The Belt and Road Initiative: paving the way for Sustainable Development?

Guido Broekhoven, WWF UK
US$ 800 Billion

US$ 76.5 Billion
Countries should “deepen cooperation in environmental protection, intensify ecological preservation and build a green Silk Road.”
“It is not a solo song but a chorus”

[It is] “a Chinese solution to global economic blues”

“A symphony of all relevant parties”
The BRI is big

- Huge investments and funds available
- Covers a large geographical area (land and sea)
- Highest political backing in China
- It is developing fast
- Geopolitical shift – China’s role
US$ 800 Billion

Challenges and risks

Opportunities
US$ 800 Billion

Challenges and risks

Opportunities
21st century solutions to 21st century problems
To minimise negative impacts
To maximise positive impacts
Greening the BRI
1. **System level design**: How will a *Green Belt and Road Initiative* look like?

2. **Sector level planning**
   - Upstreaming and mainstreaming
   - Securing natural capital
   - Greening finance

3. **Project level planning and implementation**

4. **Governance and transparency**
Conclusions

• Rapid changes in the geopolitical situation
• BRI is an expression and tool of these changes
• Too big to ignore – implications for decades to come
• Opportunities for Greening the BRI need to be translated into concrete actions
Thank you

© WWF. All photographs used in this presentation are copyright protected and courtesy of the WWF-Canon Global Photo Network and the respective photographers.