



Global Energy Interconnection
Development and Cooperation Organization
全球能源互联网发展合作组织

Biodiversity and Revolution of Energy and Electric Power

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Development and Cooperation Organization



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| Foreword

Biodiversity provides an important foundation for the survival and development of the human race. It not only affects the well-being of humanity and future generations, but also has a key bearing on the sustainability of global development, and potentially even the rise and fall of civilization. Since the dawn of industrial civilization, mankind has created massive material wealth. But this has come at the cost of intensified exploitation of natural resources, which has disrupted the balance of the earth's ecosystems, giving rise to ecological crises manifesting in terms of biodiversity loss and environmental damage. Now, on the brink of the sixth mass extinction, with the global rate of species extinction accelerating, severe ecosystem degradation and loss of biodiversity pose major threats to human survival and development.

Rising to these challenges, the United Nations has called upon the international community to increase biodiversity awareness, asking countries worldwide to make positive efforts to implement biodiversity protection measures. After the *Convention on Biological Diversity* was signed in 1992, the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, adopted in 2010, added further impetus for the establishment of a global biodiversity governance mechanism.

Despite widespread consensus regarding securing biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of biological resources, countries' actions on the ground have been far from sufficient, and the progress of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* has been sluggish. As the world approaches a crossroads in addressing the biodiversity crisis, in order to arrive at a systematic solution for protecting biodiversity and realizing the goal of "harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature", both a holistic approach and a grand vision are sorely needed. On September 30, 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, noted that "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth, which is the theme of next year's Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, embodies humanity's hope for a better future." China has prioritized biodiversity protection in the joint efforts to develop an ecological civilization and to create a shared future for life on Earth, contributing Chinese wisdom to global biodiversity protection.

Globally, biodiversity loss can be attributed to five main causes — habitat loss and degradation, overexploitation, climate change, environmental pollution, and invasive alien species. A key underlying driver exacerbating these problems has been the unsustainable pattern of energy development. Since the Industrial Revolution, long-term, large-scale development and utilization of fossil fuels has produced large volumes of greenhouse gases and other harmful

substances, leading to temperature increases, environmental degradation, and resource shortages, and posing a serious threat to global biodiversity. At this rate, there is a real possibility — especially with the climate crisis looming — of the emergence of a global ecological crisis, disastrous for all life on Earth, sometime in the coming decades. To address this intensifying challenge, energy, the linchpin of the problem, must be addressed, and major efforts made to expedite the energy and electric power revolution, to mitigate and reverse the damage inflicted by fossil fuel use on biodiversity, and to promote coordinated energy and power development and biodiversity governance.

Global Energy Interconnection (GEI) is a new energy system steering a path towards clean energy production, broadened energy allocation, and the electrification of energy consumption, as well as an important platform for the large-scale development, transmission and utilization of clean energy resources worldwide. GEI is essential enabler of the worldwide energy and electric power revolution. Relative to the current development path, upon which economies and societies rely on fossil fuels, GEI represents a complete game-changer: a catalyst for a new energy development model characterized by “zero pollution, zero carbon emissions, and high efficiency” and a radical solution for the crucial problem of fossil fuel usage, which has long harmed and hindered biodiversity. GEI can promote the coordinated and sustainable development of energy and the environment, offer effective measures for the protection of biodiversity, and inject new momentum into the development of ecological civilization, and the creation of a shared future for life on Earth.

GEI has been widely acknowledged by the international community as a systematic solution for driving world energy transition and facilitating sustainable development. To date, it has been included in the frameworks for advancing the UN's *2030 Agenda*, for the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*, for the promotion of environmental governance, for solving electricity access, poverty and health issues, and for other issues, and has been included in the UN High-level Political Forum Policy Briefs for four years in a row. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has described GEI as core to human sustainable development, key to inclusive global growth, and crucial to the implementation of the UN's *2030 Agenda* and the *Paris Agreement*.

In recent years, the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) has advanced its research into GEI as an enabler for sustainable development, releasing action plans concerning the implementation of the UN's *2030 Agenda* and the *Paris Agreement*, the advancement of global environmental governance, and the solution of power access, poverty and health issues. In addition, drawing on practical experience and expertise, GEIDCO has conducted extensive study on the relationships between energy, power and biodiversity, and has completed *Biodiversity and Revolution of Energy and Electric Power*, a work whose aim is, via a systematic evaluation of the significance of biodiversity, to shed light on the progress in and challenges facing global biodiversity protection, and to analyze the main drivers of biodiversity loss. This has revealed the unsustainable, fossil fuel-dominated pattern of energy development as the major underlying issue and contributor to the biodiversity crisis. The book proposes new ideas and approaches, a roadmap for advancing the energy and electric power revolution and securing biodiversity via GEI development, and a package of feasible, practicable, and scalable solutions for promoting the energy and electric power revolution and biodiversity protection on a worldwide basis. It consists of seven chapters:

Chapter 1 explains the notion of biodiversity, and the significance of its role in advancing economic and social development, creating a shared future for life on Earth, achieving worldwide sustainable development, and advancing human civilization.

Chapter 2 takes stock of the current status of the global biodiversity crisis from the perspectives of species, ecosystems and genetics, reviews the progress on this front being made by countries worldwide, and analyzes the daunting challenges facing biodiversity protection. For example, while the pace of the crisis is beginning accelerate, the international community lacks biodiversity protection awareness, action is lagging, solutions are lacking, and protection measures have been ineffective.

Chapter 3 systematically explores the five main drivers of global biodiversity losses, i.e.: habitat loss and degradation, overexploitation of biological resources, climate change, environmental pollution, and invasive alien species, and provides some insights into future trends in biodiversity development and the relationship between biodiversity and energy.

Chapter 4 contains an in-depth analysis into the inherent connection between energy development and utilization and biodiversity, revolving around the five main drivers of the biodiversity crisis. This reveals that unsustainable patterns of energy development have had a significant impact on climate change, environmental pollution, habitat loss, overexploitation of biological resources, and invasive species.

Chapter 5 discusses the profound significance of the energy and electric power revolution to biodiversity protection, and proposes guiding principles, a theoretical framework, and a pathway for advancing that revolution while promoting biodiversity protection through GEI development. It explains how GEI offers a systematic solution for promoting biodiversity, with fundamental and comprehensive effects in terms of addressing climate change, controlling environmental pollution, mitigating habitat loss, promoting the sustainable utilization of biological resources, and advancing ecological restoration.

Chapter 6 outlines the current status of biodiversity protection and of energy and electric power development on different continents, and offers a systematic, packaged plan and roadmap for the promotion of biodiversity through GEI development. Consisting of six plans and 21 measures, this provides a useful guide for the advancement of GEI and biodiversity on different continents.

Chapter 7 highlights overall directions and core elements from five perspectives relating to institutional innovation, i.e.: planning & coordination, policy incentive, finance & investment, international cooperation, and capacity building. The book looks ahead to prospects for promoting biodiversity through GEI, and makes a call for joint action from all stakeholders in promoting global biodiversity and creating a shared future for life on Earth.

GEIDCO has long been committed to energy transition and global sustainable development. We hope that this book can provide valuable reference material, for the United Nations and national governments, relevant to the formulation of policies and plans concerning the advancement of the energy and electric power revolution and biodiversity protection. It also

offers enterprises and institutions food for thought concerning the implementation of relevant actions. Thus it constitutes a modest contribution to the reversal of the trend towards global biodiversity loss and to the creation of a shared future for life on Earth. Due to limitations of time and expertise, its contents are inevitably imperfect, and readers are encouraged to provide constructive criticism. GEIDCO stands ready and willing to cooperate with all sectors of society in order to promote global biodiversity protection, and work towards the creation of a bright future of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature!

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The Significance of Biodiversity

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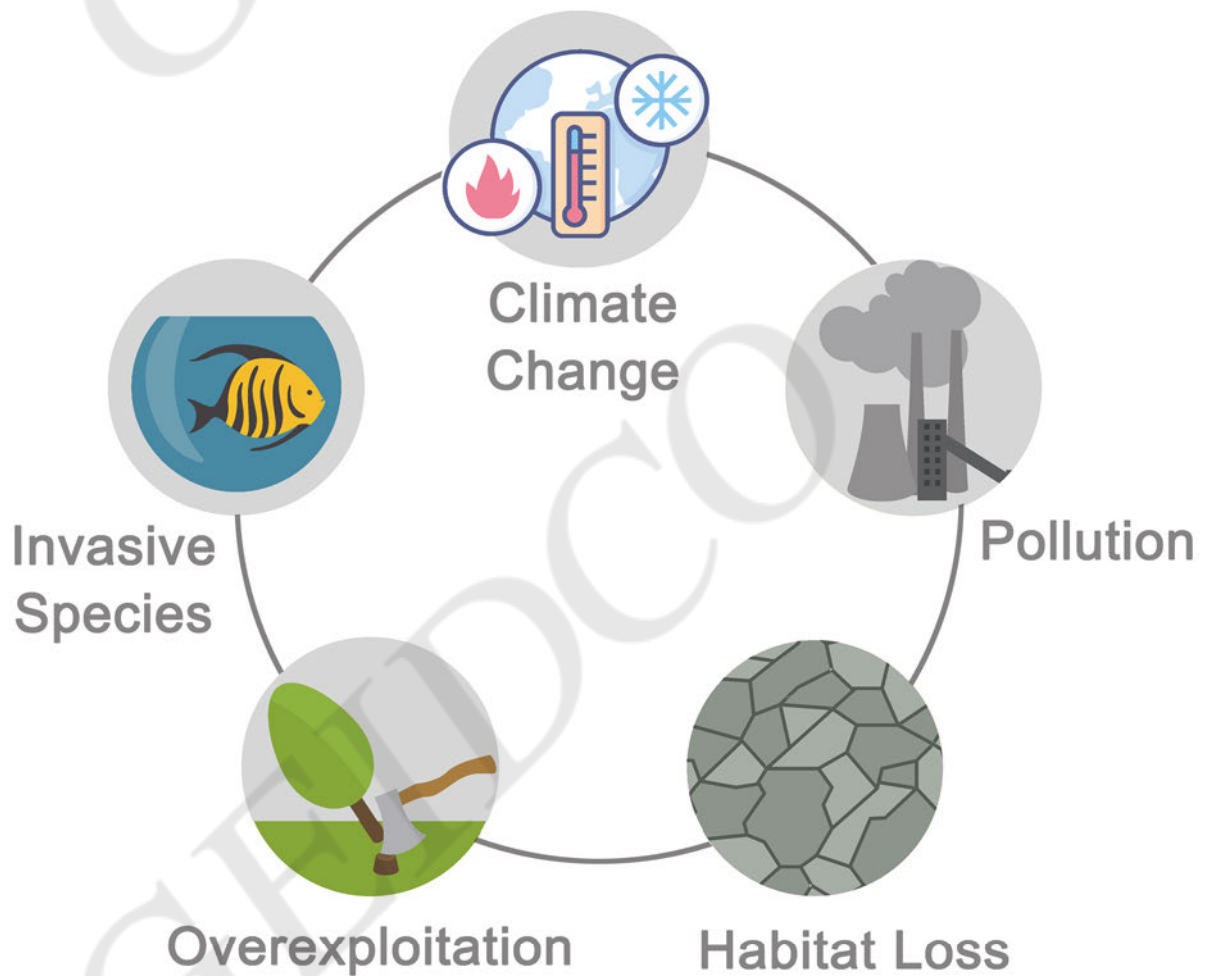


Biodiversity: Current Status and Challenges 2



Major Drivers of the Biodiversity Crisis

3



Unsustainable Energy Development: an Important Cause of the Biodiversity Crisis

4



Promoting Biodiversity Protection through the Energy and Electric Power Revolution

5



Plan and Roadmap for Promoting Biodiversity Conservation Based on GEI

6



Supporting Mechanisms and Outlook 7



More Detail