

Country Paper: People's Republic of China

Policies and Actions to Adapt to Climate Change

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People's Republic of China (PRC) has actively implemented policies and actions to adapt to climate change, particularly those to enhance the ability of the agriculture, forestry and other natural ecological systems, water resources, as well as ecologically fragile areas like coastal zones and regions to adapt to climate change.

AGRICULTURE

- Perfecting continuously the system of laws and policies to help the agricultural sector to adapt to climate change.
- Since 2008, PRC has formulated the *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Draught Control and the Administrative Measures for the Propagation and Releasing of Aquatic Organisms*, modified the *Regulations on the Fire Prevention of Grasslands*, and promulgated the *Plan for the Construction of the Protective Cultivation Projects (2009-2015)*.
- Increased the investment in the construction of agricultural infrastructures.
- The Chinese government arranged 5.9 billion yuan for the water-conserving renovations of large irrigation areas. It is expected to add an annual grain production capacity of 5 billion kilograms and an annual water conservation capacity of 5.8 billion cubic meters.
- Enhanced the ability of the agricultural sector to prevent, resist and mitigate disasters as well as its general productivity.
- —Increased the subsidy for the water-saving irrigation machinery and equipment
- —Increased the subsidy to improved varieties, optimized the structure of breeds, and put in practice a plan for the geographic distribution of advantageous agricultural products.
- —PRC launched demonstrative and trial agricultural development projects with the 5 million dollars granted by Special Climate Change Fund. The projects cover the 5 provinces in the basins of the Yellow, Huaihe and Haihe Rivers as well as Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and involve agricultural production and water resources management.

FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

- Modified *the Forest Fire Prevention Regulations, the Action Plan of the Forestry Industry for Addressing Climate Change*
- In December 2009, the Chinese government published the Action Plan of the Forestry Industry for Addressing Climate Change. This Action Plan stipulates 22 major actions of the forestry industry, including 15 actions for mitigating climate change and 7 actions for adapting to it.
- The 7 adaptation actions include heightening the adaptation of the ecological system of artificial forests; establishing nature reserves for the preservation of typical forest species; stepping up the efforts to protect the major species; increasing the ability to monitor and issue early warning about the epidemic focus and diseases of wildlife; better protecting the vegetation of the desertifying areas; consolidating the basic work of wetland protection; and setting up and perfecting the network of wetland reserves
- Reformed the ownership system of collectively owned forests to arouse the initiatives of the owners to develop and foster forest resources.

WATER RESOURCES

- In 2008, the Chinese government invested 11.7 billion yuan in the major water source projects.
- Till the end of 2008, the water supply capacity of the water conservancy projects nationwide reached over 700 billion cubic meters, which is enough to ensure water supply for urban and rural needs in a moderately dry year.
- In 2008, the Chinese government invested 26.2 billion yuan in flood control projects, and the renovation of the big rivers such as the Changjiang, Yellow, and Huaihe Rivers proceeded smoothly.
- At present, the major sections of the big rivers in PRC can resist the most severe flood ever seen since the founding of the new PRC, and the disaster-resisting standard of the major coastal embankments has been raised to ensure that they can withstand the worst disaster ever seen in the past 50 years.
- In 2008, the Chinese government invested 2.15 billion yuan in water and soil conservation and ecological construction, and continued to prevent and control the water and soil loss of the key regions.

OTHER SECTORS

PRC sped up the development of the scientific and technological innovation system of the meteorological sector, invested more resources in the research of climate change, and vigorously enhanced its ability to provide scientific and technological support to the risk assessment of climate and weather disasters and emergency response to such disasters.

SOURCES:

China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change
—The Progress Report 2009, issued by National Development and Reform Commission
November, 2009