当代中国与世界研究院
Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies

THE BRIDGE TANK

Cooperation on Climate and Sustainable Development between China and France:

Dialogue and Pro-Active Forecast on Common Issues, Opportunities and Prospects

Contents

Summary

The transition to a low-carbon and environmentally friendly future has become a shared progressive vision and imperative mission for all of humanity as the challenges posed by global climate change become more severe. A joint research initiative on Sino-French cooperation in climate and sustainable development has been initiated by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies (ACCWS) in collaboration with the Bridge Tank in France. The objective of this collaboration is to investigate sustainable development sectors that have the potential for long-term cooperation between China and France, enhance international collaboration on climate issues, and facilitate enhancements in global climate governance, thereby jointly addressing the challenges of climate change. Furthermore, Sino-French cooperation, a global model, functions as crucial members of the international community. By conducting collaborative research, both nations can exhibit their dedication and initiatives to combating climate change, thereby offering valuable insights for global climate governance.

This research encourages innovation and applications in fields such as green hydrogen energy, integrated climate financing, and ecosystem restoration in both countries, with a particular emphasis on technological innovation and economic cooperation. This work is a strong advocate for sustainable development objectives, as it fosters the coordination of economic, social, and environmental growth. The investigation indicates that China and France have substantial potential for collaboration in the areas of energy transitions, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. Additionally, they share a wide range of shared interests. In the areas of energy technologies and green financing, both nations possess unique advantages and complementary strengths. Technological advancements are resulting in significant cost reductions and efficiency enhancements in the field of renewable hydrogen production. Scientific advancements have led to the development of more efficient restoration techniques in the context of ecosystem restoration. Blended financing mechanisms are crucial among the diverse factors that are driving the green transition. Through "forward-looking forecasts," comprehensive strategic planning, and flexible adjustments, China and France should make significant strides in critical sectors such as energy, technology, and financing. Both nations can actively contribute to global sustainable development and facilitate broader global climate policy dialogues by supporting Global South countries.

01

Current Situation: Three Key Areas for Enhanced Cooperation Between China and France

1.1 Green Hydrogen

1.1.1 Background of Global Energy Transition

Faced with the global issue of "energy poverty," a rapid energy transition is imperative. Hydrogen energy plays a pivotal role in this transition, with its versatility and eco-friendliness considered as the core of a future sustainable energy framework, particularly crucial in industries difficult to electrify. Hydrogen energy production falls under the manufacturing sector, distinct from mining industries like coal mining which rely on natural resource endowments, resulting in a more balanced industrial layout. Data from the Hydrogen Council, the State Council of China, and the International Energy Agency indicate that hydrogen energy is evolving from an industry lobbying focus to a key concern for governments and institutions worldwide. China, France, as well as Europe and other developing countries, are proactively promoting the research, development, and application of hydrogen technology through policies, providing strong momentum for the development of the hydrogen economy.

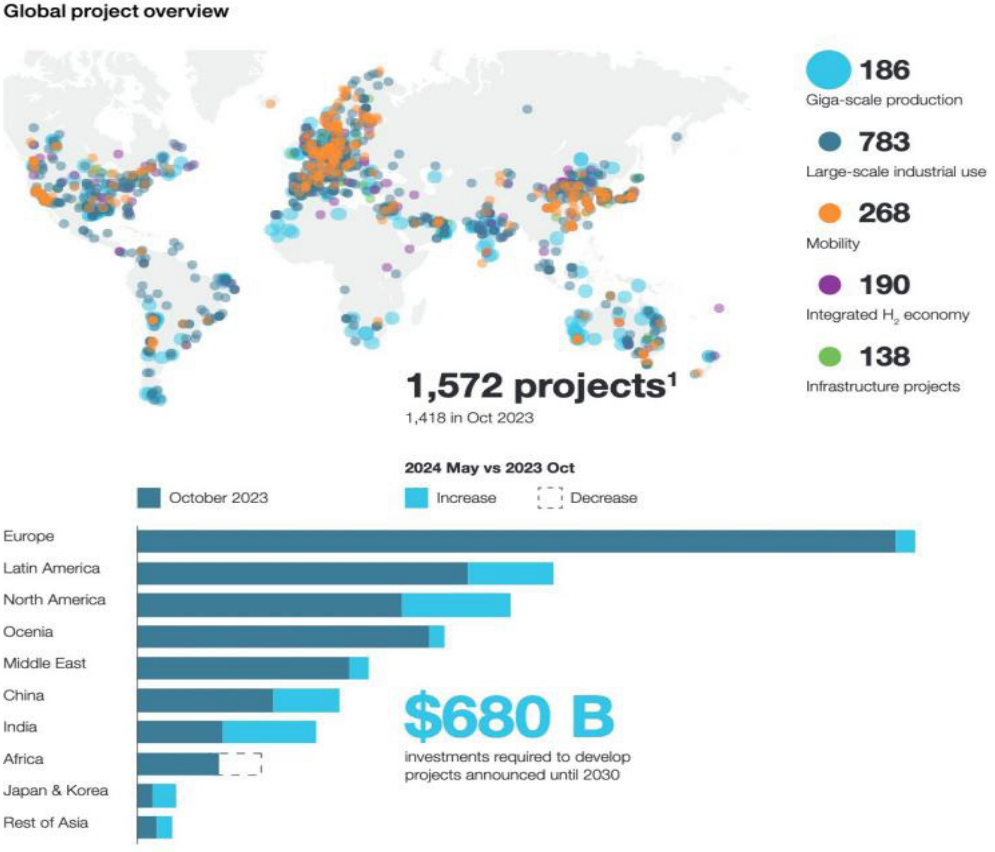

Figure 1: The status of the global hydrogen industry projectsas of September 2024 (Source: Hydrogen Council)

1.1.2 Versatility, Advantages and Disadvantages of Hydrogen Energy

Hydrogen energy provides substantial advantages and versatility as a critical component of the energy transition. Firstly, it can effectively replace fossil fuels, particularly in difficult -to-decarbonize heavy industries (such as

metallurgy and the chemical industry), making it a crucial tool for industrial decarbonization. Secondly, hydrogen energy's storage capabilities allow it to play a key role in the power grid, helping stabilize and enhance grid reliability by producing hydrogen during energy surplus periods and converting it back to electricity during peak demand periods. In the transportation sector, hydrogen boasts immense potential as a clean fuel, especially for long-distance means of transportation, driving the research, development and deployment of fuel cell vehicles. Hydrogen can also serve as a trade commodity internationally, being stored and transported in the form of ammonia, which connects countries with high and low renewable energy resources, facilitating the optimal allocation of global energy resources. Between September 2023 and September 2024, electrolysis capacity increased from 12 GW to 26 GW globally after the Final Invest-

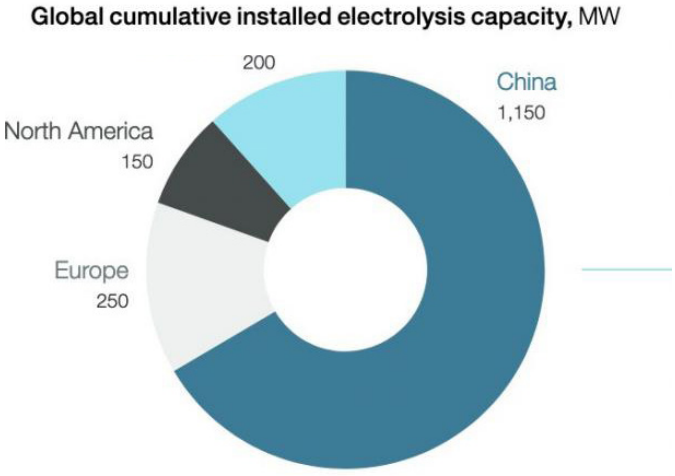

Figure 2: Global cumulative installed electrolysis capacity.(Unit: MW)
(Source: Hydrogen Council, 2024)

ment Decision (FID), with China continuing to outpace the rest of the world in terms of electrolysis tank capacity deployment.

However, hydrogen energy encounters specific drawbacks and obstacles in application. Firstly, the cost of producing hydrogen through water electrolysis remains high, which limits its economic competitiveness to some extent. Additionally, hydrogen energy encompasses intricate technologies for production, storage, and transportation that necessitate significant advancements to enhance safety and efficiency. Inadequate infrastructure is also a major obstacle to the large-scale application of hydrogen energy, including significant investments needed for the construction of hydrogen production, storage, and transmission networks, posing a daunting challenge for many countries. Finally, sustainable hydrogen energy production requires substantial amounts of water and renewable energy, which can be a bottleneck in water-scarce or energy-constrained regions. Therefore, achieving the widespread adoption of hydrogen energy requires not only policy support and guidance but also technological innovation and international cooperation to address a series of issues associated with costs, technology, and resource constraints.

1.1.3. Economic Prospects and National Strategies

The economic prospects of hydrogen energy are propelled by market expansion and technological advancements, fueled by policy support and technological breakthroughs in various countries. As of now, more than 1,150 hy-

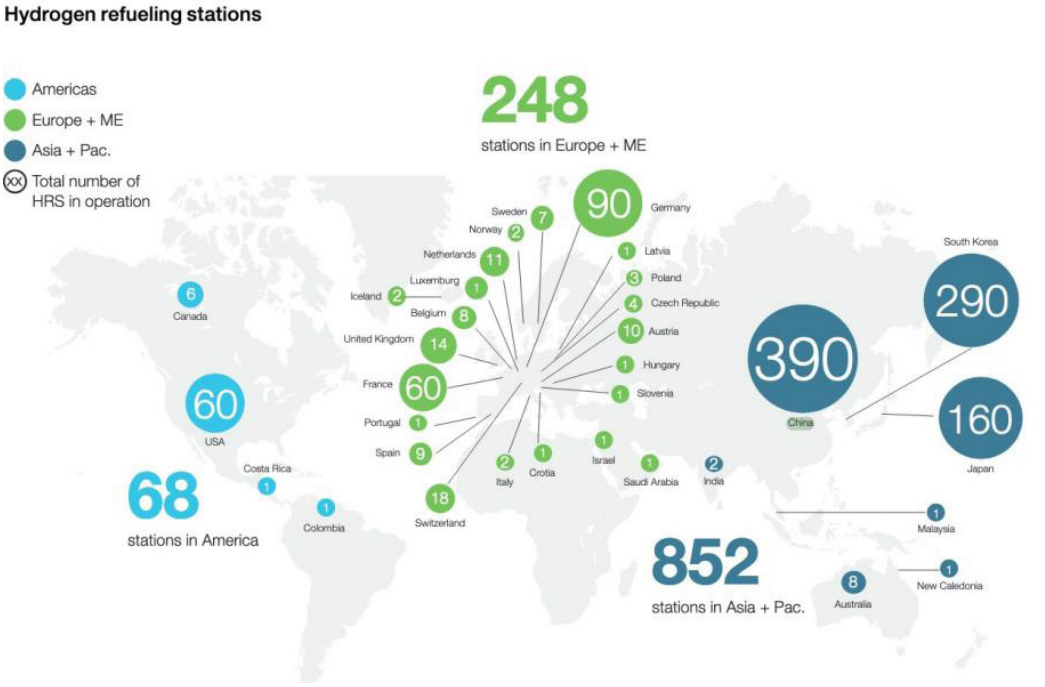

Figure 3: Hydrogen refueling stations in 2024 (Source: Hydrogen Council, 2024)

drogen refueling stations are operational globally, representing a 65% increase in deployment compared to 2021. China, Japan, and South Korea constitute the largest markets, followed by Europe. In the European and American regions, the number of hydrogen refueling stations declined between 2023 and 2024.

The advancement of hydrogen energy extends beyond fulfilling energy demands; it encompasses the resolution of social and environmental challenges. Furthermore, carbon pricing could emerge as a critical tool for ecological transformation and hydrogen energy development in the European Union and China. Carbon tariffs are being highlighted in numerous papers regarding the

future potential of hydrogen energy. Collaboration and advocacy between China and Europe over carbon pricing policies will yield a more stable and coordinated trajectory for the global hydrogen energy market. Efforts towards convergence in carbon markets and policies will facilitatethe global ecological transformation and the achievement of climate change mitigation goals. With active industry investments and policy adjustments, the hydrogen economy holds the potential to provide sustained support for global decarbonization. China and France are also proactively fostering hydrogen energy cooperation and have formulated national strategies covering various aspects from technology research and development to policy coordination. China is driving the large-scale application of hydrogen energy through cooperation with Air Liquide S.A. and other major projects, which is expected to reduce production costs. It is anticipated that hydrogen energy will undergo a cost reduction trend similar to the solar energy industry. The Hydrogen Council predicts that the cost of low-carbon hydrogen is expected to fall to a range of €0.9 to €2.8 per kilogram by 2030, depending on the technology and energy mix.

Moreover, hydrogen energy is of strategic significance in the context of climate change, as green hydrogen is cost-competitive as a result of its cost-effective utilization of renewable resources, (such as solar resources in Italy and Spain). While blue hydrogen, derived from fossil fuels with carbon capture and storage, remains attractive in the short term compared to green hydrogen produced via electrolysis from renewable energy (such as solar and wind energy), green hydrogen is expected to progressively replace blue hydrogen as the in-

dustry standard. A recent study by Bloomberg in 2024 indicates that compared to traditional carbon emission processes, the time required to achieve profitability with green hydrogen varies due to the differences in national contexts and fossil fuel usage scenarios across countries. It is worth noting that in 2023, the price of green hydrogen remained higher than that of blue hydrogen in China.

1.2. Blended Climate Finance

1.2.1. Importance and Challenges of Adaptation Finance

In recent years, the demand for climate change adaptation and related funding has surged, becoming a critical focus at international conferences. Adaptation refers to necessary adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to the impact of climate change, which require modifications to existing operational procedures, practices, and structures. However, in many emerging economies and at local levels, a lack of funding is a major obstacle to implementing effective adaptation strategies. To address this issue, blended finance has emerged as a core means to reduce investment risks with public funds and attract private capital, thus helping to achieve the SDGs. Although international public funding has increased, it still does not match the rapid growth in adaptation costs, especially in developing countries where adaptation costs are expected to rise significantly.

The difference of green finance to "traditional" finance lies in the financing methods rather than the types of financing instruments. Typically, financing dedicated to "green projects" supports SMEs in mitigating climate change, re-

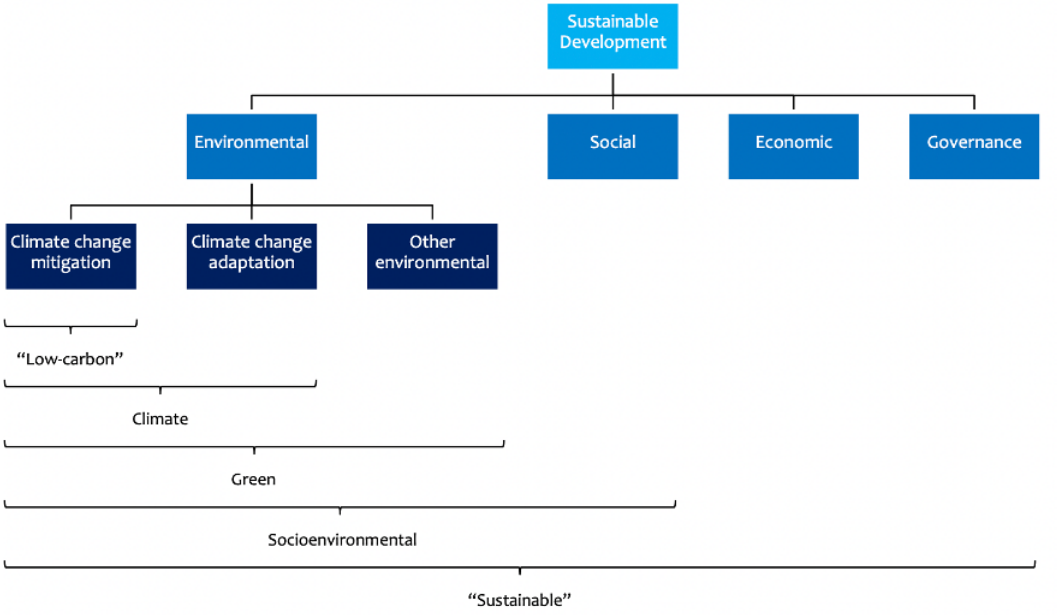

Figure 4: Source: UNEP

ducing their environmental footprint or enhancing climate resilient. In this context, green financing can be defined as any financial initiative, process, product or service aimed at protecting the natural environment or managing how the environment impacts finance and investment.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have played pivotal roles in supporting adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly through "direct access" procedures and collaborations with development banks to support projects. Blended finance utilizes public funds to mitigate risks and attract private capital. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) defines it as an effective means for mitigating investment risks in high-risk proj-

ects. Blended finance models utilizing both public and private capital should be vigorously explored to reduce investment risks in climate-related projects, especially those focused on adaptation and resilience. Joint support should be provided to developing countries to enhance their capacity to access and effectively utilize climate finance.

Take Africa as an example for specific applications. As shown in the figure below, Africa is the priority region with the largest number of funded projects to date (47%), accounting for 38% of the overall GCF portfolio (USD 2.7 billion). Adaptation projects in the African agricultural sector demonstrate the significant potential of blended finance, with a combination of loans, grants, and technical assistance supporting small farmers. Private sector participation is essential in the renewable energy market in this regard.

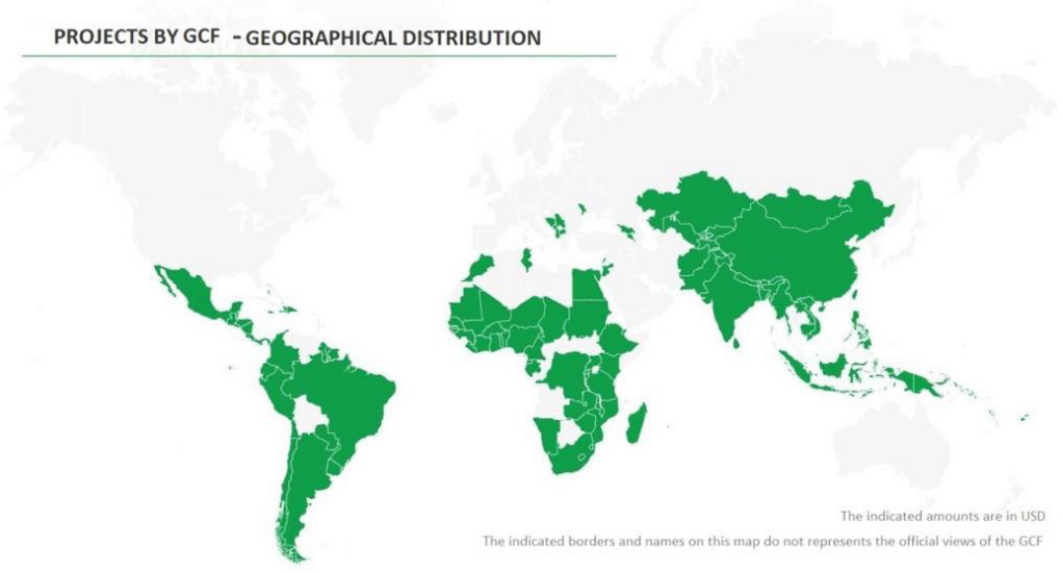

Figure 5: Geographical distribution of GCF funded projects

1.2.2 Regional and Sectoral Financial Innovation

In addition to traditional donors, the international community is also contemplating the use of special funds as a source of funding to address climate change. The GCFis a substantial source of financing for climate action, whose impact has been amplified through projects implemented by internationally, regionally, or nationally accredited entities. The GCF's pivotal role in enhancing adaptation finance lies in funding projects, particularly in higher-risk or commercially less viable areas. Despite the GCF's notable contributions, mobilizing more development banks and their members, such as the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), to seek new adaptation financiers remains a stra-

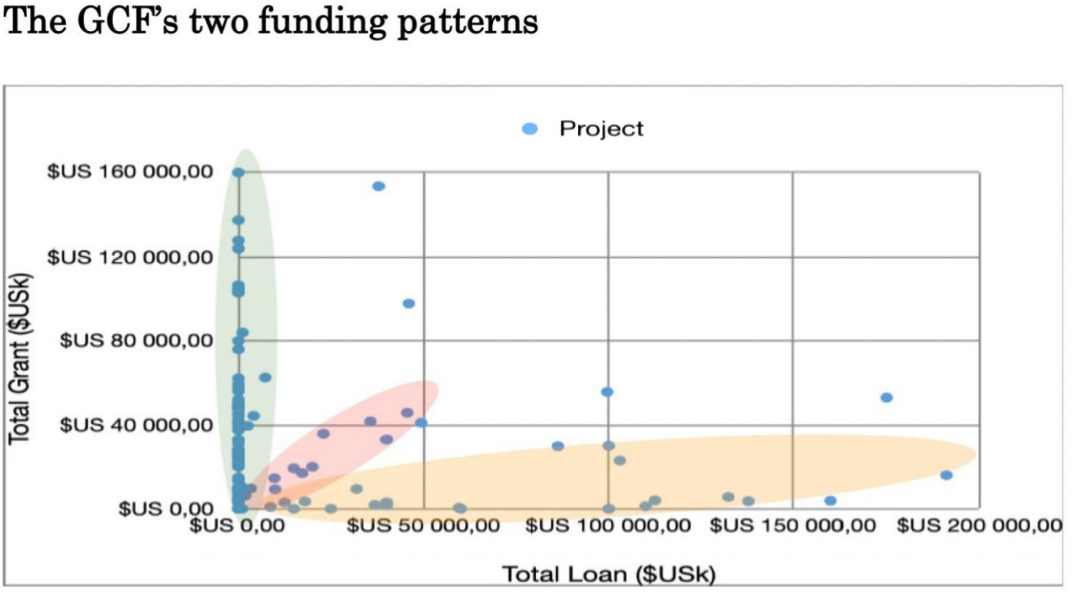

Figure 6: The GCF's two "funding patterns" (Source: Ameghini, Giudici, and Ruet (2022))

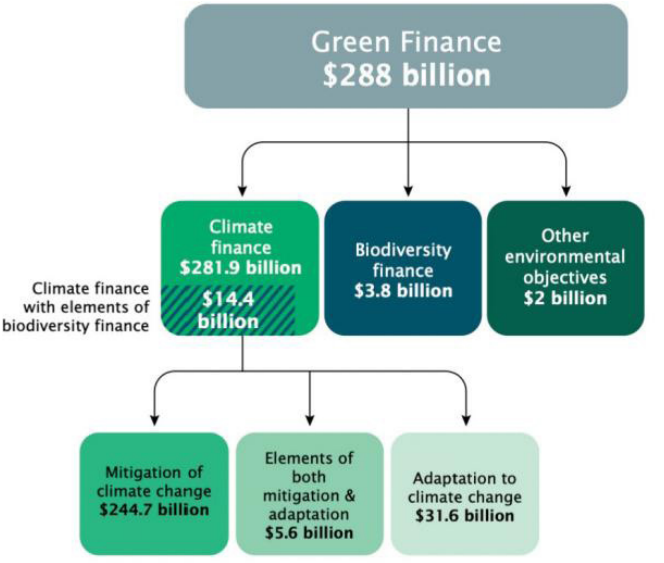

Figure ES2: IDFC green finance commitments in 2015-2022 ($ billion)[b]

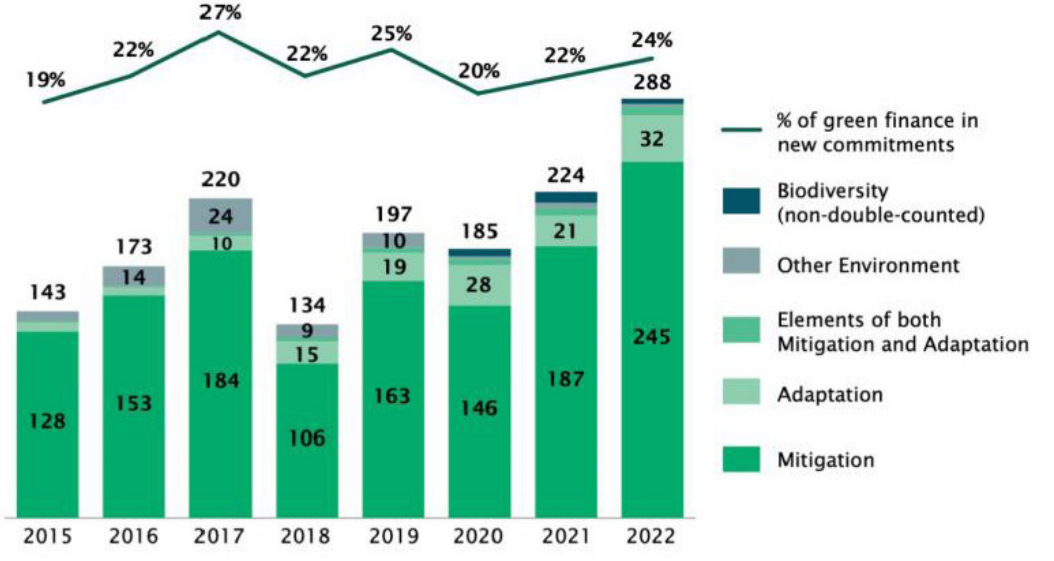

Figure 7: IDFC Green Finance Mapping Report 2023 (Source: IDFC)

tegic priority. Although funding sources for projects vary, the average funding proportion of the GCF in direct national entity projects is significantly higher than that in regional entity projects.

In the broader field of green finance, China-EU cooperation presents potential opportunities in green adaptation finance, with the IDFC playing a crucial role in climate change through its member banks. IDFC, while not an official multilateral entity, functions as a community dedicated to communication and pragmatic objectives, significantly contributing to the advancement of green finance initiatives. The IDFC Green Finance Mapping Report 2023 reveals a rapid increase in the participation of prominentmultilateral and bilateral development banks over the years, with escalating commitments to climate finance.

However, blended finance and de-risking mechanisms, despite extensive discussion, have been rarely applied and require further development. By mitigating risks and leveraging a country's own public funds, especially in the green bond market, incentivizing private sector investment can effectively attract new funding sources. Moreover,, countries need to establish corresponding key institutions to promote such financing models, in order to achieve financing targets in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

1.2.3 International Cooperation and Strategic Analysis

Hydrogen energy and adaptation finance play pivotal roles in national strategies globally to address climate change. Countries have recognized that

the development of hydrogen energy not only drives industrial decarbonization and energy security but is also a crucial component of economic strategies. For instance, Germany and France aim to achieve climate neutrality by vigorously developing hydrogen technologies and their applications, positioning themselves as leaders in the global hydrogen economy. Similarly, China's "14th Five-Year Plan" emphasizes the application of hydrogen energy in transportation and industry. Meanwhile, adaptation finance has become a vital pillar of national climate strategies. By developing blended finance mechanisms, countries strive to bridge the funding gap for adaptation projects, supporting the achievement of SDGs. Collaborating with entities like the IDFC and the GCF, countries can expand financing channels and accelerate capital flows and allocation by mobilizing private sector participation. This strategic cooperation and funding diversification has not only enhanced global climate resilience but also laid a solid foundation for sustainable economic development.

In future international climate cooperation, strategic cooperation among countries is particularly crucial. To achieve the 2030 SDGs, countries should continue to strengthen international cooperation and policy coordination on hydrogen technology and adaptation finance. To advance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and fulfill the targets of the Paris Agreement, China-France cooperation in climate financing should adopt a blended finance strategy combining grants and loans to optimize the efficiency of fund utilization. Specifically, grants can be used for the initiation or concept validation stages, while loans support project implementation and scaling up. Furthermore, by leveraging the

platforms of the UNNFCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity, promoting blended finance through national or international bonds can attract more private and commercial banks. These strategies help provide necessary support for processes needing initiation and implementation, incentivizing private investors to enter the adaptation finance market, thus comprehensively enhancing global financial mobilization capabilities in response to climate change.

1.3. Ecosystem Restoration

1.3.1. Challenges and Opportunities in Land Use and Climate Change

According to the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation. This sector is not only a provider of renewable resources but also has significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing carbon sinks and reducing fossil fuel use. Furthermore, land-based mitigation measures (such as afforestation, sustainable agriculture, and wetland restoration) can not only deliver carbon dioxide removal (CDR) but also contribute to the alternative energy sector, thereby alleviating emission pressure in other economic sectors. However, the IPCC underscores that the effective mitigation of climate change within the 1.5°C climate target range necessitates rapid deployment and secure policy support.

Despite the AFOLU sector's immense potential for climate change mitigation, its development poses numerous risks, mainly stemming from ecological

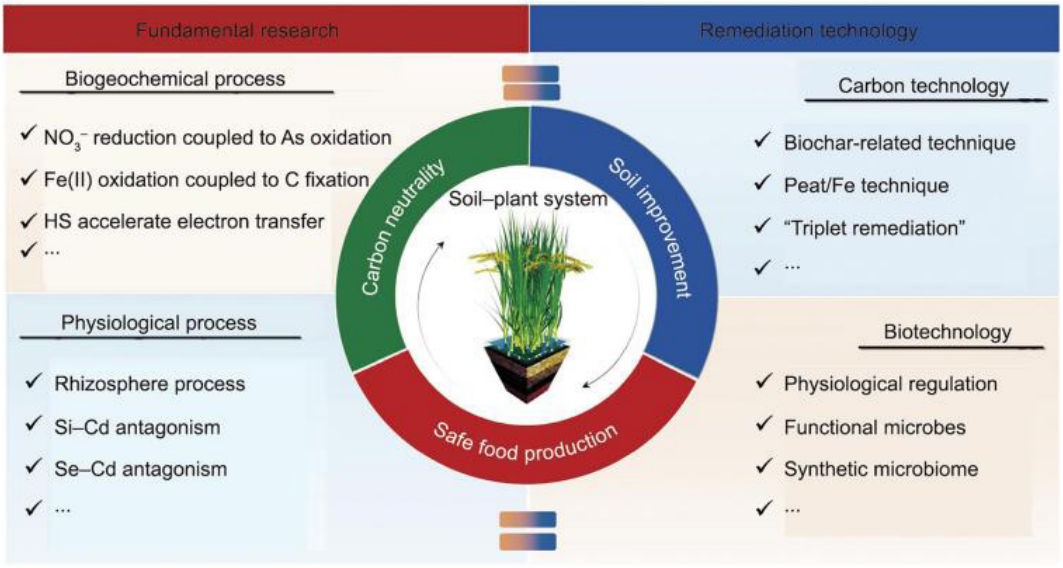

Figure 8: Biogeochemical processes of key elements cycling in the soil-plant system (Source: Li Fangbai, Fang Liping, Wu Fengchang)

and social issues that may arise from improper deployment. Implementing unreasonable or single strategies may exacerbate issues related to food production, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation. For example, excessively expanding biomass fuel cultivation may occupy agricultural land, increase food security risks, and disrupt biodiversity. Furthermore, to avoid social conflicts, rapid and large-scale land changes need to address local economic and cultural needs. These problems suggest that the AFOLU sector must address land management difficulties while achieving synergistic benefits to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability as a climate mitigation strategy.

1.3.2. Sino-French Ecological Restoration Strategies within the China-EU Cooperation Framework

In recent years, China and the EU have made substantial strides in biodiversity conservation and environmental policy cooperation through in-depth dialogues. The Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change, jointly advocated by China and France, emphasizes the necessity of addressing biodiversity loss and climate change. In addition, during the China-EU High Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate (HECD), both sides reaffirmed their common goals in ecological protection. Through their efforts, China and the EU have promoted policy coordination and implementation regarding ecosystem protection and sustainable development globally.

Within the China-EU cooperation framework, China and France have engaged in close cooperation in the hydrogen energy sector to address global energy transition and climate challenges. This cooperation focuses on technological innovation and industrial cooperation. The French company Air Liquide is at the forefront of hydrogen liquefaction technology, and its partnership with Chinese enterprises has accelerated the application of hydrogen energy technology in China. Furthermore, both countries view hydrogen energy as a key technological driver through their respective national programs, such as France's "Plan Hulot" or its climate plan, and China's "Transition to Clean Energy Technologies and Demonstration" strategy. Facing fluctuations in the energy market and the challenge of decarbonization targets, China and France are proactively exploring various technical solutions for hydrogen energy production,

including electrolysis, coal gasification, and carbon capture and storage (CCS), for large-scale application. This cooperation extends beyond the technological realm, encompassing large-scale infrastructure investments and industrial chain collaboration, with a commitment to jointly building a sustainable hydrogen energy ecosystem. This strategic synergy demonstrates the commitment and potential of both countries in green economic development.

Meanwhile, land restoration and ecosystem regeneration have become important areas of cooperation between China and the EU. Through the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) in Africa (detailed in Chapter 1.3.3), China and the EU are exploring innovative cooperation in implementing regeneration experiences on degraded land, achieving breakthroughs in agriculture, employment, and carbon sequestration. Multilateral tools such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) play a crucial role in encouraging countries' adaptation to climate change and achieving sustainable development. Through international mechanisms such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, countries have strengthened cooperation at the policy and implementation levels to achieve a sustainable future.

1.3.3. China-French-African Model of Green Cooperation

To promote the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, China-EU cooperation extends beyond the policy level to practical operations and demonstration projects. Both sides have initiated discussions on innovative joint coop-

eration in third countries, particularly in Africa, such as supporting the GGWI to facilitate land regeneration and ecosystem restoration. In Europe, the One Planet Summit hosted by France in 2021 is expected to raise substantial funds for the initiative and provide a new opportunity for China-EU experience exchange. This multi-tiered cooperation not only demonstrates both sides' solid commitment to ecological protection but also brings new momentum to address global climate change and ecological degradation.

The GGWI represents a significant global effort to combat land degradation, aiming to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land across 8,000 kilometers from Senegal to Djibouti. This ambitious project serves both as an environmental restoration measure and an economic opportunity to improve living conditions in sub-Saharan regions. In this process, Sino-French cooperation has emerged as a model of green cooperation. By combining China's extensive experience in land reclamation with France's strengths in international financing and project management, the two countries have found a balance between ecological restoration and economic development. The One Planet Summit hosted by France injected new vitality into this initiative, further mobilizing multi-party resources and international financing through the GGW Accelerator to ensure the sustainable development of the project.

So much so that its program is often analysed as a "green wall" too.

Beyond labels, China and Africa share many common features of eco-regions as the following map suggests.

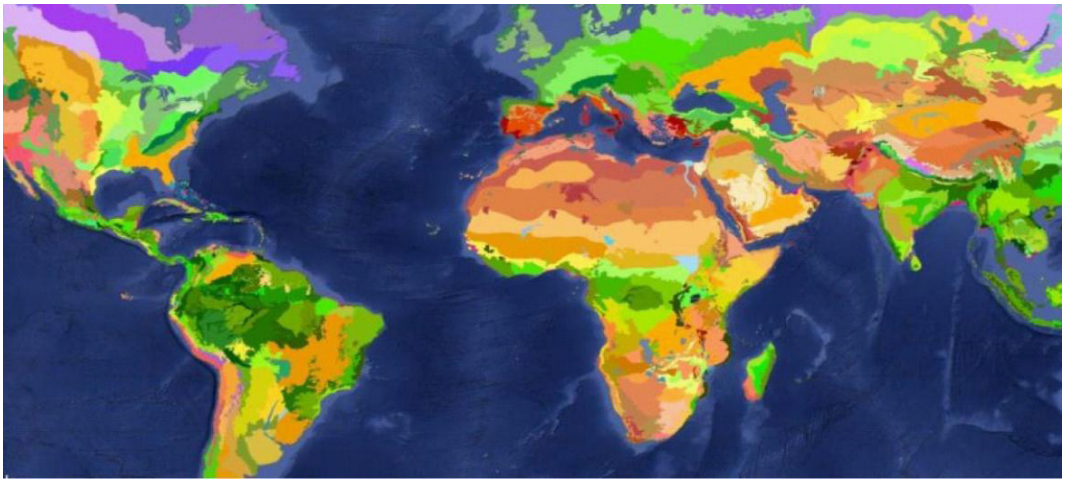

Figure 12: World eco-regions (Source: WWF, 2024) 73

This initiative is not just about constructing a forest belt but represents an innovative model that integrates ecological restoration with socio-economic development. The close cooperation between China and France in technology, funding, and project management showcases the potential of transnational joint governance, ensuring that the implementation of the GGWI delivers both ecological and economic benefits. By enhancing regional economic resilience to climate change, developing a green economy, and expanding the ecosystem's carbon sequestration on this basis, the initiative not only improves the ecological environment but also fosters the growth of green industries. Such cooperation has a profound impact on sub-Saharan Africa and serves as a blueprint for other regions facing similar challenges globally as reference.

02
Trend Analysis

2.1. Technology Forecast

In the field of green hydrogen production, technological advancements are resulting in substantial cost reductions and efficiency improvements. Currently, many research and development projects are focused on refining and optimizing traditional membrane electrolysis and alkaline electrolyzer technologies. Technological progress has steadily lowered the electrical energy requirements and associated costs of water electrolysis, making green hydrogen increasingly economically viable. Additionally, breakthroughs are being made in the development of next-generation technologies such as solid oxide electrolysis cells (SOECs). SOECs operate at high temperatures and can decompose water molecules with higher efficiency, resulting in substantial electricity savings and a reduced carbon footprint in hydrogen production. Technological innovations will not only lower the production costs of hydrogen energy but also enhance its competitiveness in future large-scale deployments, facilitating its application in more fields.

In terms of ecosystem restoration, the combination of technology and science is facilitating the formulation of more efficient restoration methods. With the assistance of satellite remote sensing and drone monitoring technologies,

scientists can now obtain high-resolution data to assess the health and changes in ecosystems. These advanced tools allow for real-time monitoring and can identify subtle changes that are difficult to detect by traditional means. Furthermore, ecologists' deeper understanding of ecosystem dynamics, especially research on species interactions and habitat functions, enables the formulation of more targeted ecosystem restoration strategies. Implementing different species introduction and habitat management measures can promote the restoration of local biodiversity and ecological balance. The ongoing integration of science and technology is greatly enhancing the efficiency and success rate of ecosystem restoration, leading humanity to make meaningful progress toward sustainable development.

Green hydrogen energy is anticipated to expand in the future. The global market is anticipated to grow swiftly due to enhanced production capacity, technological advancements, and the implementation of government assistance policies.. China and France will be key players in this growth, cooperating on technological advancements and deploying large-scale projects. Additionally, access to renewable energy resources and the availability of water resources will be important factors that affect production.

2.2. Cooperation Among Countries

Governments are proactively promoting policies and strategies to support sustainable development goals such as green hydrogen energy and ecosystem restoration. These policies, grounded in standardized frameworks, create a favorable environment for the development of the green hydrogen industry while also aiding in the restoration of ecosystems. By establishing carbon pricing mechanisms and streamlining relevant regulations, many countries are successfully attracting investments and promoting technological innovation. International cooperation is crucial in this process, as countries collaborate to develop global guidelines, share research results and technical standards, and maximize global ecological and economic benefits while avoiding market barriers.

Among the many factors driving the green transition, blended finance mechanisms have emerged as a key driver. By reducing project risks and effectively integrating public and private sector resources, they have significantly attracted private capital. This initiative allows governments to better leverage the investment potential of private enterprises, expanding the funding pool available to support more green projects. This financing approach comple-

ments public finance and motivates private enterprises to actively participate in climate action.

As the world transitions to a green economy, blended finance is driving the implementation of a series of innovation projects. At international forums, countries have continued to explore ways to optimize and expand the application of blended finance, so that it can play a more prominent role in global climate policy. In particular, blended finance is playing an even more crucial role in mobilizing funds for adaptation and restoration projects in developing countries. The in-depth cooperation between international financial institutions and development banks will help share risks, improve transparency, and promote more efficient and equitable finance mechanisms.

2.3. Geopolitics

Geopolitical dynamics have a profound impact on global climate cooperation and investment decisions, especially amid escalating tensions between China and the West over the dominance of key raw materials and technologies. This tension not only exacerbates the difficulties associated with obtaining essential resources but also impedes the process of global technological cooperation to a certain extent. The development of battery production and green hydrogen energy technology relies on certain strategic mineral resources, and the supply of these resources is affected by changes in geopolitical situations. Therefore, to reduce dependence on external resources and ensure autonomy in technological innovation and supply chain security, countries have become more cautious in formulating climate policies.

In this context, the importance of international cooperation is even more prominent. Countries need to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics through dialogue and cooperation to achieve global sustainable development goals. Cooperation can not only ease tensions but also encourage equal access to resources and technology sharing, thereby driving the establishment of more inclusive and universally applicable global standards and norms. By establish-

ing international relations based on mutual trust and mutual benefit, countries can more effectively address the challenges posed by climate change, jointly promote green technological innovation, and ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Cooperation also provides an opportunity to explore innovative mechanisms such as blended finance to pool a broader range of resources and investments, making global actions in response to climate change more efficient and influential. Through multi-tiered cooperation, countries can not only resolve potential risks posed by geopolitics but also promote a more sustainable future for the entire world.

03

Looking Ahead:
Advancing the Green Agenda

3.1. Multilateral Climate Negotiations

As global climate governance evolves, countries are increasingly emphasizing bottom-up approaches, allowing local socio-economic dynamics to more profoundly influence national climate policies. This indicates widespread support for the merger of public and private sectors, with the roles of non-state actors such as businesses, cities, industries, and NGOs increasingly recognized. These actors not only play a role in implementing and monitoring climate policies but also inspire and lead the agenda for change. Since the COP20, these entities have played significant roles in global climate politics through such frameworks as the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA). Therefore, climate negotiations require coordination among countries and leveraging the power of various industries and interest groups. This "hybrid multilateralism" model emphasizes in-depth interaction and collaboration between states and non-state actors to formulate effective policies and achieve true ecological transformation.

The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) is the primary platform for multilateral climate negotiations, with an increasing number of countries participating in multilateral cooperation since 2005. The establishment of such a part-

nership not only expands the participating groups but also enriches the voices in negotiations. During these negotiations, developed and emerging countries may sometimes disagree due to conflicting interests, but this also presents opportunities for cooperation. Expanding the space for compromise, enhancing negotiating power, and advocating for climate justice is particularly important for small or less developed countries. Although this increases the complexity of coordination and "transaction costs," it also provides more opportunities for participation and expression. Despite its diverse motivations, cooperation plays a crucial role in climate negotiations.

3.2. Global Climate Cooperation Strategies

Multilateral cooperation plays a significant role in addressing climate change and global challenges, and their success depends on support from multiple factors. First, policy coherence is crucial. The Paris Agreement garnered extensive support owing to its comprehensive and collaborative initiatives. However, the political positions of cooperating parties may evolve during negotiations, necessitating flexibility in response. The success of multilateral cooperation is contingent upon its adaptability and appeal to members, as well as its stable organization and structure.

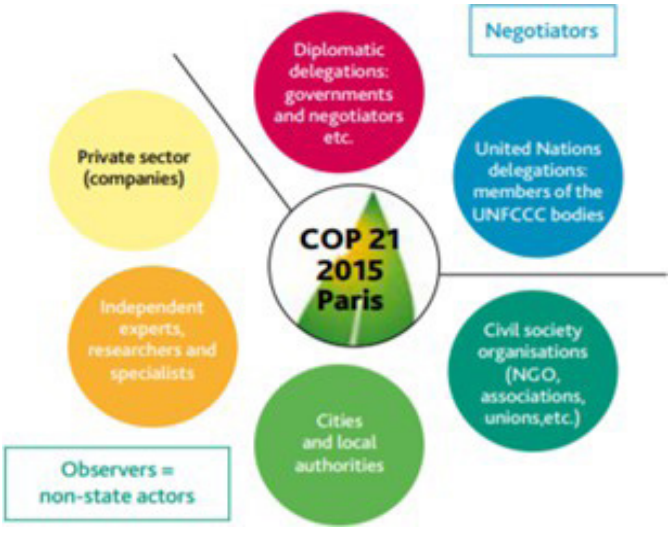

Figure 13: Stakeholders in Climate change negotiations

The green cooperation between China and Europe serves as a leading example for the global low-carbon transition. Both sides have taken on significant leadership roles in green finance and zero-carbon technologies. Despite challenges such as competition in the clean energy industry and changes in international systems, they exhibit strong potential for cooperation in areas such as technological cooperation, green urban development, and energy strategies. This partnership not only promotes the development of green finance but also enhances strategic trust through various forms of dialogue.

Including Africa into the Sino-French dialogue system is crucial for expanding cooperation. Africa's power infrastructure and sustainable development goals align with those of China and France, and greater support can be provided through synergies in finance, technology, and policy. Cooperation between the development banks of China and Europe is also vital for enhancing assistance to Africa via equitable financing mechanisms.

China and France possess unique potential in the realm of global sustainable development, primarily through their commitment to "proactive forecasting" in addressing global challenges. This strategy encompasses forward-looking analysis and detailed strategic planning to address complex geopolitics and technological advancements. By identifying key areas such as energy, technology, and carbon financing, both countries can achieve breakthroughs together.

Meanwhile, Sino-French cooperation in Africa underscores support for countries in the Global South, particularly in electrification and infrastructure development. International financial support plays a crucial role in Africa, and

while rating mechanisms may influence funding effectiveness, China and France foster broader global climate policy dialogues by supporting the positions of countries in the Global South. These initiatives are anticipated to improve climate negotiations' procedures and transparency through robust regional cooperation, encouraging economic, technological, and industrial collaboration. Strategic industrial cooperation should be based on common interests in raw materials, agriculture, and minerals. Cooperation in energy and industrialization should be mutually dependent, producing win-win results. In the field of technology, especially in electrification, electrolyzers, and nuclear energy, both sides can achieve breakthroughs through technological exchanges. In carbon financing, it is necessary to improve the carbon pricing system to promote a global low-carbon economy.

In summary, China and France should fully leverage current opportunities to accelerate global ecological and economic transformation via strengthened-multilateral cooperation and strategic cooperation. This collaboration yields economic and environmental advantages while exemplifying global sustainable development, fostering positive geopolitical relations and ecological growth. Through pro-active forecast and flexible adjustments, both sides can more effectively tackle future challenges and make significant contributions to global sustainable development.

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Formerly known as the Center for International Communication Studies, a research institution established in 2004 under China International Communications Group (CICG), it was renamed ACCWS in 2017. ACCWS is building itself into a top-ranked think tank by conducting research on studies of communicating contemporary China with the world, China's image building, global communication strategy and policy, and international public opinion on China and the world, etc. Based on a self-developed database, ACCWS provides over 20 research products for Chinese government and enterprises. ACCWS compiles

professional book series and publishes three in-depth periodicals: *International Communications, Chinese Translators Journal, and Contemporary China and World.*

ACCWS sponsors international think tank forums on global governance and cultural exchanges, and organizes national symposiums on international communication studies every year. ACCWS hosts the Global Young Leaders Dialogue (GYLD) program and an information-sharing initiative among global think tankers.

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About Us

The Bridge Tank

The Bridge Tank, founded in 2014 by public figures, practitioners and academics from Europe, Asia, Africa, is a not-for-profit, independent, economic think tank, gathering captains of industry and top political leaders from China, India, Africa, Europe working on policy & economic diplomacy.

It serves as a Member of the G20/Think20 since 2017 in the Climate Change and Finance Task Force, and in the G20/the Business20 Climate finance and energy task forces of the G20 since 2023.

Its themes of specialisation and expertise run across several industrial, economic and geo-economic sectors. As far as the themes of this report are concerned, The Bridge Tank was the only think tank invited to the launch of the Hydrogen Council during Davos Forum in 2017, has published on innovative climate finance and been associated to national climate finance strategies in Africa through UNDP programs, as well as to joint research on land restauration strategies. On thses topics, The Bridge Tank has co-organised joint events in the Climate Change Conferences: COP26, COP27, COP28 and COP29.

In the 2023 UN Water Conference it launched the UN-registered "World Water for Peace Conference", an initiative on hydro-diplomacy and land regeneration (UN #SDGAction50736).

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