



People jog in a wetland park in east China's Zhejiang Province in November. — Photos by Xinhua

China's increasing efforts in biodiversity

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Biodiversity is becoming a buzzword across China as the country prepares to preside over a global meeting this month, to redress the worldwide imbalance between human development and ecological protection.

At a press conference held in Beijing last week, senior Chinese officials said a solid foundation had been laid to implement the much-anticipated

global biodiversity framework. It will be outlined at the second phase of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), which opens today and ends on December 19 in Montreal, Canada.

The first phase of the UN meeting was held in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, last year. China holds the presidency during both phases.

If passed, the global

biodiversity framework will go a long way toward anchoring the world in harmony with nature by 2050, reversing the current imbalance caused in large part by an excessive expansion of human footprints, at the expense of biodiversity. Scientists worldwide have been warning about a possible sixth major extinction of certain species on Earth.

Public awareness and determined actions are needed to create an ultimate check on

our carbon footprints. In this sense, China has been leading by example.

Public awareness

"Look! We have taken photos of the footprints of roe deer," a group of children screamed with joy at a giant wetland park in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Accompanied by their parents and teachers, the children went to observe wildlife at close range in October. Aside

from roe deer, they also found common shelducks.

This exploration of nature was recorded in a video, which was released by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment last Thursday. It was the latest in a series of educational videos the ministry had collected from nature lovers across the country to raise public awareness of biodiversity ahead of the UN conference.

At the end of the aforementioned video, kids collected