



# 2nd World Conference on Sustainability, Energy and Environment

Berlin, Germany

09-11 Dec 2022

## Climate Governance Cooperation and BRI: An Analysis of China's Green Diplomacy

Wu Kerui<sup>1</sup> & Hashmat Ullah Khan<sup>2</sup>

1. Ph.D. Student, School of Marxism, Jilin University, China

2. Post-Doctoral Researcher, Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, Northwest University,  
Xi'an, China.

### Abstract

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, climate change has become a serious non-traditional security threat to human life, and climate governance aims to address the problems caused by climate change. China recognizes that climate change is a major challenge and has recently shifted towards a green energy policy, considering that it is the world's largest energy consumer. This policy shift is positively impacting efforts for global climate governance cooperation. Since 2013, many local and other countries' green energy projects have been launched as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This study uses literature analysis as a research method to explore how China ensures environmental protection and climate governance while promoting the BRI projects. This is a challenging but essential task. To ensure green development, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment jointly issued a policy guideline named "Overseas Investment and Cooperation Green Development Guidelines." This policy is an important step in global climate governance and helps to protect against the impact of climate change.

In addition, China has always attached great importance to green diplomacy and actively participates in global environmental governance. China is actively cooperating with the United Nations Environment Program, a part of the Paris Agreement, and all other important global diplomatic initiatives related to climate governance cooperation, providing technical support and financial assistance to developing countries along the BRI. China has also achieved significant success in domestic environmental governance.

**Keywords:** BRI, China, climate change, climate governance, green diplomacy, green energy



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## Introduction

Environmental protection is the "softer" field of diplomacy and international relations (McBeath and Wang, 2008). China has led the global movement for better international climate governance and has continued unwavering in its commitment to fostering coordinated efforts to ensure a prosperous future for all inhabitants. After joining the UN, China also started its effort in environmental protection and climate governance. In this regard, her first attempt was participation in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) in 1972 (McBeath and Leng, 2006). Soon after that, in recognition of the importance of domestic climate governance, China held its first National Environmental Protection Conference in Beijing in August 1973. The main result of this meeting was the acknowledgement that China is facing environmental issues and that an economic growth strategy is needed to consider such issues (McBeath and Wang, 2008).

China has taken an initiative to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and work toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, it is a major structural transformation of the society and economy (Yue and Yaling, 2022). The basic definition of the Chinese philosophy "Man and nature form a community of life," which President Xi has systemically explained, could be summed up as follows: we must be committed to harmony between man and nature; we must be committed to green development; we must be committed to systemic governance; we must be committed to a people-centred approach; we must be committed to multilateralism, and we must be committed to the principle of common but different responsibilities.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's first regional economic and development initiative, currently spans about 70 nations and more than 4.8 billion people, equal to 63% of the world's population. Over 35% more people live in the BRI region than in the rest of the world. 50.8% of the world's energy consumption is accounted for by the total energy usage of BRI nations. BRI nations account for 72.7% of the world's coal consumption, 47.1% of natural gas consumption, and 41.1% of oil consumption. The BRI zone has significant economic growth, strong human activity, and severe ecological sensitivity. The BRI zone's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit GDP are more than double the global average.



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In comparison, access to electric power is a persistent problem in the BRI region. BRI nations produce 60% of the world's emissions of greenhouse gases (Li, 2017). In order to meet the 2- and 1.5-degree objectives, it will be crucial for BRI nations to execute their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) effectively. Additionally, there is a significant potential and a critical need for China and BRI nations to collaborate on green development, low-carbon omission energy sources, and technologies.

The BRI has gained popularity since its inception in an increasing number of nations. It is now referred to as "China's solution" for engaging in global openness and collaboration, enhancing the environmental governance system, fostering shared prosperity and growth, and creating a community of a common future. It seeks to advance the open and orderly movement of economic elements, the highly effective distribution of resources, and the substantial interconnectedness of markets. It proposes cooperatively developing an open, fair, and balanced regional economic cooperation infrastructure and urges the BRI partner nations to enhance financial policy coordination and collaboration and carry out a wider and more in-depth regional high-standard cooperative framework (CCICED, 2019). Despite criticism of the US and some other countries' officials, Numerous studies have shown that the BRI will support economic cooperation that will reduce carbon emissions and improve the environmental quality of member nations (Su et al., 2022; Han et al., 2018). The BRI-affiliated nations have expressed particularly supportive opinions on this subject.

Most studies conducted on BRI have concentrated on the geopolitical and geoeconomic effects, and the matter related to the issue of global order. BRI is considered a component of a new stage of globalisation where China participates more actively. Contrarily, climate-related issues have received less consideration in scholarly works, and there still needs to be more literature on the institutional frameworks and environmental governance concerns brought on by green BRI. This research is aimed at filling the gap.



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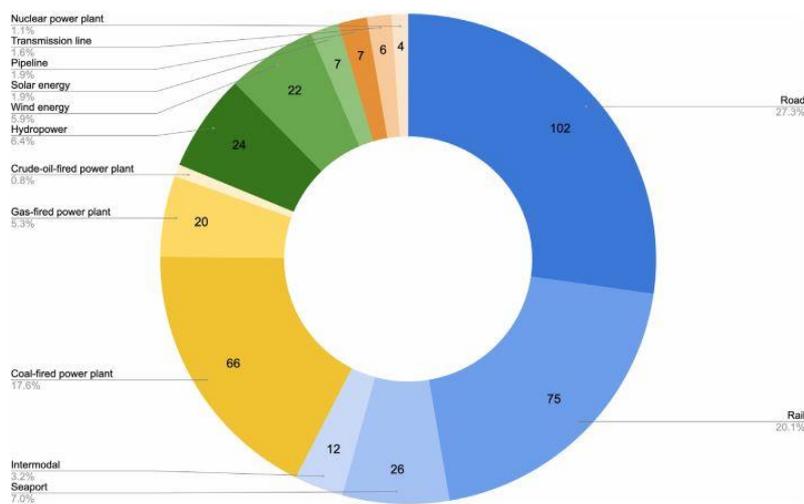
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## Climate Governance of BRI

Governance means discovering collective resolutions to issues that comprise many players and are too complicated to be resolved by persons, groups of persons, or non-state actors (Young et al., 2015). Climate governance is the set of regulatory processes, mechanisms and organisations through which political actors influence climate environmental actions and outcomes (Lemos and Agrawal, 2006). Due to its adverse effects, different countries cooperate in climate governance. Even adversaries big countries are cooperating in climate governance. In this way, tackling the common cause of climate challenges has prospects for peacebuilding also (Kim and Ali, 2016). To effectively address the challenges of climate governance, it is necessary to consider the institutional frameworks and environmental governance issues related to the Green BRI. The implementation of the BRI requires coordination and cooperation among multiple countries and institutions, including independent public and private agencies of China and host nations. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of the governance structures and mechanisms of these institutions is crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and addressing potential governance challenges.

**Figure 1:** Type of BRI projects in 51 countries. Fossil-fuel energy (yellow), transport (blue), renewable energy (green), and other energy (orange).



Source: (Coenen et al, 2020).



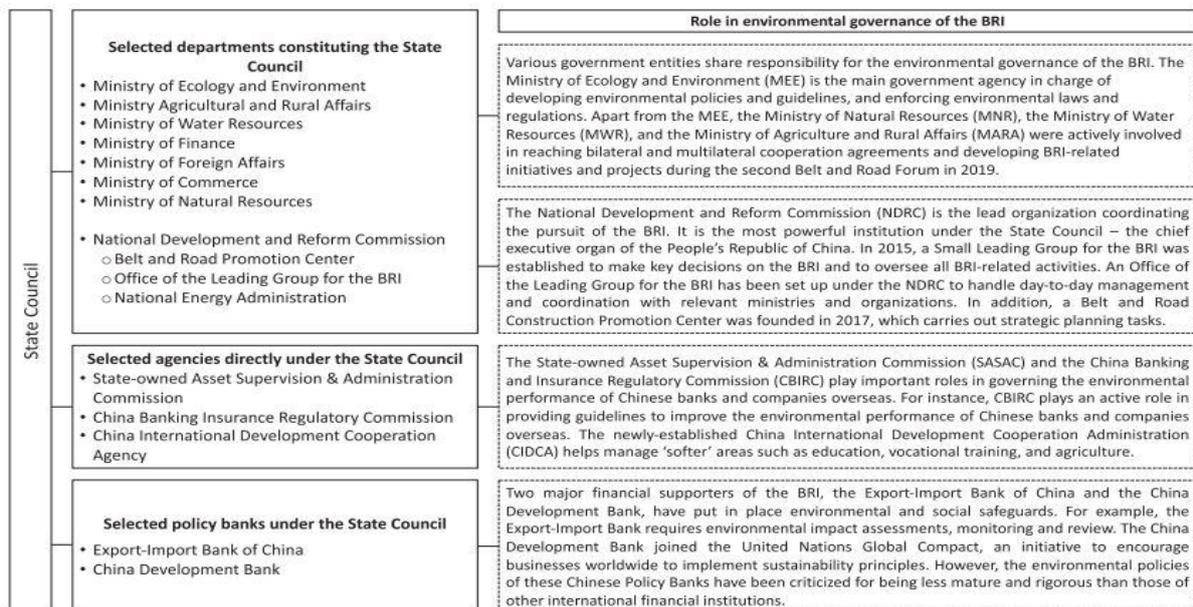
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Various government departments of China and organisations under the State Council, financial institutions, Banks, state-owned and private business players participate in the development and execution of BRI operations at different levels and with different actors (Figure 2).

**Figure 2:** Chinese Entities Involved in the Climate Governance of BRI.



Source: (Coenen et al, 2020).

In the context of the BRI, China has created a complex regulatory framework for climate governance, consisting of BRI-specific and BRI-related regulations. China has placed a high priority on environmental and ecological preservation while making investments abroad. The government has released more than 30 policy guidelines to provide criteria, guiding opinions, and implementing policies on environment preservation in foreign investment and collaboration from a governmental level, in response to the ongoing advancement of China's green finance system and the growing popularity of the sustainable investment idea globally. (CCICED, 2021). These papers encourage BRI project participants to follow local laws and regulations, uphold corporate responsibility obligations, and responsibly regulate environmental practices in their investment endeavours.



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Along with the formal regulations set forth by the government, corporate networks and industry groups have also published environmental regulations, most of which are based on global regulations created by the United Nations Organizations.

The two fundamental policy documents on the BRI are the “Visions and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road” and the “Vision for Maritime Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative,” issued in 2015 and 2017, respectively. According to both vision statements, the BRI should boost communication and collaboration on environmental and climatic protection. The most related rules on environmental governance of the BRI are the “Guidance on promoting a green Belt and Road” and the “The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan”. They strongly advocate for environmentally friendly policies, emphasising that enterprises should assist low-carbon and green development, save biodiversity, and deal with climate change. China positioned itself as a major proponent of global environmental regulation as a result of these initiatives. The goals of coordinating the "green BRI" with the most well-known UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are repeatedly emphasised in the regulations, which state clearly that promoting the green BRI is a crucial initiative to take part in international environmental governance. These two policies show that China's quest for environmental governance under the BRI is a major aspect. Both describe the obligations of various participants in governance.

**Table 1:** Key Guidelines and Policies of BRI Environmental Governance.

Title	Year Issued
Guidelines on Environmental Protection for Overseas Investment and Cooperation	2013
Visions and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road	2015
Guidelines for Social Responsibility in Outbound Mining Investments	2015
Guidelines for Establishing the Green Financial System	2016
Building the Belt and Road: Concepts, Practices and China's Contributions	2017
Guidance on Promoting a Green Belt and Road	2017
Vision for Maritime Cooperation under the BRI	2017
The Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan	2017
Vision and Actions on Agriculture Cooperation in Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road	2017



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Vision and Actions on Energy Cooperation in Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road	2017
Regulations on Outbound Investment and Business Activities of Private Enterprises	2017
China Banking Regulatory Commission on the Standardisation of Banking Service Enterprises Going Abroad: Guide to Strengthen Risk Prevention and Control	2017
Measures for the Management Outbound Investment Regulations	2017
Environmental Risk Management for China's Overseas Investment Guidelines	2017
Guidelines of Sustainable Infrastructure for Chinese International Contractors	2017
Operational Manual for the Guide on Social Responsibility for Chinese International Contractors	2018
The guidelines on China's Sustainable Agricultural Overseas Investment	2018

China has built a larger governance framework to direct and oversee its abroad investments in addition to the BRI-specific policy documents.

The BRI did not create many regulations controlling how state-owned and private Chinese enterprises behave and report when they operate abroad. The Chinese government has released various guidelines and programs advocating for adherence to host nations' rules and laws in response to increasing concerns about the environmental practise of Chinese businesses operating overseas. Chinese banks, who make up the majority of investors in Project financing, have also created an environmental protection mechanism. Multilateral development institutions, like the Asian Investment and Infrastructure Bank and the New Development Bank, which approved Environmental in 2016, are additional significant funders of the BRI (Losos et al., 2019).

## **China's Green Diplomacy**

Various ecological issues exist in China that have pushed the government to take increasingly aggressive measures, as indicated by the tightening of environmental regulations throughout time (Li and Shapiro, 2020). The long-term, stable, and sustainable growth of social, economic and ecosystems are now threatened by the consequences of climate change resulting from the expansion of economic activity. It is crucial to aggressively combat climate change and promote low-carbon and green development to encourage high-quality growth. This calls for the creation of a strong economic framework for development, a sustainable, low-carbon and effective energy supply, and ways of living.



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The fundamental changes in the economy, manufacturing, energy, transport and consumer will provide a consistent push for high-quality growth toward a position where both tackling climate change and industrial progress are mutually beneficial. China's climate diplomacy is heavily driven by economic motivations, as it benefits financially by participating in the Clean Development

Mechanism (CDM), a flexible market-based framework mandated by the Kyoto Protocol. China's distinct inter-agency bureaucracy on climate change and its overriding concern for economic development have determined China's diplomatic approach (Chen, 2008).

China is aware of the significance of climate governance and mitigating climate change for achieving domestic goals for sustainable growth and creating a human society with a shared future. Green development has become the BRI defining characteristic. China's participation in the BRI's green initiative is founded in its national environmental setting. The rhetoric of "ecological civilisation," incorporated into Communist Party thought in 2007 and endorsed by President Xi as a fundamental framework in 2013, serves as the foundation for these significant changes (Hansen et al., 2018). Under Xi Jinping's ideas on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China has prioritized environmental protection as a key component of sustainable development and building a community with a shared future for humanity. This has been reflected in China's various initiatives, such as promoting green development in the Belt and Road Initiative and emphasizing the importance of harmony between humans and the environment in its international development proposals. Chinese President Xi Jinping stated that his country "adheres to a course that puts ecological protection first while seeking low-carbon and green development" during the virtual Summit of Leaders on Climate in April 2021, which was hosted by United States President Joe Biden (Noor, 2022b). Since joining the United Nations Organisations, China has approved more than 50 multilateral environmental accords and treaties (McBeath and Wang, 2008).

In order to participate in environmental protection, China has also inked several bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries, including Germany, Australia, Korea, Japan and Netherlands.

In September 2015, President Xi Jinping attended the United Nations Development Summit and, together with leaders from various countries, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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The world community entered a new era of pursuing sustainable development by adopting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Constructing Sustainable BRI complies with eco-civilisation construction requirements and follows current trends. Regarding objectives, principles, and objectives, the green development of BRI strongly reflects and supports the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (CCICED, 2021). The 17 objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are aligned with the BRI's projected development cooperation, facility connection, unrestricted trade, and economic integration. China is actively pursuing eco-environmental cooperation and sustainable development goals in its cooperation and investment with other countries, including BRI member nations (Wang et al., 2021). This involves promoting high-quality collaboration and green development partnerships that prioritize areas such as green infrastructure, renewable energy, and green finance. Through these efforts, China aims to support sustainable development in BRI member nations and improve people's livelihoods in a sustainable manner. The world is increasingly turning to China for leadership in environmental protection following the United States' decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. China is advocating for a more equitable, collaborative, and global climate governance system based on principles of equality.

China is also actively assisting BRI nations in their efforts to combat climate change through various international cooperation structures. As President Xi stated at the 19th National People's Congress in 2017, "China has emerged as an indispensable member, contributor, and torchbearer in the international quest for ecological civilization." (Li, 2017, p. 1). In addition, China has also launched venues for the "Green BRI" in coordination with other member countries' governments and NGOs.

In 2016, uniting Chinese and foreign think tanks, environmental NGOs, and institutions, the BRI Green Development Coalition was established to offer policy proposals for sustainable growth under the BRI. The Coalition focuses on problems of ecological preservation, climate change, decarbonisation, green financing, and industrial collaboration in order to achieve the objectives set forth by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. This Coalition aims to assist China in leveraging and strengthening its position in global climate governance by collaborating with the global community to encourage sustainable development. China is collaborating with other nations to create a BRI that is green, healthy, peaceful and intelligent.



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During the inaugural BRI Forum in 2017, President Xi said that in order to achieve the objectives set forth by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is necessary to improve cooperation in environmental and ecological preservation (Coenen et al., 2020). The "International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road Initiative" (BRIGC), which was created by the MEE and foreign partners, most notably the UNEP, is a prime example.

In order to advance common international understanding, awareness, collaboration, and action of a green BRI, BRIGC aims to establish a policy dialogue forum, environmental knowledge and information platform, provide guidelines, recommendations, economic assistance, and a platform for the exchange and transfer of green technologies. President Xi initially suggested the Coalition in 2017 at the inaugural Belt and Road Forum (Xinhua, 2017). The Coalition has 132 members, including the national environmental ministries, 8 inter-governmental organisations, 68 non-governmental groups, and 30 companies (BRIGC, 2019). It has formed many major themes that address a variety of topics, including ecology, sustainable infrastructure, and renewable energy.

The UN Secretary-General and 20 other high-ranking UN officials participated in the second Belt and Road Forum in 2019. More than 25 UN organisations have inked pacts with China on BRI (Coenen et al., 2020). China is actively advocating ecological civilisation in international settings, most notably by choosing it as the focus of the COP15 Biodiversity Summit that will be held in China in the year 2021. At the UN General Assembly in September 2022, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated China's dedication to sustainable global development (Noor, 2022b). He emphasised that his country is implementing decisive steps to cut its emissions of greenhouse gases and is significantly contributing to implementing international accords and protocols to combat climate change.

## **Climate Governance Cooperation and Green Development in BRI**

The global financial system and global trade have lagged since the start of the global 2008 economic crisis. Global economic and trade growth has been slow, and uncertainty continues.



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So, there was an urgent need for such an initiative to strengthen global economic growth and international trade. One of the aims of BRI is to strengthen global economic activities and international trade. In 2013, President Xi introduced BRI against this backdrop. The BRI's debut in 2013 has led to increased economic and commercial cooperation among participant nations (Salam and Xu, 2022). According to World Bank projections, the BRI connectivity projects leading to decreased trade costs would contribute to an overall rise in global income, and BRI-related investments may lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty (CCICED, 2021).

Worldwide greenhouse gas emissions have increased to previously unheard-of levels in the last ten years, but the rate of increase is reducing. A huge increase in carbon emissions is a major contributor to climate change and presents a serious and urgent worldwide issue. Since 2013, worldwide carbon emissions have risen steadily, reaching a record high level of 34.36 billion tonnes in 2019. (Li and Bai, 2022). It has become critical to balance economic growth and environmental degradation. China is making ferocious efforts to lower its own carbon dioxide emissions and boost the use of renewable and sustainable energy resources. China has set a significant goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. It has pledged to increase the percentage of renewable energy sources consumption (including solar, wind, hydropower, biofuels, and other sources) to 20 per cent by 2025 and 25 per cent by 2030. China has thus made increasing its hydroelectric capacity a top priority. The country's capacity to produce sustainable energy will increase to 380 Gigawatts by 2025. (Noor, 2022a). A vital source of renewable energy with great promise is hydroelectric power. China is one of the top nations for producing hydroelectric power.

Because of its enormous hydroelectric power potential, generating capacity, and cutting-edge technologies, research, and development, China has continued to lead the world in producing renewable energy from hydroelectric power since 2004. Hydroelectricity is one of the major sources of renewable energy that may substitute for fossil fuels and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

China presented BRI as a means of achieving "green growth," highlighting its aggressive climate change goals and pioneering role in environmentally friendly sectors like renewable energy. A "soft" strategy for greening is growth, although up until now, attempts to "green" the BRI has been concentrated on minimising the effects of massive infrastructure.



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In the BRI project, China has extensively focused on green development projects. The guiding concepts for developing the BRI are participation, contribution, and mutual benefits. Numerous sustainable energy projects have been initiated, and China has increased its investment in renewable energy projects in BRI member nations. China has also started the adoption of green construction technologies in the construction of new cities. Xiong'an New area is an ecologically friendly city and will become the first carbon-neutral city (Yue and Yaling, 2022). China has also stopped the construction of coal-based power plants abroad since 2021. China and other member nations place high importance on reducing carbon emissions in BRI projects in order to combat climate change (Waheed et al., 2021). If they effectively implement green collaboration, it will assist the member countries in coping with climate change (Mao and Wang, 2022) and benefit the entire globe (Tao et al., 2020).

The BRI's environmental protection initiatives, green infrastructure development, and energy investments will significantly contribute to the worldwide reduction of carbon emissions (Liu et al., 2020). Encouraging the switch to a low-carbon emission energy system is a crucial step for China and the BRI nations to take in order to combat climate change collectively (Lin and Bega, 2021). China is promoting carbon reduction collaboration under the BRI framework through research and development efforts and the efficient use of cutting-edge technology, implementing scientific means for involved countries to decrease their carbon emission. China is also one of the world's largest producers of irrigated and hydroelectric technologies. Most of BRI's green collaboration initiatives are centred on conservation work for water, hydropower, forestry and agriculture. China has spent a significant amount of money building these industries at home and is now concentrating its developmental assistance commitments to emerging nations on the same industries. For instance, Chinese FDI to Africa has extensively used agricultural technologies provisions (Tugendhat and Alemu, 2016). In order to combat worldwide climate change, it is crucial to enhance international collaboration between China and BRI nations through increased green infrastructure development and construction of renewable energy resources.

China is making every effort to support South-South collaboration focused on achieving outcomes to assist developing nations in strengthening their capacity to combat climate change. As part of South-South collaboration, China has also helped 28 nations with 37 climate change prevention and adaptation tasks, signed 38 MoUs with other developing



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nations, and organised over 100 training sessions on environmental issues, sustainable energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (UNFCCC, 2022).

Additionally, Tsinghua University and many other prestigious universities jointly founded the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) during the Davos Forum in 2019 (UNFCCC, 2022).

China has extensively focused on training, research and dialogue regarding climate change with the BRI member countries. China is proving technologies and training skills to BRI countries which are fruitful for climate governance cooperation. Training presented by a variety of Chinese institutes is a common tool of climate governance. More organisations, including chambers of commerce, business groups, think tanks, and research centres, are organising training for their particular industries. China is characterised as a producer of technologies it has produced through BRI nations and gives the necessary training. For instance, the Belt and Road National Nature Reserve Management and Protection Seminar were held in 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce and the State Forestry Administration of China. The seminar's attendees thought of Chinese wisdom and approaches to managing nature reserves and environment protection (Harlan and Lu, 2022).

China invested extensively in hydropower and green development projects in BRI member countries. One of the most notable infrastructure development projects of the BRI is hydropower. The hydropower sector in China promotes a low-carbon, environmentally friendly technology that is vital to the emissions reduction process. State ministries of China are offering small hydroelectric training and technologies transfer programmes for BRI nations in this regard. According to data, between 2014 and 2019, Chinese businesses spent \$19 billion on BRI hydropower projects. The companies have spent almost \$40 billion on engineering, procurement and construction projects (EPC) (Harlan and Lu, 2022).

The Hangzhou Regional Centre for Small Hydropower (HRC) and the International Centre for Small Hydropower (ICSHP) are two important Chinese institutions conducting extensive training. Every year, these two firms serve as EPC contractors, a centre producer and conduct several training courses for worldwide participants. Since its founding, HRC and ICSHP have sponsored 160 training sessions in hydropower technologies, infrastructure, legislation, and regulations for participants from 112 nations (Harlan and Lu, 2022).



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Additionally, there is an increase in environmental research efforts, international dialogues and other environment and climate change-related cooperation, and extensive development initiatives between China and BRI nations. It became more typical for Chinese and foreign research organisations to share data or work together on projects, especially to promote cooperative assessment and monitoring of a common ecosystem. Some important research projects, dialogue and training forms aimed at climate cooperation are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Climate Governance Cooperation Trainings, Dialogue and Research.

Training and Dialogue	Research
Belt and Road National Nature Reserve Management and Protection Seminar (2021)	Egypt-China Agricultural Green Development Joint Laboratory (2021)
China-Africa Forest Governance Platform, International Training Course on Water Conservancy and Hydropower Construction & Management (annual) Hangzhou, China.	Lancang-Mekong Environmental Cooperation Centre [LMEC]
Capacity Building on Ecological Remote Sensing in Lancang-Mekong Countries (2018)	Sino-Kazakhstan Modern Agricultural Innovation Park (2016)
Lancang-Mekong Roundtable Dialogue on Regional and Global Environmental Governance: Action on Climate Change and Sustainable Infrastructure (2021)	China-Thailand Joint Laboratory for Climate and Marine Ecosystem (2013)
Roundtable Forum on Sustainable Development and Capacity Building of Reservoir Dams and Hydropower (2019)	Vientiane Saysettha Development Zone (2021)
China-Africa Forest Governance Platform	Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway Wildlife Corridor (2017)
China-Laos Environmental Cooperation Office	“Forest-wise” Parks (Sustainable Forest Product Processing Parks) (2019)
China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre	
Green Silk Road Envoys Program, a training program for environmental officials	



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Alliance of International Science Organizations of the BRI region developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences	
International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road	

Source: (Harlan and Lu, 2022).

The BRI has been acknowledged as a useful tool for advancing the adoption of the UN agenda 2030. BRI and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are helping developing nations to shed the mentality of "developing first and then think about the climate change and environmental issues". With numerous projects presently in the planning stages, cooperation in other fields, such as urban greening, waste and pollution disposal, and renewable energy generation initiatives, are anticipated to grow under the umbrella of BRI. The BRI has earned widespread recognition and a favourable response from the global community since its launch in 2013. In terms of connectivity, technologies, and ideas, the BRI has evolved into a global public good that will support efforts to solve common problems with the climate, global warming and reduce poverty worldwide. China's prior active engagement in worldwide cooperation over global warming has proven to be a diplomatic achievement, gaining praise from both third-world nations and many developed nations, contrary to the United States' withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

## Conclusion

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to foster a community of common interests and destiny while promoting mutual cooperation and economic integration. Over the past nine years, the BRI has prioritized the development of green and low-carbon infrastructure, as well as renewable energy resources, in support of climate governance cooperation. China has also aligned the BRI with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, demonstrating its commitment to green diplomacy. China has been an active participant in important international climate change and environmental protection diplomatic forums, agreements, and protocols, thereby strengthening collaboration on climate governance and environmental politics



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in BRI regions and beyond. China's climate governance efforts and green diplomacy have presented new opportunities for sustainable development, low carbon emission projects, and renewable energy resources for BRI member countries.

Chinese investment and development experience are highly valuable to BRI member countries in addressing climate governance challenges. Through the transfer of advanced technologies, technical and financial support, and training related to climate governance, China is assisting BRI member countries in strengthening their climate governance capabilities. The Chinese government has prioritized climate governance as a critical factor in its national, regional, and global strategies. From a broader perspective, China is increasingly utilizing green collaboration to shape international environmental policy, or "green soft power," by advocating for green development and ecological civilization. These efforts provide an alternative to the traditional approach of prioritizing development without considering environmental and climate concerns.

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