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## News digest

The big environmental stories in the Chinese media (18-24 June)

### **No more second-hand car batteries in power-storage facilities**

The National Energy Administration (NEA) [published a new draft policy](#) on 22 June that would ban new power storage projects from using batteries from old electric vehicles (EVs).

According to Jiemian.com, the policy is a response to [a recent accident](#) in April, when a power storage station in Beijing exploded and killed two firefighters. That station integrated solar power generation, storage and EV charging. It was China's largest demand-side power storage project. But the explosion exposed the risks of such large-scale use of EV lithium-ion batteries.

In the NEA draft policy, the top regulator for the energy sector in China decrees that no more such projects are to be built until breakthroughs in battery management and monitoring can ensure safety.

Power storage is a key component of China's decarbonising power system. Pumped-water hydro stations and battery-based storage projects help even out the variable electricity that renewables generate.

In recent years, Chinese policymakers have also been [exploring options](#) to better utilise retired EV batteries, a pressing issue as China's EV fleets expand rapidly.

The new policy is expected to be a blow to the EV battery-recycling business, though it [may benefit sales of new batteries](#).

Read China Dialogue's [earlier coverage](#) of the development of power storage in China.

## **IUCN nature-based solutions standard launched in Chinese**

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) jointly [launched](#) a Chinese-language [version](#) of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. They also launched [guidance](#) for using it and a [compilation](#) of 10 model examples in adopting nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss in China.

The original English version of the IUCN standard [was launched last July](#). It was the first standard to set out clear parameters for defining nature-based solutions and a common framework to help benchmark progress and mitigate unintended consequences or misuse; for example, afforestation projects that descend into monoculture of non-native trees. It's intended to assist governments, companies, NGOs, donors and financiers in designing and evaluating nature-based solution (NbS) projects.

The NbS approach was introduced to the world [at least a dozen years](#) ago. It remained marginal until 2019, when a coalition led by China and New Zealand [produced a manifesto attesting to its value](#) in reducing atmospheric carbon. The manifesto also encouraged countries to adopt NbS in their next round of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Launching the Chinese version of the IUCN standard on Wednesday, Wang Hong, the vice minister of the Ministry of Natrual Resources said nature-based solutions are highly consistent with China's notion of "ecological civilisation".