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the business risk of biodiversity loss, carbon tariffs, the impact of geopolitical tensions on sustainable finance, natural capital, etc., with notable experts from academia to business and beyond.
- The Green Finance Dashboard was newly introduced this year to provide a quick snapshot of China's green finance progress and tracks various key indicators in five areas: carbon markets, green securities, energy transition, biodiversity finance, and carbon emissions.
- We published several original commentaries on our website and WeChat account. The key topics covered were: predictions on China's climate finance pilot, blue economy, and carbon offset market.



The cases presented in this report provide lessons for China and potentially emerging market countries in how to use fintech to address environmental risk and promote sustainable investment and carbon pricing.

—Deborah Lehr,
Vice Chairman and Executive Director, Paulson Institute.

Conservation

Uniting Economic Growth and Nature Conservation

The Paulson Institute's Conservation program aims to inform nature conservation policies and practices that protect biodiversity and ecosystems important to China and the world. The Conservation team conducts on-the-ground demonstrations of best practices, capacity building, and policy research and advocacy.

Wetland conservation:

Coastal wetlands provide important ecosystem services, including serving as critical habitats for millions of migratory waterbirds, protecting cities and communities from sea-level rise and storm surges, storing carbon, purifying water, and supporting sustainable fishery, etc. With our partners, we support protection and restoration of key wetland ecosystems in the coastal regions of China.

National parks:

National parks protect and celebrate a remarkable natural heritage and provide access for people to connect with and learn about nature. From the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau to the pristine forests of Yunnan, China has world-class natural landscapes and biodiversity. PI's Conservation team provides technical support and capacity building to pilot phase and establishment of first batch of national parks throughout China.

Sustainable trade, investment, and biodiversity finance:

PI believes China has a significant role to play in global biodiversity conservation, by better managing its biodiversity risks of its overseas investments and reducing its environmental footprint of its international commodity trade. PI advocates for policies and practices that will help China green its overseas investments and soft commodity supply chains. PI also develops tools and provides policy recommendations to help increase biodiversity.



2022 Conservation Highlights

PI's Conservation Program addresses some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing China and the world. We focus on three priority areas: wetlands, national parks, and responsible trade and investment with a concentration on biodiversity finance. These workstreams support the protection of China's wetlands, shape the new architecture for China's protected areas, including national parks, work to reduce the global environmental impact arising from China's overseas investment projects and international commodity trade, and expand financing for ecological conservation and restoration. Activities range from site-based pilots and demonstrations, to capacity building, national-level policy advocacy and collaboration at a global level.



Coastal Wetland Conservation Network

We co-organized a series of seven lectures and academic salons on wetland conservation and restoration, which were attended by thousands of people via China's Eco-Forum, in partnership with Chinese Academy of Sciences. In addition, we worked with NFGA's Wetland Management Department and WWF to develop a joint training course on wetland policy, management, and restoration for members from the Coastal Wetland Network and Yangtze River Wetland Network. This pre-recorded training course will be open to the registered trainees through NFGA's internal online training system in December 2023.

Support for COP 14 of Ramsar International Wetlands Convention

As part of our support for the RAMSAR COP 14, we co-organized two forums on wetland networks with NFGA's Wetland Management Department, WWF, and TNC to promote wetland conservation. PI staff delivered opening remarks about innovative financing mechanisms for wetlands. The short video "Saving a Flyway," produced jointly by PI and our partners in 2021, was shown at both events to promote international cooperation to protect waterbirds flyways.

Support for Establishment of World Coastal Forum

Thanks to PI's influential work in coastal wetland conservation, we were invited to join the Establishment Group of the World Coastal Forum (WCF) with staff sitting on its Task Team 1 (Institution and Partnership) and Task Team 5 (Evidence and Science). We participated in regular Task Team meetings and discussions, and contributed to the development of the plans and TORs for the teams. As announced by President Xi Jinping in his opening remarks at RAMSAR COP 14, the Chinese government will host the first conference of WCF in Yancheng City of Jiangsu Province in late 2023.

Wetland Conservation Strategy and Priority Actions in the Yellow River Basin

The project kicked off with the Steering Committee Meeting in March 2022. The group produced the first-ever waterbird survey along the Yellow River Basin in October, that included more than 350,000 waterbirds. Other progress included identification of conservation gaps, analysis of transformation of wetlands, the human-water relationship and water-sand relationship along the Yellow River Basin. Outputs of this project will lay a solid technical and policy foundation for wetland conservation and restoration in the Yellow River Basin.



Regional Flyway Initiative (with ADB and BirdLife International)

As one of the five main implementers of the ADB-led Regional Flyway Initiative, we supported BirdLife International in identifying and selecting important wetlands in China. We joined and contributed to regular discussions and consultations with other partners including ADB, EAAFP Secretariat, and others. Thanks to this collaborative effort, a short list of 23 candidate sites was identified, which has helped lay a solid foundation for enhancing the financing for their conservation and restoration.

Strengthen Leadership and Capacity of National Parks in Thailand and ASEAN Countries

In partnership with the National Park Department of Thai Government, Amata Foundation in Thailand, and with four senior retirees of the US National Park Service (NPS), including the former director of NPS, we developed a training curriculum targeted at superintendents of the national parks in Thailand and other ASEAN countries. Three training courses were organized in Khao Yai National Park in Thailand in November for 152 Thai park superintendents and 10 park superintendents from Laos and Cambodia. The training courses focused on leadership, planning, management, communications, and other technical aspects of park management in ASEAN countries.



Research on China’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Voluntary Carbon Markets

PI completed a briefing paper on China’s new national ETS and the potential for inclusion of two components of the ETS that, if enacted, would provide considerable financing for China’s biodiversity conservation and restoration: The inclusion of nature-based carbon offsets (China Certified Emission Reduction credits or CCERs) and the use of allowance auction revenue to support nature-based climate projects. The paper was developed with input from more than a dozen China-based carbon market experts and benefited from a private consultation with Tsinghua University and other experts.

Mangrove Restoration Bond Feasibility Study

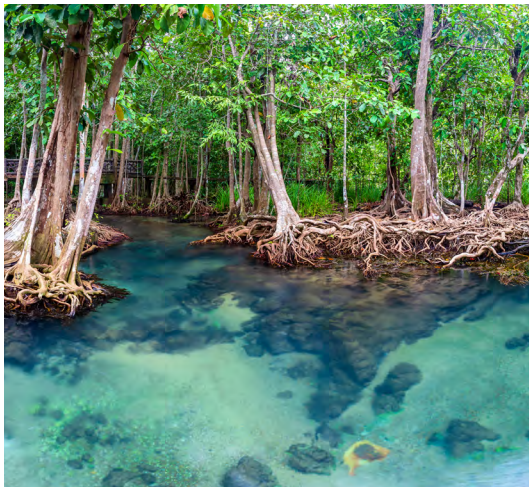
PI completed a brief feasibility concept paper for a mangrove restoration bond that could help raise the needed funds to implement China’s mangrove protection and restoration action plan. The paper was circulated to three banks for reaction and potential involvement. Feasibility study and detailed design of the bond will be conducted in year 2023.

Debt for Nature Swap Paper for the China Society for Finance and Banking

At the request of the Green Finance Committee (GFC) of the China Society for Finance and Banking, in October we completed an in-depth research paper on Debt for Nature Swaps with two collaborators at Fudan University. The paper provides good reference of international experience and some potential solutions to Chinese decision-makers when they consider strategies for dealing with the challenges of its sovereign debts with other debtor countries. This paper was launched at the GFC annual meeting in 2022.

Engagement in China Partnership for Biodiversity and Finance

PI was among the 13 founding members of the Partnership for Biodiversity and Finance (PBF), a coalition of over 70 financial organizations from China and overseas dedicated to integrating biodiversity into financial decision-making and operation. PI staff were heavily involved in drafting the PBF “Blue Paper,” and PI is co-chairing the workstream on capacity building, in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council. A PI staff member also served as a panelist in a high-level event PBF organized at CBD COP 15.2.



Engagement with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to encourage the integration of biodiversity risk into the bank’s strategy and operations.

Throughout 2022, at various levels in PI, we supported a range of capacity-building efforts aimed at building support for the integration of biodiversity into AIIB’s strategy and operations. This included working with TNC to help undertake an assessment of the biodiversity risk associated with the bank’s portfolio of clean energy projects in India, working closely with their consultant to support the bank’s development of a detailed position paper on biodiversity.

Engagement in and Support of the Convention on Biodiversity COP 15

Following publication of our 2020 *Financing Nature* report that informed and supported the resource mobilization targets of the CBD COP 15 negotiations on a new Global Biodiversity Framework, PI staff participated in various events at COP 15 in Montreal, Canada. PI’s chairman Hank Paulson delivered the plenary keynote address at the Business and Biodiversity Forum, Executive Director Deborah Lehr delivered a welcome address at the opening of the China Pavilion with MEE, and Chief Conservation Officer Rose Niu joined a high-level panel at the PBF event, Invest in Nature.

In addition, PI staff worked with TNC and officials from the governments of Ecuador, Gabon, Maldives, and UK to develop an ambitious Political Vision: 10 Point Plan for Global Biodiversity Finance, setting out the way ahead on the resource mobilization target of the UN CBD negotiations on the Global Biodiversity Framework. The Plan was launched at a side event around the UN General Assembly in New York in September and supported by meetings of senior officials and ministers at the climate change COP 27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh and at CBD COP 15.2 in Montreal. It has been endorsed by more than 40 countries.

Research on China’s Green Trade Policies to Promote Sustainable Soft Commodity Trade

China is one of the largest importers of soft commodities, such as soybean, timber, beef and palm oil, so it has a significant role to play in helping reduce the environment impact of production of these commodities. China’s 14th Five Year Plan for International Trade highlights the importance of high-quality trade and sustainability. One of the ten objectives of the plan is to establish a green trade system. Building on our previous work around sustainable soft commodities trade, we have partnered with the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing to conduct research on the actionable measures required and implementation pathways for improving the environmental sustainability of China’s soft commodity trade through green trade policies. We hope the recommendations of our report will provide reference and support for China to develop and implement green trade policies and practices.

Conversations with Today's Thinkers and Doers

Launched in summer 2020, *Straight Talk with Hank Paulson* tackles some of the most important topics in business, sustainability, leadership, the arts, and global affairs.



The podcast features PI Chairman Hank Paulson in conversation with high-profile guests including former presidential advisors David Axelrod, Henry Kissinger, and Austan Goolsbee; business leaders Ray Dalio, Jeremy Grantham, and Adena Friedman; educators Minouche Shafik and Ruth Simmons; environmentalists Sally Jewell, Cristián Samper, and Carter Roberts; innovators Sara Menker and Hal Harvey, and many others. The in-depth discussions cover big ideas: How can governments simultaneously address economic growth, national security, and climate change? How should the US navigate competition and cooperation with China? What financial changes are shaping global markets? What is the state of the global economy, and how did we get here? What policy changes are needed to address the biodiversity and climate crises, and how can business step up for the planet?

With *Straight Talk*, Hank brings a lifetime of business and leadership experience to his conversations with some of the world's most prominent leaders and thinkers, exchanging a lifetime of stories and lessons from both the private and public sectors. Each episode reveals compelling viewpoints, topical discussion, and behind-the-scenes stories.

What the audience is saying:



AMAZING.

Mr. Paulson is amazing. The podcast focuses on various topics, and in my opinion is one of the most educational podcasts I've come across.

– LoganLin



GREAT INSIGHTS.

Hank delivers great insights and great discussions

– CO



REFRESHING

Love this insightful podcast & conversations.

– 周先森的捣蛋鬼

IMPRESSIVE TOPICS.

Fantastic topics of discussion!

– Damian Dam

Inspiring a Sustainable Future



Tackling biodiversity loss and climate change will require millions of innovations across all sectors. Given the urgency of the challenges we face, identifying and celebrating these innovations is vital to help accelerate their replication for the benefit of the world. This is the rationale behind the **Paulson Prize for Sustainability**.

The Prize shines a light on bold projects that provide innovative, scalable, and market-based solutions to sustainability challenges in China and the world. Initiated by the Paulson Institute in 2013 and co-organized with Tsinghua University since 2017, the Prize is one of the most influential international awards in sustainability.

The Prize plays a unique role in accelerating the transition to a net-zero and nature-positive future.

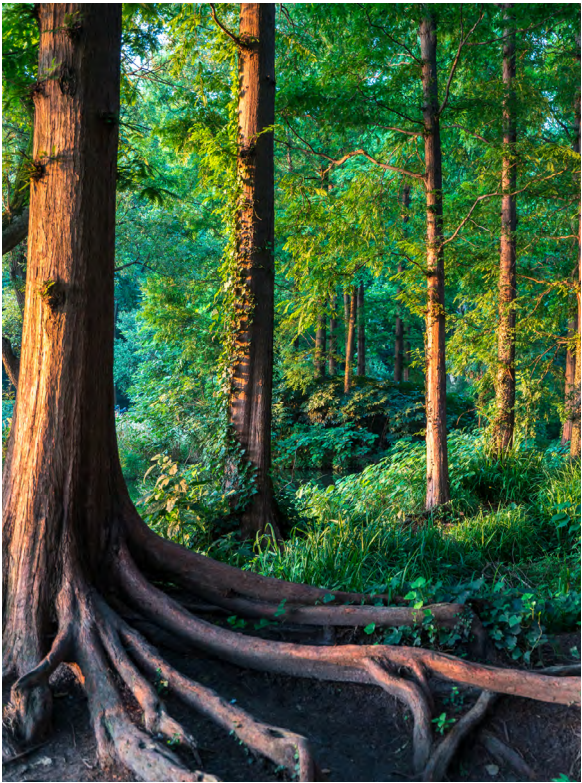
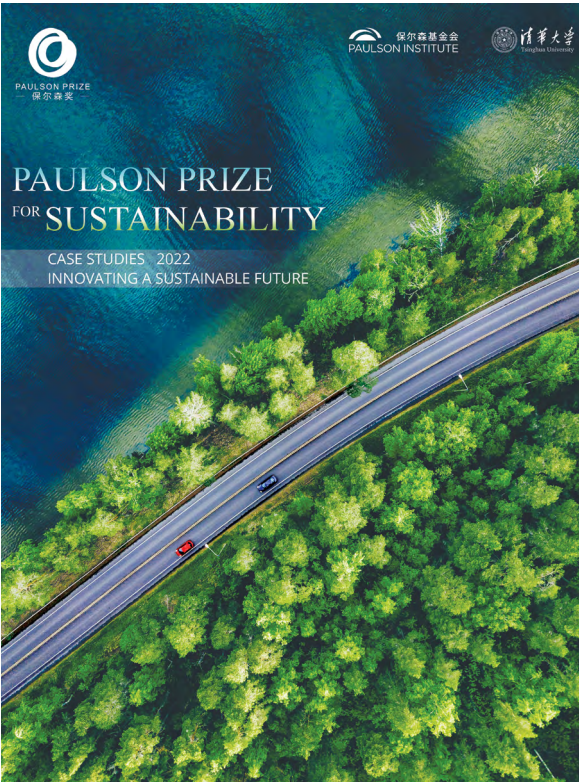


The Paulson Prize Award Ceremony

This year, the Paulson Prize received applications from 25 provinces and municipalities across China. The virtual award ceremony in December demonstrated the growing impact of the Prize, attracting 350,000 viewers around the world, 339,500 impressions on social media in China and internationally, and 30+ articles in mainstream media.

The Green Innovation Award winner—*China's Pilot Energy Big Data Center to Support Carbon Neutrality Strategy in Zhejiang* offers a systemic solution that provides critical and timely energy and carbon emissions data to empower decarbonization.

With nature-based solutions and multi-party participation, the Nature Stewardship Award winner—*Innovative Model of Urban Development and Wetland Conservation* provides a Chinese paradigm of wetland conservation in developed areas and an example of creating and managing an international wetland city.



The Paulson Prize Case Studies 2022

On December 7, the Paulson Institute and China's Tsinghua University jointly released The Paulson Prize for Sustainability Case Studies 2022 at the Opening of the China Pavilion at COP 15.2. The case studies present a selection of the best entries for the prestigious Paulson Prize for Sustainability and demonstrate that change comes not just through policymakers' efforts but through the ingenuity of private sector actors. They showcase China's best innovations and global potential amid critical discussions and debates.

A total of 22 cases were selected from past winners and finalists of the Paulson Prize, providing an illustrative snapshot of transformative green development solutions emerging in China. The innovative thinking, breakthrough technologies, and new models demonstrated in the case studies will help lead a clear path to a sustainable future. We celebrate these innovations' bold vision, originality, and transformative impact, which can be replicated for the whole world's benefit.

Sustainable Urban Development

The Mayors Exchange Program (MEP) is a bilateral capacity-building program that empowers local policymakers to implement sustainable practices in urban centers across China.

Cities in the US and China face common challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and how to handle post-COVID economic recovery in a sustainable way. Addressing these global issues requires joint efforts and collaborative actions.



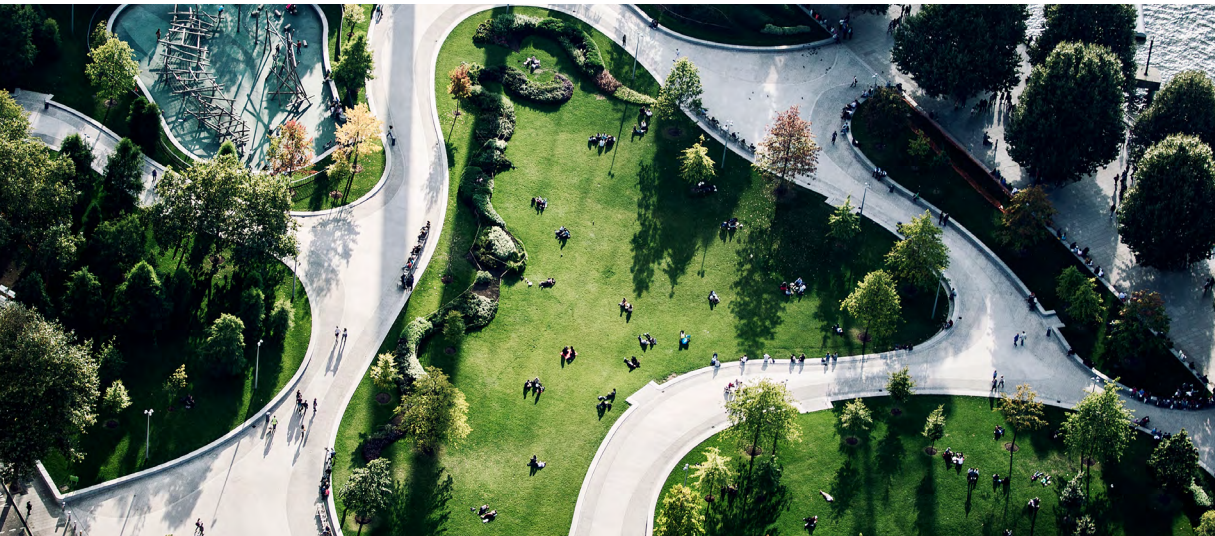
Biodiversity and climate crises recognize no geographical boundaries. It takes international exchanges and cooperation to ensure best practices are shared and applied across national borders, and this is where PI and our Chinese partners can fit in and act as catalyst for change.

—Deborah Lehr,
Vice Chairman and Executive Director, the Paulson Institute.

PI-CSTEC International Symposium on Biodiversity and Sustainable Urban Development

Concurrent with COP 15, PI and the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC) co-hosted an international symposium on Biodiversity and Sustainable Urban Development. The symposium provided best practices in nature-based conservation and eco-cities to attendees and kicked off with keynote remarks by Deborah Lehr and Zhang Guangjun, Vice Minister of China’s Ministry of Science and Technology. More than 200 officials, experts and representatives from Chinese and US academia, NGOs and the business community, including the national academic institutes and local technology exchange centers attended the event to listen to eight presentations on biodiversity conservation strategy, ecological compensation, and nature-based solutions for sustainable eco-cities. The presentations were given by top Chinese and international academicians, chief scientists and influential experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, WB Report research team, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Cornell University, Xiamen University, Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, and China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, facilitated by moderators from PI and CSTEC.

The success of this event demonstrates that the US and China can work together for the common good under the new realities of US-China bilateral relations.



Training Session for Shenzhen on Sustainable City Governance

PI provided two training sessions to Shenzhen’s international training program on city resilience and smart low-carbon transportation. Overcoming the challenges of pandemic control, we engaged international experts to provide in-person training that resulted in better audience interaction. One session, City Resilience and Emergency Response Management, attracted the largest audience with more than 100 senior leaders including District Heads and leaders from local bureaus of City Planning and Nature Resources, Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Emergency Management Transportation, DRC, as well as key enterprises such as Water Group, Airport Group, China Mobile (SZ).

Our Team

Diverse and Multicultural

Founded in 2011 by former Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr., the Institute is based in Chicago with offices in Washington and Beijing. Our diverse, multicultural staff brings deep experience to our work from the highest levels of business, government, conservation, and policy.



Past Year in Reviews



2021



2020



2019

