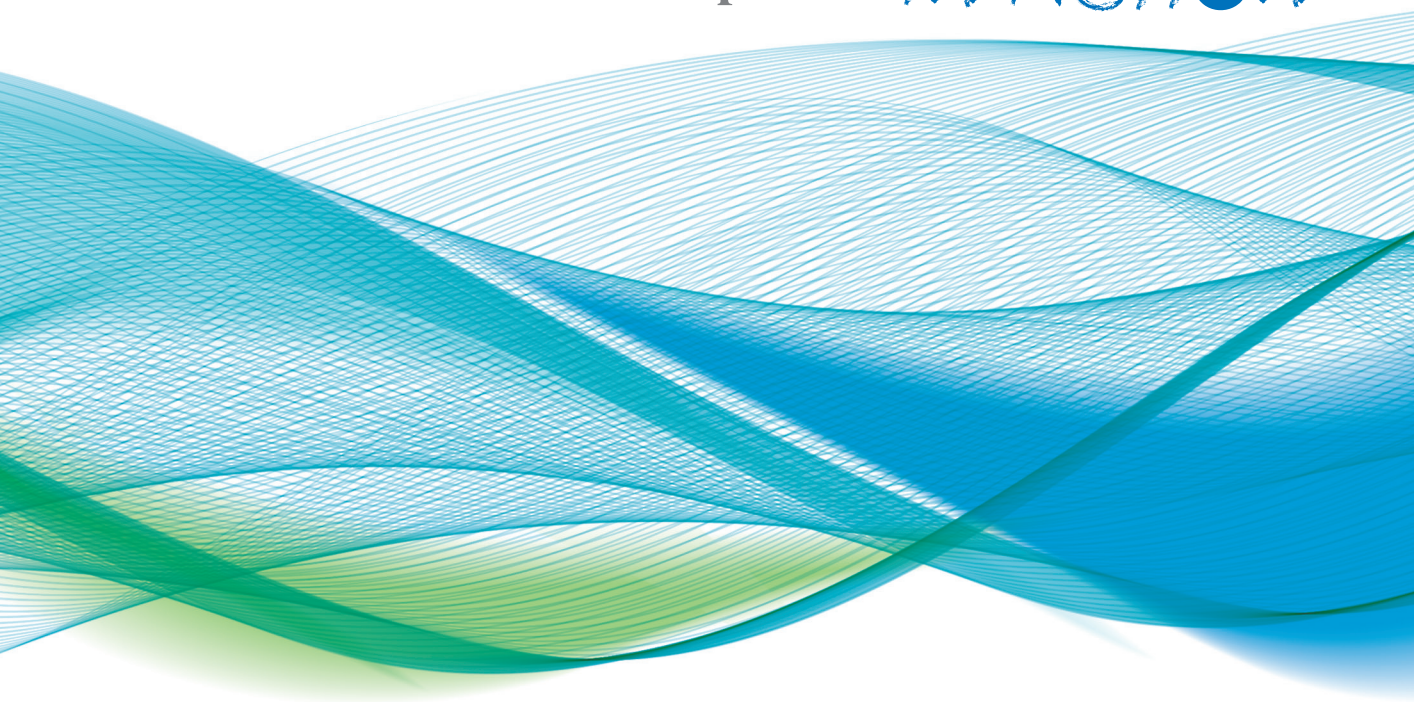


Implementing Water-related Goals
of the United Nations 2030 Agenda
For Sustainable Development

CHINA
IN ACTION



Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources
International Economic & Technical Cooperation and Exchange Center, Ministry of Water Resources

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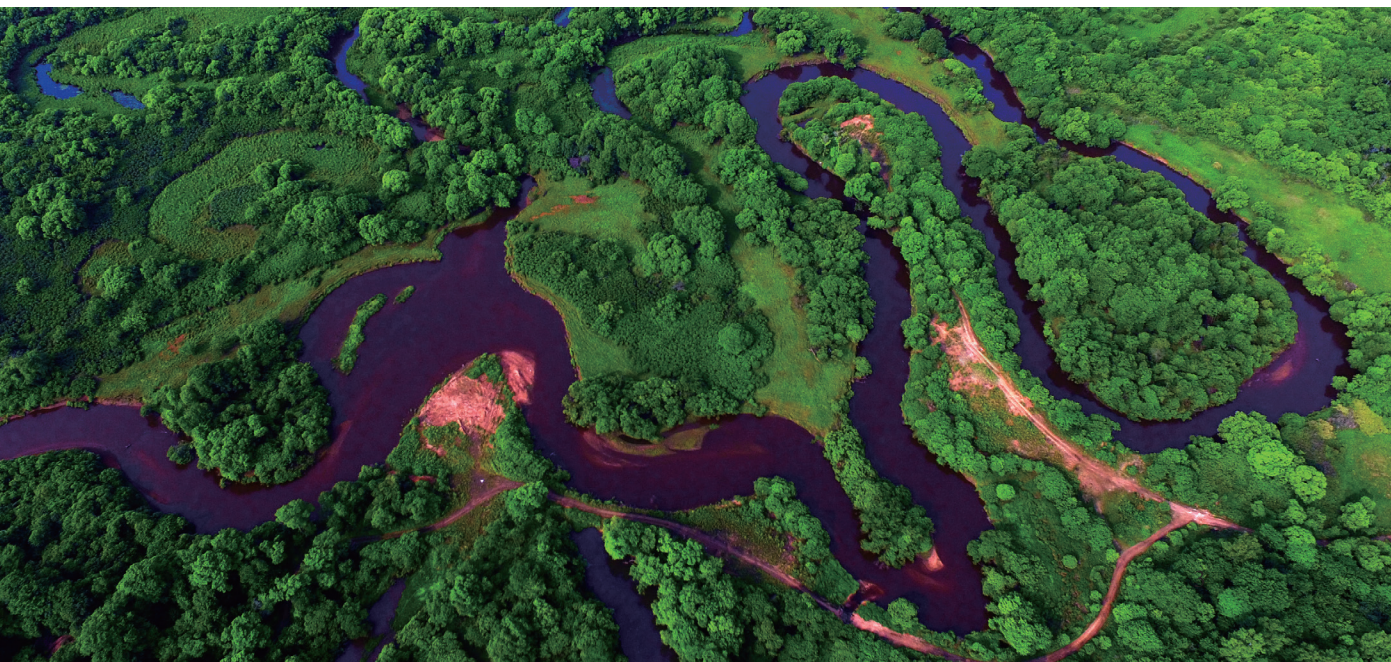
Water is a fundamental resource supporting the sustainable development of economy, society and ecology. Adopted by the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets up dedicated water-related goals. It shows the general consensus of the international community on the importance of water resources. In the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), President Xi Jinping pointed out that China has always adhered to the foreign policy of maintaining world peace and promoting common development, and is committed to pushing forward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In recent years, the Chinese government has attached great importance to the implementation of water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, actively fulfilled its solemn commitment to Sustainable Development Goals, and made positive progresses in achieving water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All of these provide a solid water support and assurance for comprehensively improving the national water security guarantee capacity and realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the issue of drinking water safety for rural residents. From 2016 to 2020, ensuring drinking water safety was included in the poverty alleviation program for meeting the basic living needs of rural poor populations and ensuring such people have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and housing, as an important performance evaluation indicator for local party committees and governments. Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR), in conjunction with relevant departments and local governments at all levels, has focused on poverty alleviation through ensuring drinking water safety and vigorously implemented the construction of rural water supply projects. A total investment of 209.3 billion yuan has been made to complete the construction of these projects, and the level of water supply security has been upgraded for 270 million rural residents. This has resolved the problem of drinking water safety for 17.1 million impoverished people; eliminated excessive fluorine in drinking water for 9.75 million people; and enabled 1.20 million people to avoid drinking brackish water. With an 88% centralized water supply rate and an 83% tap water coverage rate in rural areas, the drinking water safety issue for impoverished people has been comprehensively resolved according to the current standards, and rural water supply is further secured. Since 2021, drinking water safety has been an important component of the effective connection between consolidating and expanding the achievements of

poverty alleviation and rural revitalization. MWR issued the National Rural Water Supply Security Plan for the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, promoted the construction of large-scale water supply projects and standard transformation of small-scale projects in the countryside, pushed forward standardized management of rural water supply projects, and jointly carried out a special action to improve the water quality of rural water supply in conjunction with relevant departments. By the end of 2022, 6.78 million rural water supply projects had been completed across the country; the tap water coverage rate in rural areas reached 87%, up 11 percentage points from 76% in 2015; and large-scale water supply projects (i.e., any urban-rural integrated water supply project that supplies at least 1,000 tons of water to 10,000 people) covered 56% of the rural population.

At the same time, MWR attaches great importance to the institutional improvement of the rural water supply system and has issued institutional documents such as the Notice on Establishing a Management Responsibility System for Rural Drinking Water Safety. This has comprehensively implemented the main responsibility of local governments, the regulatory responsibility of water administration authorities, and the operation and management responsibility of water supply units, and at the same time innovated the operation and management models of rural water supply projects. In rural water supply work, social participation and the mobilization of all forces have been insisted upon. The full participation of water users in the entire process has been vigorously promoted, and the right to information, participation, and supervision has been given to water users, enhancing their sense of responsibility. After the projects are completed, water user representatives are invited to participate in management work, fully mobilizing the enthusiasm of water users.



| Case 1 |

Jilin Province promotes the construction of the monitoring, operation and management platform for rural water supply projects.

The Department of Water Resources of Jilin Province has comprehensively promoted the transformation of rural water supply from traditional guarantee orientation to smart service orientation according to the principles of “demand-driven, application-oriented, empowered by digital technology, and capacity enhancing”. Following the issuance of the Measures for Standardized Management of Rural Water Supply Projects by the provincial government, 66 counties in the province have achieved preliminary unified management at the county level. Additionally, 58 counties have included 60.23 million yuan of maintenance and repair funds in their county-level financial budgets, which has helped to promote the gradual establishment of rural water supply project systems and long-term management and maintenance mechanisms.

(1) Adhere to design at the top and compliance with uniform standards. Jilin Province has formulated its Technical Guidelines (Trial) for Devices and Facilities of the Platform for the Monitoring, Operation and Management of Rural Water Supply Projects to coordinate the development of a shared rural water supply project monitoring, operation and management platform at the provincial, municipal, county, management and maintenance unit, and water user levels. This has achieved full-process information-based monitoring, operation and management of water source protection, water plant management, work order management, revenue management, service management and problem complaints, etc. At the same time, meteorological and hydrological data have been continuously integrated to lay the foundation for achieving departmental interaction and data sharing, and realizing forecasting and early warning, simulation and planning, scientific decision making, and digital twin visualized management.

(2) Adhere to a practical and adaptable approach. In the informatization of small-scale water supply projects, in addition to installing video surveillance systems, Jilin Province has implemented a 1+2+3 alarm system for plant water flow rate, which issues a county-level early warning if there is no water supply



In December 2021, the Jilin Provincial Department of Water Resources hosted a training session on the construction of a platform for the monitoring, operation and management of rural water supply projects.

for 24 hours, a city-level alarm if there is no water supply for 48 hours, and a provincial-level supervision (urge for action) if there is no water supply for 72 hours, ensuring that long-time water supply interruptions do not occur. In terms of water quality assurance, Jilin Province monitors the backwash frequency and outlet flow rate to effectively solve the problem of excessive iron, manganese, and fluoride content caused by inadequate backwashing. In terms of winter water supply assurance, Jilin Province ensures the smooth operation of the projects by implementing online temperature monitoring and automatic heating.

(3) Adhere to the strategy of starting with pilot projects followed by full-scale roll-out. Jilin Province has taken a pilot-first strategy and selected 3,258 projects in 10 cities and counties as pilot projects. It has explored the establishment of water source and water quality models for online monitoring of water quality indicators such as iron and manganese, reducing water quality monitoring costs, and ultimately realizing the goal of unmanned operation, real-time monitoring, less manual inspection, professional management, and online service for rural water supply projects. In 2022, Jilin Province aimed to informatize another 2,354 projects in 10 counties and cities, and to achieve real-time monitoring and smart management of all rural water supply projects in the province in 2-3 years.

Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

The Five-Year Action Plan for Improving the Rural Living Environment (2021-2025) issued by the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council in 2021 aims to improve the rural living environment. It is a major decision and deployment made from a strategic and overall perspective by the CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping at its core, and a key task in implementing the rural revitalization strategy. The plan focuses on promoting the rural toilet revolution by gradually popularizing rural toilets, effectively improving the quality of toilet renovation, and strengthening the harmless treatment and resource utilization of toilet sewage.

Over the years, the central government has invested a total of 14.4 billion yuan in the improvement of rural sanitation, and since 2018, 40 million rural households have had their toilets renovated or newly constructed. At the end of 2021, the living environment in rural areas were improved, with



the coverage rate of sanitary toilets in rural areas reaching 80.3% nationwide, or even higher than 90% in some eastern provinces. In some rural areas with relatively concentrated populations and better infrastructure, water-flushing toilets have been widely adopted. The rural toilet revolution has also received widespread recognition from the people, scoring the second highest satisfaction rate of 94% in a recent survey of basic public health service items that satisfy rural people the most. The attainment of these goals further improves rural sanitation, promotes access to sanitation facilities for all, and advances the integrated development of urban and rural areas, making positive contribution to building a beautiful and healthy China. The Outline for the Development of Chinese Women (2011-2020) proposes strengthening the construction of sanitary toilets that meet the needs of women. It promotes the renovation of public toilets in urban areas, improves the implementation of design standards for urban public toilets, and promotes the normalization of the proportion of male and female toilet seats and the inclusion of compliance rates in the selection criteria for civilized cities, communities, villages and towns, units, and campuses. The rural toilet revolution is orderly promoted in categories, steadily improving the popularization rate of sanitary toilets, and strengthening the harmless treatment and resource utilization of toilet sewage.



| Case 2 |

Huangpi District of Wuhan City carries out toilet revolution to provide people with easier access to sanitation facilities.

Toilets, although of small space, is a reflection of rural revitalization in terms of people's livelihood and level of local civilization; and toilet use, seemingly trivial, concerns the decency and dignity of rural life. In recent years, Huangpi District of Wuhan City has vigorously promoted the "toilet revolution" across the district, achieving a higher than 90% coverage rate of sanitary toilets, effectively improving the urban and rural living environment, and giving a significant boost to the quality of life for the people.

The "toilet revolution" has quietly begun. In 2015, Huangpi District carried out the pilot transformation of rural public dry toilets, completing the renovation of 183 such toilets that year. Based on this, from 2016 onward, Huangpi included rural toilet renovation as one of the ten things that the district government would do for the people for three consecutive years. 1,000 rural public dry toilets were renovated in 2016 and another 1,000 in 2017, while the plan for 2018 was to renovate 1,000 village public dry toilets and 40,000 household toilets.

Government advocacy promoted full-district coverage; good planning contributed to standardization; service orientation led to customized functions; and departmental guidance resulted in standard management. The "toilet revolution" bloomed throughout Huangpi District. According to a main district leader, in recent years, the district government has invested over 100 million yuan in rural toilet renovation. As at the end of October last year, over 90% of the 257,600 rural households in Huangpi District had access to sanitary household toilets, and 2,183 rural public toilets had been built and sustainably maintained in 589 administrative villages of the district.

Toilets, although of small space, are critical to people's livelihood, linked with local civilization, and inherent with business opportunities. According to Wang Chongjie, head of the industry section of the Huangpi District Tourism Committee, the district has numerous tourist attractions, a good natural

2017 Task Distribution for Rural Toilet Renovation in Huangpi District

Neighborhood Name	Total number of households	Number of sanitary toilets		Number of tasks in 2017
		Number of sanitary toilets	Number of harmless toilets	
Caidian Street	11987	5344	287	2000
Caizi Street	8080	4739	1732	1000
Changling Street	11920	3821	632	2400
Liji Street	21491	8068	941	3500
Liuzhi Street	17817	7945	2108	3000
Luohan Street	17574	9831	1369	3100
Mulan Township	10662	4319	1301	2800
Wangjiahe Street	16688	7241	1562	3000
Yaoji street	15088	6628	921	3000
Qianchuan Street	21607	16592	5015	1000
Qijiawan Street	18381	12100	6281	1000
Mulanshan Management Office	654	561	93	100
Total				25900



A bus station toilet at Baoxie before renovation.



A bus station toilet at Baoxie after renovation.

ecological environment, and a favorable location as it is only an hour's drive from downtown Wuhan. The combination of these factors has led to rapid development of tourism throughout the district. In particular, after the fundamental solution of rural toilet problems, the area attracts millions of visitors each year for tourism and sightseeing, and agricultural eco-tourism with the theme of beautiful countryside has reached its peak, boosting farmers' incomes.

The "toilet revolution" is a profound revolution of traditional concepts, lifestyles and approaches to environmental protection. It not only helps people develop good habits of civilized toilet use, but also facilitates improvement in the working and living environments of the people, and as such enables continuous social and cultural progress. According to the officials in charge of Huangpi District, they plan to further promote the "toilet revolution", bid a complete farewell to rural dry toilets in the district during the 13th Five-Year Plan period, and constantly explore new paths of rural revitalization to meet people's demands for better livelihood and guide social and cultural progress.



Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

In 2015, the Chinese government issued the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (abbreviated as the “Ten Water Measures”), which includes main measures such as intensifying industrial pollution control, strengthening urban sewage treatment, promoting agricultural and rural pollution control, and enhancing shipping and port pollution control. By 2021, China’s annual sewage discharge and treatment capacity stood at 58.924 billion m³ and 58.465 billion m³, respectively, equivalent to a sewage treatment rate of 98.1%. The water quality compliance rate reached 88.4% in the water function zones of major rivers and lakes.

In August 2020, of the 1940 national surface water assessment sections, 71.3% were of good water quality (Class I-III), a year-on-year increase of 0.9 percentage point; while 3.2% were of Class V, a year-on-year decrease of 2.7 percentage points. The main pollution indicators were chemical oxygen demand (COD), permanganate index and total phosphorus. In August, 74.6% of the assessment sections in the seven major river (Yangtze River, Yellow River, Pearl River, Songhua River, Huai River, Hai River and Liao River) basins, as well as those of the rivers in the Northwest, Southwest, and Zhejiang-Fujian region were of Class I-III water quality, a growth of 1.3 percentage points year on year; and 2.6% of the sections were of Class V water quality, a drop of 2.8 percentage points year on year. The main pollution indicators were COD, permanganate index and total phosphorus. Among them, the water quality of the rivers in the Northwest and Southwest was excellent; that of the Yangtze River Basin, the rivers in Zhejiang-Fujian region, the Pearl River Basin and the Yellow River Basin was good; and that of the Songhua River, Liao River, Huai River and Hai River basins was slightly polluted. By the end of 2020, over 70% of the seven major river (the Yangtze River, Yellow River, Pearl River, Songhua River, Huai River, Hai River, and Liao River) basins recorded good water quality (at or above Class III); the proportion of black and odorous water bodies in the built-up areas of cities at and above the prefecture level was controlled below 10%; over 93% of the centralized drinking water sources in cities at and above the prefecture level reached or exceeded Class III in terms of water quality; the proportion of extremely-poor-quality groundwater nationwide was controlled at around 15%; and 70% of coastal waters was good in quality (Class I and II). In the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the ratio of water-body sections with the loss of useful functions (inferior to Class V) dropped by about 15

percentage points, while the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta regions strove to eliminate water bodies with the loss of useful functions.

By 2025, 85% of surface water bodies will reach Class I-III water quality, and about 79% of coastal waters will be of good water quality (Class I and Class II). At the same time, urban black and odorous water bodies will be basically eliminated; soil pollution risks will be effectively controlled; the capacity to treat solid waste and new pollutants will be significantly enhanced; the quality and stability of ecosystems will continue to improve; the eco-environment governance system will be more complete; and new progress will be achieved in the construction of an ecological civilization. The sewage outlets along the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Bohai Sea and important tributaries of the Yangtze River such as the Chishui River will be basically rectified. The basin-specific coordination mechanism for prevention and control of water pollution will be improved; and comprehensive governance of key basins (e.g., Hai River, Liao River, Huai River, Songhua River, and Pearl River basins) will be deepened, with a focus on promoting pollution control and ecological restoration of important lakes. Coastal cities will strengthen the control of total nitrogen emissions from fixed pollution sources and the treatment of non-point source pollution, and implement projects to reduce total nitrogen in rivers that flow into the sea.

By 2030, more than 75% of the 7 major river basins in China will be of good water quality; the black and odorous water bodies in urban built-up areas will be eliminated in the overall sense; and the water quality of about 95% of urban centralized drinking water sources will reach or exceed Class III.



| Case 3 |

Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region explores a new model of water ecology and environment protection.



Artificial wetland

In order to fundamentally improve the water quality of key drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River, on the basis of in-depth investigation and scientific demonstration, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region put forward the basin-wide systematic governance concept of “source control, ecological restoration, and end treatment”. Key focuses were the Yellow River’s main and tributary streams, important lakes, and key drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River. The implementation of the “five major governance projects” cleared up the backlog of environmental issues and addressed deficiencies. All 36 urban sewage treatment plants in the region met first-class A discharge standard, and all of the 22 industrial parks achieved centralized sewage collection and treatment. 58 direct industrial discharge outlets into rivers, lakes and channels were blocked, and 33 large-scale livestock and poultry farms were closed or relocated. In response to the reality that the water quality of the drainage channels after the sewage treatment plants remained in Class V, despite the fact that all urban and industrial park sewage treatment plants in the autonomous region met the first-class A discharge standards, Ningxia consulted large volumes of relevant materials and studied the experiences



Artificial wetland

of water governance from role-model provinces and cities in China, and subsequently decided to implement a large-scale construction of artificial wetlands and other control projects in the region to improve the quality of the water environment and ensure that the water quality of the drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River was steadily maintained at Class IV.

As a carrier of major pollution sources, the key drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River are an important factor directly threatening the safety of water quality of the Yellow River and a key focus of water pollution control in Ningxia. Since 2016, the central and regional governments have allocated a total of nearly 1.2 billion yuan special funds for water pollution control, which supported the development of 22 artificial wetlands in suitable sections of the key drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River, resulting in significant decrease of the main pollutant COD and the ammonia indicator, and gradual realization of environmental benefits. The proportion of water bodies of Class V water quality at the inlets of 13 key drainage channels flowing into the Yellow River dropped from 84.6% in 2016 to 15.4% in 2019, and all of the channels reached Class IV or higher water quality from January to September 2020.

Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

In 2022, MWR continued to promote the implementation of the National Action Plan for Water Conservation. Among others, it steadily promoted key measures such as dual quantity-intensity control of water consumption, water conservation and higher water use efficiency in agriculture, water conservation and emission reduction in industry, water conservation and loss reduction in urban areas, conserving water and developing water sources in key regions, and steering actions with scientific and technological innovations. Specific achievements included the following: (1) Established a dual quantity-intensity control indicator system for water consumption during the “14th Five-Year Plan” period, intensifying planned quota management of water consumption, strictly evaluating water conservation, and reducing water consumption by 2.2 billion m³; (2) Promoted in-depth water conservation and control of water consumption in the Yellow River Basin, achieving full coverage of planned water management for industrial and service entities with an annual water consumption of 10,000 m³ or more each in the Yellow River Basin and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region; (3) Included 13,762 water use entities in the list of key monitoring targets at the national, provincial and municipal levels; (4) Implemented 151 contractual water conservation management projects, promoted the establishment of the 5th batch of 349 counties (districts) that met the standards for the construction of a water-saving society, built 182 water-saving irrigation areas, selected 78 cities as pilots for recycled water utilization and allocation, and announced the selection of 30 champion products and 78



champion companies and industrial parks for high water use efficiency; (5) Hosted the 2022 National Water Conservation Innovation and Development Conference, where 950 million yuan project contracts were signed on site, and local governments were guided to launch “water conservation loan” financing services, with a cumulative approved loan amount of 26.8 billion yuan; (6) Issued three batches of promotion catalogs for 160 national mature and applicable water-saving technologies and the catalog for 152 State-encouraged major water-saving industrial processes, technologies and equipment (2021); (7) Established a special national water conservation information reporting mechanism, took the lead in launching a 10-department joint publicity campaign for the Water Conservation Code of Conduct for Citizens, engaged the central government media and water media to publish 3,940 reports on water conservation, and hosted the 3rd “Water Saving Near Me” short video contest that received 520,000 entries with a total playback volume of 1.6 billion times at the Douyin platform.

According to the 2021 China Water Resources Bulletin, water consumption nationwide totaled 592.02 billion m³, and water use efficiency continued to improve; per capita comprehensive water consumption in the country stood at 419 m³, and water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP was 51.8 m³; actual irrigation water consumption per mu of cultivated land registered 355 m³, and the effective utilization coefficient of farmland irrigation water was 0.568; water consumption per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value was 28.2 m³; and per capita daily water consumption (including public water use) was 176 liters in urban areas and 124 liters in rural areas. Calculated at comparable prices, the water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP and per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value decreased by 5.8% and 7.1% respectively compared with 2020. The national irrigated area exceeded 1.1 billion mu, of which effectively irrigated farmland registered 1.037 billion mu, water-saving irrigation area extended 567 million mu, and high-efficiency water-saving irrigation area was 350 million mu.



| Case 4 |

Ningbo City of Zhejiang Province comprehensively promotes the development of a water-saving society.



The wastewater reuse tank of Zhenhai Refinery

The 2021 Ningbo City Water Resources Bulletin was recently released. In terms of total quantity, Ningbo is not lacking in water. In 2021, the city's water resources totaled 15.365 billion m^3 , of which surface water resources took up 14.696 billion m^3 , an increase of 93.7% from the previous year and 86.9% higher than the interannual average. The city's large and medium-sized reservoirs had a combined storage capacity of 889.5 million m^3 at the end of the year, an increase of 312 million m^3 over the beginning of the year.

Based on the local situation, Ningbo has implemented the “city-wide coordinated operation” of reservoirs and water treatment plants (“one game of chess for the whole city”) for many years to ensure the supply of water for daily life and production purposes. At the same time, in line with the development concept that “water conservation is more important than water transfer”, Ningbo attaches great importance to water conservation and efficient water use, and has won four consecutive championships of the national water-saving city competition. In particular, since the issuance of the Plan of Ningbo City for Implementing the Water Conservation Action in November 2020, the city

has scientifically planned and coordinated efforts to promote the intensive and economical utilization of water resources through a combination of measures (“addition, subtraction, multiplication and division”), effectively pushing the city’s water conservation work to a good start.

Design at the top is the “addition” that consolidates the cornerstone for green development of water resources. Ningbo City formulated its high-standard Overall Plan for Conservation, Protection, Development and Utilization of Water Resources, issued the “14th Five-Year Plan” for water conservation throughout the city, and promoted water conservation work in a coordinated manner across multiple departments. Last year, the city’s total water consumption was 2.181 billion m³, with a growth rate of only 3.8% despite an 8.2% increase in GDP and an increase of 124,000 in population year on year. The water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP and per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value decreased to 16 m³ and 11.3 m³, or 5.3% and 5.0% lower than in 2020 based on comparable prices, respectively. Total water saving recorded about 85 million m³, equivalent to the water volume of 2 Dongqian Lakes.

Key sectors focus on “subtraction” to improve water use efficiency and water conservation. In agriculture, high-efficiency water-saving irrigation area increased by 6,400 mu, and newly-built water-fertilizer integration area extended 4,719 mu. In the industrial sector, the city invested 910 million



Recycled water recharges Lujia River

yuan in total last year, and implemented 69 green transformation projects, which could save 48.843 million m^3 of water annually. In terms of urban water conservation and loss reduction, the leakage rate of the city's urban public water supply pipe network dropped to 6% last year, leading the national standard by 4 percentage points. It is worth mentioning that in Xiangshan, a third-party professional team was innovatively introduced to manage water supply network leaks, saving over 13 million m^3 of water last year, and realizing direct economic benefits of nearly 40 million yuan, and thereby opening a new direction for market-oriented water conservation.

“Multiplication” through the water source opening action strengthens the capability for composite utilization of water resources. Following the new concept of “water quality-based water production, demand-based water supply, and full use of water resources”, Ningbo City promoted the precise supply of high-quality recycled water as a water source. It piloted the supply of double-membrane recycled water from Lanshan Water Purification Plant to Zhenhai Refinery and Zhenhai Power Plant, transmitting 2,058,200 m^3 of recycled water; and piloted the reuse of recycled water from the sewage treatment plants in the South District to the Miaoxi River Project and other



construction projects. Last year, the city as a whole utilized 120 million m³ of recycled water, achieving a utilization rate of 18.2%, and substituting 160 million m³ of high-quality water resources.

Total quantity control is the “division” that helps build a security system for water resources. 278 enterprises with backward production capacity were phased out; water use early warnings were issued for 6,097 water use entities; and the water balance test was pushed forward targeting water users with an annual water consumption of more than 100,000 m³. Over the past year, Ningbo City has strictly controlled enterprise water conservation with the support of digital technology. Through dynamic water usage tracking, it has reduced enterprise water expenses and waste of water resources. In addition to the breakthroughs made in the situation of “zero” users under planned water use management in Daxie and Hangzhou Bay, Ningbo has also taken the provincial lead in launching the construction of monitoring facilities for self-provided water withdrawers with an annual water intake of more than 10,000 m³ each and implemented water usage diagnosis to reduce leakage, dripping and other water losses.



Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

In 2012, the Chinese government issued the Opinions on Implementing the Strictest Water Resources Management System, which established the “three red lines” for water resources management in China: control of water resources development and utilization, control of water use efficiency, and restriction of pollutant discharge in water function zones. A management and performance evaluation system was also set up to support the implementation of the red lines (see the figure below).

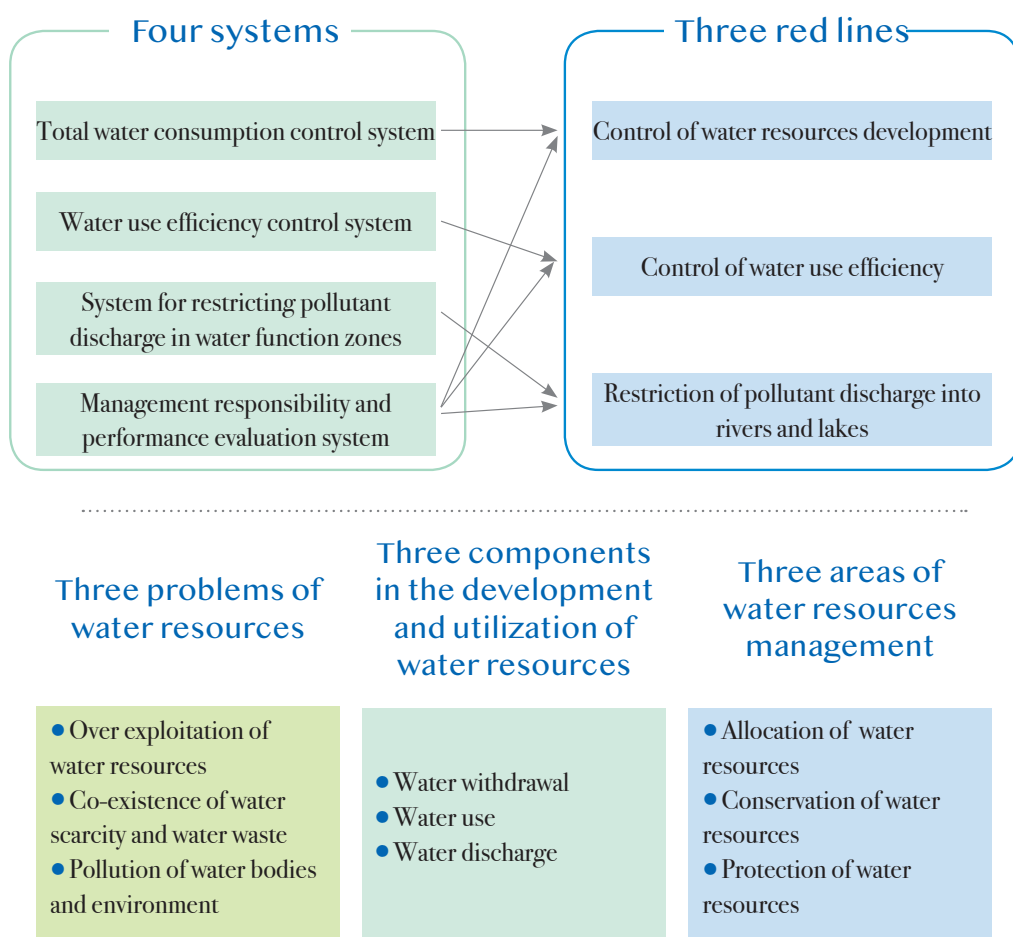


Figure: The overall framework of the strictest water resources management system

According to the Announcement on the Performance Evaluation Results regarding the Implementation of the Strict Water Resources Management System in 2021, total water consumption in 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) across the country in 2021 was 592.02 billion m³; water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP and per 10,000 yuan of industrial added value decreased by 5.8% and 7.1% compared with 2020 (calculated at comparable prices) respectively; the effective utilization coefficient of farmland irrigation water stood at 0.568; and the water quality compliance rate in water function zones of important rivers and lakes recorded 88.4%. All indicators of the “three red lines” pertaining to total quantity control of water consumption, water use efficiency control, and restricting pollutant discharge in water function zones met their annual targets.

In 2016 and 2017, the Chinese government successively promulgated and implemented the Opinions on Full Implementation of the River Chief System and the Guiding Opinions on the Implementation of the Lake Chief System. By the end of 2018, all 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) in China had set up their river and lake chief systems. MWR issued the Guiding Opinions on Further Strengthening Duty Performance of River and Lake Chiefs, and the Trial Regulations on Duty Performance of River and Lake Chiefs. The ministry carried out unannounced inspections of rivers and lakes, and strengthened the accountability of river and lake chiefs. In 2022, MWR and Ministry of Public Security jointly formulated the Opinions on Strengthening the Safety and Protection of Rivers and Lakes to address outstanding problems in five areas: flood control safety, protection of water resources, water ecology and environment, maintenance of riverbed sand mining order, safety protection of key water projects and water administrative law enforcement. The government strengthened water administrative law enforcement, increased the intensity of crackdowns on illegal activities, and effectively maintained the order of rivers and lakes. In particular, the national “Clean up the Four Chaos” campaign (to clean up and regulate illegal occupation, excavation, dumping, and construction in rivers and lakes) was organized. By the end of 2022, 223,200 problems had been cleared and regulated, effectively curbing the “four chaos” situation. With the illegally occupied water areas and flood plains gradually returned to rivers and lakes, the flood passage and storage capacity of rivers and lakes is greatly enhanced, and the water ecology continues to improve. A social atmosphere of caring for and protecting rivers and lakes has gradually taken shape. Outstanding problems relating to the Yangtze River riparian areas, the Yellow River ecology, the Grand Canal line, and the intersections of the middle route of the South-to-North Water Transfer Project have been addressed, while the rivers and lakes have their appearances significantly improved. All localities are guided to carry out health assessment of rivers and lakes, formulate and implement a tailored policy for each river or lake (“one river/lake, one policy”) on a

rolling basis, establish health records for rivers and lakes, and build happy rivers and lakes for the benefit of the people.

In terms of international cooperation in the integrated water resources management (IWRM) of transboundary rivers, the Chinese government adheres to the principles of friendly cooperation, people orientation, sharing of rights and obligations, and equal emphasis on development and protection. China effectively develops and protects transboundary rivers, and carries out pragmatic and mutually beneficial cooperation with neighboring countries. It has established or carried out various forms of cooperation on transboundary rivers with all neighboring countries with which it has established diplomatic relations, and signed more than 30 intergovernmental and interdepartmental cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding related to the integrated water resources



management of transboundary rivers. The diverse cooperation mechanism for transboundary rivers covers areas such as hydrological flood forecasting, flood control and disaster reduction, emergency response, hydropower generation, and transboundary river governance. The Chinese government attaches great importance to cooperation on transboundary rivers, which has become a bridge and bond of friendship between China and its neighboring countries. China will make full use of the transboundary river cooperation mechanism established with neighboring countries to further boost cooperation and exchanges, respect the reasonable concerns of relevant countries, and strive to make transboundary rivers “rivers of peace, cooperation, and friendship”, so that the water resources of transboundary rivers will become an inexhaustible source of nourishment for a community with a shared future for humankind.



| Case 5 |

Rugao City of Jiangsu Province practices an innovative measure of “Self-management and Self-protection of Your Own Rivers”.

In recent years, Rugao City has focused intensively on the “twin targets” of comprehensive improvement of the water environment and stable improvement of water quality in cross-sections. It has continuously increased investment in water resources, and forcefully promoted the construction of water projects, leading to a fundamental transformation of the rural water environment. To effectively ensure that its governance of the water environment achieves expected results, Rugao has innovatively implemented “self-management and self-protection of your own rivers”, with the aim of exploring the involvement of all people in river protection and water governance, and allowing genuine participation of the people in the management and protection of the water environment.

“The self-management and self-protection of your own rivers” is a vivid practice of extending the tentacles of the river chief system to the grassroots and the ordinary people, and bridging the “last one mile” of the river chief system. The key is high attention from the Party and government leaders. The municipal Party committee and government have attached great importance to this work, assigning all of its four municipal leadership teams to villages (communities) to conduct research and assume personal accountability. They are organically integrated into activities such as the consultation entitled “nice talks for anything in need of discussion”, fully stimulating the main-actor role of the people in grassroots management and protection. Active participation of the people is the foundation. On-site observations and village council meetings are organized, allowing the general public to get a first-hand feeling of the huge changes before and after governance of the water environment. The villagers’ self-governance mechanism led by the grassroots Party organization is established and improved, incorporating management and protection of river courses into village rules and regulations (“the little constitution”), and

resulting in increasing social recognition of such management and protection work. In-depth propaganda and guidance is the orientation. Rugao leverages the traffic effect of local internet influencers to produce innovations such as Lao Yang's Teahouse, Black Fox Radio, feature films, and short animations, which in turn reinforces the long-term management and protection of river courses in easily understandable forms. Innovative efforts have also been made to organize “smart river chief” trainings, “river chief system entering schools” and other activities, achieving synchronous promotion via offline meetings, cloud live broadcasts, and new media network platforms.

Protecting the nearby water environment is not only the need for rural revitalization but also reflects people's longing for a better life. Rugao insists on piloting first followed by gradual full-scale rollout. It has selected 39 villages as pilot sites and set up demonstration models such as the “River Chief Foundation”, “People's River Chief” “Joint Management by Enterprises and the People”, “Demolition of Illegal Structures,” and “Joint Management and Evaluation”. On the basis of practical research, it has also developed guidance documents such as the Handbook for River Course Governance, Management and Protection, and the People's River Chief Handbook. The city also adheres to scientific policy implementation and step-by-step progress. It has tailored its work promotion plans according to the main problems existing in the river courses, such as the challenges of demolishing the “two types of illegal structures,” the repetitive reclamation of and planting on slope land despite



“Self-management and Self-protection of Your Own Rivers”bulletin boards

relevant restrictions, the widespread use of fishing nets, the recurrence of malignant aquatic plants despite continuous clearing efforts, and the lack of fundamental changes in the habits of the people. Furthermore, Rugao insists on collaborative efforts and systematic water governance from point to surface. The Municipal River Chief Office has led various sectors to work for the set targets, strengthening organizational construction, coordinating fund allocation, and building a synergy characterized by city-level direction, township supervision, village implementation, household self-management, and all-people participation. In addition, the city insists on improving the entire living environment by leveraging the rivers as a driver to improve roads and backyards.

To achieve the target of “general mobilization of all people, with no bystanders”, Rugao actively explores work mechanisms characterized by commitment and contracting as well as the management of rivers, riverbanks, and people’s habits. The “participation of the people + market operation” mechanism enables the people to take on supervisory responsibilities, has riverside enterprises and third parties fulfill riverbank greening and cleaning tasks, and gives rise to a joint management and protection scheme with government regulation, public supervision, and corporate investment. The “participation of the people + river course brokers” mechanism involves selecting public representatives and local elites to serve as river brokers, who sign management and protection commitments, and assume responsibility for daily parole inspection/supervision, greening and maintenance and relevant promotional activities related to the river courses, with year-end income distributed proportionally. The “participation of the people + diversified investment” mechanism establishes a special fund based on the municipal and township reward funds, mobilizes village (community) resources, and adopts an approach that combines reciprocation from resourceful persons with public participation and social support. The “participation of the people + performance evaluation & incentives” mechanism supports the promotion of



A village river chief patrolling the river



River management and protection by local villages

long-term management and protection of river courses with organizational and funding assurance, through the issuance of performance evaluation documents and incentive measures at the municipal level. In 2021, the municipal public finance allocated 16.42 million yuan reward funds for long-term river course management and protection, and 90,000 yuan reward funds for the top 30 villages in the performance evaluation of river course management and protection.

| Case 6 |

The Second Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum



The 2nd Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Forum themed “Working Together to Address Challenges and Promote Common Prosperity” opened on 7 December 2021. Chinese Minister of Water Resources Li Guoying attended the opening ceremony and stated that the 6 Lancang-Mekong countries share a common river and are as close as family, with unique advantages to work together and deepen cooperation. Since the establishment of the Lancang -Mekong Cooperation Mechanism 5 years ago, the water sectors of the 6 countries have actively implemented the consensus of their leaders, integrated ideas and pooled resources to boost policy dialogue and technical exchanges, enhanced the process of sharing basin information, upgraded the capacity for flood control and drought relief, and realized the benefit of the livelihood projects. These efforts have pushed Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation into the “fast lane” and improved the livelihood and well-being of people in the basin.

“Promoting deeper, more practical and far-reaching cooperation on water resources in the Lancang-Mekong region, and effectively addressing various

risks and challenges to provide strong water security for regional sustainable development and common prosperity is a common issue facing the six Lancang-Mekong countries,” said Minister Li Guoying. He noted that MWR would actively implement the concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, adhere to the principles of being friendly and cooperative with neighboring countries, and broaden the scope of cooperation. Along with its counterparts in the Lancang-Mekong countries, MWR would deepen the content of cooperation, and enhance the level of cooperation to push Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation to a new height.

The ministers of water resources of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam spoke highly of China’s efforts to hold this forum despite the impact of the pandemic, and thanked China for providing relevant hydrological information and implementing livelihood cooperation projects. They believed that the relevant Chinese initiatives played an important role in flood control, disaster reduction and water resources management of the downstream countries. The parties jointly reviewed the positive results of Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation over the past five years, deeply analyzed the severe challenges confronting regional water resources, and put forward hopes and suggestions for deepening Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation. The parties stated that they would further strengthen policy dialogue, technical exchanges, and project cooperation, and work together to contribute wisdom and strength to sustainable economic and social development in the region. UN Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin pointed out that the Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation is a role model of regional water resources cooperation, and expected the six countries to make positive contributions to the realization of the goals of the 2030 Agenda.



Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

In 2018, President Xi Jinping emphasized the restoration of the ecology and environment of the Yangtze River as a top priority, promoting the idea of jointly focusing on comprehensive protection and refraining from large-scale development. On 18 September 2019, at the Symposium on Ecological Protection and High-quality Development in the Yellow River Basin, President Xi Jinping pointed out the importance of adhering to the concept that “green mountains and clear waters are invaluable assets”, prioritizing ecological conservation and green development, determining actions based on water availability, jointly promoting comprehensive conservation, and coordinating efforts to push forward large-scale ecological governance and intensify ecological protection, so as to make the Yellow River a happy river for the benefit of the people.

In 2019, MWR formulated the Guiding Opinions on Determining and Securing the Ecological Flows of Rivers and Lakes, selecting 41 key rivers and lakes to determine their ecological flow assurance targets one by one and prepare implementation plans. In order to restore the ecological environment of rivers and lakes in North China and promote the comprehensive control of groundwater overexploitation, MWR began to organize pilot water replenishment projects in 2018. By the end of 2022, North China recorded nearly 24.05 billion m³ of ecological water replenishment. In 2022, the scope of ecological water replenishment for rivers and lakes in North China was expanded to cover 48 rivers (lakes) in 7 water systems, with a total length of 3,264 km, which was 4.2 times more than in 2021. The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal achieved full water connectivity for the first time in a century, and the ecological environment of rivers and lakes along the canal improved significantly, once again showing the thousand-year-old charm of the magnificent canal. The Yongding River had water flowing throughout its 865km channel for two times, meeting the Grand Canal for a centennial record. Through water replenishment, the Zhangwei River and Daqing River - Baiyangdian water systems have respectively achieved their first full water connectivity into the sea since the 1960s and 1980s, and the Ziya River water system has recorded full water connectivity into the sea for two consecutive years. The ecological water level of Baiyangdian has reached a standard rate of 100%, and most of the rivers and lakes in North China have clean flowing water, a significant change to the past situation of “dry rivers and polluted waters”. More and more rivers are restoring life, and a growing number of watersheds are regaining vitality. Scheduling of water resources has also been enhanced. As of now, the Yellow River is free of dry-off records for 23 consecutive years, and the east Juyanhai

Lake has no dry-up for 18 consecutive years. Since 2015, focusing on major national strategies such as the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin, and focusing on areas with serious water and soil erosion such as the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze River and the Yellow River, and the black soil areas in northeastern China, key national water and soil conservation projects such as integrated governance of small watersheds, comprehensive improvement of sloping farmland, construction of new warping dams and sand interception dams, and treatment of erosion gullies have been implemented, with 101,000 km² of water and soil erosion area brought under control. More efforts have been made to enhance organizational coordination, implement the responsibilities of local governments and relevant authorities, and mobilize social capital. The control of water and soil erosion covers an area of 428,000 km² nationwide, playing an important role in preventing and controlling water and soil erosion, improving the regional ecological environment, and facilitating economic and social development.

In order to implement the major national strategy for ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin, and intensify the battle against pollution, 12 departments including MWR and Ministry of Ecology and Environment jointly issued the Action Plan for Ecological Protection and Governance in the Yellow River Basin on 31 August 2022. According to the plan, by 2025, in the Yellow River Basin, the forest coverage rate will reach 21.58%; the water and soil conservation rate will rise to 67.74%; 10.50 million mu of degraded natural forest will be restored; 1.36 million hectares of desertification land will be comprehensively treated; 81.9% of the surface water bodies will achieve Class III or better water quality; surface water bodies of Class V quality will be basically eliminated; the water quality of the upper and middle reaches of the mainstream Yellow River (above Huayankou) will reach Class II; centralized drinking water sources in cities at and above the county level will be of Class III or better water quality; and over 90% of black and odorous water bodies in the built-up areas of county-level cities will be eliminated.



| Case 7 |

Comprehensive governance and ecological restoration of the Yongding River Basin achieve remarkable results.

On 7 July 2021, the Yongding River Basin Development Report (2020) was released in Zhangjiakou. The Yongding River is an important water resources conservation area, and an ecological barrier and corridor in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Since the implementation of a new round of comprehensive governance and ecological restoration of the Yongding River, significant achievements have been made in phases, including the following: a significant increase in the flow rates of the sections in the river basin; a year-by-year increase in the number of days with flowing water; remarkable growth in ecological flows, outbound flows and sea-ward flows; higher forest coverage in the basin; significant enhancement of water source conservation capacity; increasingly visible role of the river as an ecological safety barrier in mountainous areas; preliminary landscaping as the green ecological corridor in the plain; and effective restoration of the river ecological system.

As reported, the ecological and environmental indicators of the Yongding River Basin have been continuously improving in recent years. In 2021, water flowed throughout the 865km channel of the river for the first time since 1996. Compared with 2016, the ecological flows of all key control sections have increased significantly, with Cetian Reservoir, Shixiali, Xiangshuipu, Guanting Reservoir and Sanjiadian increasing by 182 million m³, 151 million m³, 12 million m³, 92 million m³ and 157 million m³, respectively. By the end of December, Guanting Reservoir had a water storage capacity of 622 million m³, effectively meeting the target demand for 500 million m³ of ecological flow storage for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics. The groundwater levels of all monitoring wells have recovered, with an average increase of 2.95 meters and a maximum increase of 17.8 meters which took place at the Yamenkou monitoring well in Shijingshan District. The groundwater levels within a 10 km range on both sides of the Yongding River in the plain

section have risen by an average of 1.45 meters compared with that before the replenishment, while the groundwater levels within a 3km range have increased by an average of 2.01 meters, indicating significant effects of water replenishment. The proportion of river sections with Class III or better water quality throughout the year increased from 34% in 2016 to 81.7% in 2021, and that of river sections with Class V water quality was basically eliminated. Surveys of the basin discovered 386 species of phytoplankton, 213 species of zooplankton, 238 species of benthic animals, and 6 species of amphibians, indicating an increase in biodiversity.

In order to achieve its goals, the Overall Plan for Comprehensive Governance and Ecological Restoration of the Yongding River proposed a series of innovations in the collaborative governance mechanism of the basin. It advocated for exploring horizontal ecological compensation between the development areas, beneficiary areas and ecological protection areas along the upper, middle and lower reaches of the river in the four provinces and municipalities of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Shanxi according to the principle that “who benefits, who compensates”, providing strong water security support for high-quality development of the river basin.



In 2021, the middle route of the South-to-North Water Transfer Project replenished water to the Yongding River for the first time (the Fangshan section of the Yongding River in Beijing).



On 27 September 2021, the Tianjin Qujiadian Reservoir opened its gate to discharge water. For the first time since 1996, water flowed throughout the Yongding River.



Target 6.a: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

In recent years, MWR has initiated various forms of foreign aid work in areas of high concern for developing countries, including water resources management, water resources planning, flood control and disaster reduction, water-saving irrigation, rural drinking water projects, rainwater harvesting and utilization, small hydropower development, and rural electrification. As an entry point, these initiatives focus on plan preparation, technical training, joint establishment of research centers, and assistance with complete sets of equipment. Examples include the Bangladesh Flood Control Planning and Technical Cooperation Project, the Brazos River Control Reservoir Flood Control and Dispatching Study Project in Mexico, and the Joint Research Project on Low Head Run-of-River Hydropower Development Technology in Serbia. In 2018, MWR undertook more than 10 bilateral and multilateral foreign-aid training projects, providing training to 359 government officials (including more than 30 ministerial officials) and technical personnel from 38 countries including Afghanistan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Peru and North Korea in areas such as water resources management, clean energy, small hydropower development, and rural electrification. Since the launch of the Lancang-



Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Mechanism, the six Lancang-Mekong countries have jointly implemented more than 40 practical water resources cooperation projects. China has provided over 1,000 opportunities for water-related technical exchanges and training to Mekong River countries. Through the implementation of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Talent Development Program for Water Resources, more than 100 outstanding young people from Mekong River countries have been sponsored to study for a master's degree in water resources in China, helping Mekong countries improve their water technologies and water talent teams. In recent years, China has carried out regional technology transfer cooperation with South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and other regions. The China-Pakistan Small Hydropower Technology Joint Research Center, the China-Indonesia Hydropower-Based Rural Electrification Technology Transfer Center, the China-Africa Clean Energy and Rural Electrification Technology Transfer and Research Training Center, and the China-Serbia Small Hydropower Technology Joint Research and Training Center have been established. MWR actively engages itself in multilateral and bilateral technical cooperation in the field of small hydropower and other renewable energy, setting up joint research laboratories and technology demonstration stations, and carrying out medium and long-term cultivation of technical talents to localize the development of hydraulic and hydropower technologies. In addition, small hydropower and renewable energy technologies and complete sets of equipment have been continuously exported to nearly 100 developing countries, greatly promoting the development of small hydropower and other renewable energy sources and the construction of rural electrification in local areas. In 2022, MWR sent water experts to join the Chinese government's expert group to Pakistan to complete flood control and disaster reduction guidance tasks.



| Case 8 |

Seminar on SDG6 Implementation of ACD Member Countries and Progress Monitoring

In order to implement the Belt and Road Initiative and promote the realization of water-related Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG6) in the Asian Regional Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) member countries, MWR hosted the Seminar on SDG6 Implementation of ACD Member Countries and Progress Monitoring in Zhengzhou on 21-25 October 2019 with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. More than 100 people attended the seminar, including over 30 representatives from 15 ACD member countries funded by China, as well as officials and experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Water Management Institute, the China-Europe Water Platform and MWR. The seminar was aimed at exchanging and sharing water governance practices and experiences among ACD member countries, focusing on the progress

Seminar on SDG6 Implementation of ACD Member Countries and Progress Monitoring
ACD 国家落实可持续发展目标6进展跟踪与监测研讨会

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中国·郑州 2019年10月





in implementing SDG6. In his speech, the representative from MWR Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology stated that the Chinese government attached great importance to water governance and regarded the conservation and protection of water resources as a key element in implementing the concept of green development. The representative from the Department of Rural Water Resources and Hydropower made a comprehensive introduction about the measures and experiences in safeguarding drinking water safety in rural China. ACD member country representatives presented their respective achievements, challenges and future action plans in implementing the SDGs.

In addition, the representatives attended the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Symposium and the Seminar on the Yellow River and Ecological Civilization, gaining an understanding of China's progress and experiences in practicing ecological civilization and green development. They also visited the Xiaolangdi Water Control Project and the South-to-North Water Transfer Project section crossing the Yellow River, getting a first-hand experience of China's great achievements in water project construction. Participants from ACD member countries said that the seminar enabled the sharing of experiences in implementing the water-related SDG, and introduced them to China's remarkable achievements in reforming and developing the water sector, and indicated their expectation for pragmatic and in-depth cooperation in the future.

| Case 9 |

Online training on water resources supports the realization of water-related goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Water is a fundamental resource that supports the sustainable development of economy, society and ecology. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets up dedicated water-related goals, demonstrating the general consensus of the international community on the importance of water resources. In the context of climate change, it is an arduous and long-time task for all countries to achieve water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as scheduled.

The COVID-19 pandemic, while exposing international exchanges and cooperation to tremendous challenges, could not stop the determination of the like-minded to carry on such exchanges and cooperation against all odds. In recent years, the Rural Electrification Research Institute of Ministry of Water Resources has actively organized online foreign-aid training classes, focusing on new green hydropower technologies. Its 24 successful online training programs recorded 1,927 participants from 57 countries around the world. The training contents covered a wide range of topics, including integrated water resources management, water environment governance, small hydropower development, flood control early warning and forecasting, dam safety, water infrastructure and hydropower construction, solar powered water lifting for irrigation, among others. Oriented on water-related goals, the training sessions carried out special lectures, exchanges and discussions, and sharing of solutions and innovative practices, rendering practical reference and guidance for ensuring global water security and achieving water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, the foreign aid training is related to improving the independent development capacity of developing countries. Although the pandemic hindered field training, online training has served as a new bridge for China and the world to carry out exchanges and cooperation in water sector. As nicely put by the online training participants, “keyboard-to-keyboard” exchanges also deliver the warmth of “face-to-face” communication.



Ministerial Workshop on Water Resources Management and Socioeconomic Development for Developing Countries (October 2021)

In the forthcoming future, MWR will focus on the following tasks under the guidance of overall national diplomacy and foreign aid strategy.

1. Strengthen the management of existing projects. Strengthen operational guidance and overseas security guidance for project implementing units, and cooperate with foreign aid authorities to improve preliminary work of the projects.

2. Scientifically guide the application for new projects. Further leverage the role of competent authorities in the industrial sector, highlight technological advantages and livelihood characteristics, form synergy, build China's high-end brand of water-related aid to foreign countries, and support social organizations affiliated to the ministry to provide non-government foreign aid.

3. Actively expand water-related foreign aid channels. Actively apply for foreign aid funds such as the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and the Asian Cooperation Fund, host seminars and training sessions on topics related to the implementation of the water-related SDG such as management techniques, small hydropower technology, and rural drinking water safety, train water talents to serve the Belt and Road Initiative, and promote "going global" of the water sector.

4. Boost cooperation with water-related international organizations. Further strengthen cooperation with the World Water Council, the World Health Organization, and relevant United Nations agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, ECOSOC and UN-Water, and participate in high-level water-related events such as the 2023 UN Water Conference, to share measures and experiences in implementing the water-related SDG, expand cooperation in progress monitoring of the water-related targets, actively practice the Global Development Initiative, provide assistance within our capacity for other developing countries in implementing the SDGs, and jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for humankind.

5. Set up new multilateral water-related international exchange platforms. Actively bid for and host global water-related events, and plan to host the XVIII World Water Congress in 2023, the Annual Meeting of the International Commission on Large Dams in 2024, and the 3rd Asian International Water Week, to effectively tell China's Water Story, and share Chinese solutions regarding river and lake governance (the river and lake chief system), flood control and drought relief, and water supply security, showcase a real, three-dimensional and comprehensive image of the Chinese water sector, and actively integrate into the global water governance system.



The data and related statements used in this report are from the speech of H.E. Mr. Li Guoying, Minister of Water Resources of China, at the 2023 National Water Conference, the 2021 China Water Resources Bulletin, the Announcement on the Performance Evaluation Results regarding the Implementation of the Strictest Water Resources Management System in 2021, as well as the websites of relevant Chinese ministries, such as Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the National Health Commission.



