

EU – CHINA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Duration	2006-2012
Beneficiary countries	China
EC Grant	25,000,000 EURO
PRC Contribution	79,000,000 EURO
Consultants	DHV B.V. Consortium
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Water Resources Ministry of Environmental Protection
Location	Middle reaches of the Yellow River Upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze River
EU Delegation Contact Person	Ms Michela Tagliaferri



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The programme aims at supporting the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection to enhance Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policies and practices through sharing EU experience and best practices. A key aspect is the establishment of links with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other relevant EU directives.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Europe - China Water Platform: *An effective Europe China water platform will be established to provide Chinese and European stakeholders with a framework for dialogue, exchange of best practices and cooperation.* In view of the increasing roles played by Europe and China globally, the cooperation in the water sector between the two continents is to be sustainable in the future. The component will therefore assist the two parties to set-up a mechanism to reach this endeavour. Chinese government officials and experts will be introduced to new water management practices and governance structures in Europe. This will enable them to identify the relevance for China and encourage testing and adaptation in the Yellow and Yangtze River Basins. Finally the best practices and lessons learnt from testing in China will be consolidated, documented and disseminated for replication at river basin level and consideration in national policy and planning.

Yellow River Integrated River Basin Management: *Integrated river basin and water resources management principles and best practices will be piloted in the Yellow River Basin.* The component supports the master planning for the Yellow River Basin, by testing stakeholder consultation approaches and by developing a climate change adaptation strategy and plan.

Yellow River Integrated Water Resources Protection: *Integrated river basin water resources protection practices and systems for prevention, reduction and control of water pollution will be tested in the Yellow River Basin.* The component will support the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC) to develop decision support tools to manage wastewater discharges to rivers and strengthen the early warning system for pollution incidents. The component will follow up on these tools with assistance to introduction of clean technology at industrial enterprises and bio-monitoring indicators to characterise river sections.

Yangtze River Integrated River Basin Management: *Integrated river basin management policies, planning, practices and enhanced stakeholder participation will be promoted and tested for management of the Chishui tributary of the Yangtze River.* The component assists the Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) to test water management tools that will give higher priority to environment and ecosystem protection in river basin planning. New models for institutional mechanisms to enhance stakeholders' participation in integrated river basin management will be also explored.

Changjiang and Pearl River Watershed Rehabilitation Project (CPRWRP): *Sustainable watershed rehabilitation and management practices will be promoted in combination with measures to improve the livelihoods of the rural population living in vulnerable and degraded ecosystems of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River Basin.* The CPRWRP is a strategic partnership between China, the World Bank and EU, in which

the EU provides technical assistance through the RBMP and provides a grant to enable poor households to participate and benefit from the project.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

The RBMP is considered one of the leading cooperation in China on IWRM. The exposure to EU experiences and best practices as propagated by the EU Water Framework Directive has given further guidance and increased awareness on IWRM in China.

Europe - China Water Platform: A suitable mechanism to sustain the China Europe water platform is being explored to enhance existing exchanges and cooperation on water policies and technologies between Europe and China. The programme has also facilitated cooperation at ministerial and river commission level between counterparts in Europe and China and has since 2007 assisted in many technical exchanges of Chinese and European experiences in a large number of international conferences such as the International Yellow River Forums, the Yangtze River Forums and the World Water Forums. Through the web site and the regular Newsletter the project activities are reported on and synopses of technical reports published. The EU Water Framework and Groundwater Directives have been published in Chinese along with relevant guiding documents.

Training courses on Integrated Water Resources Management, Integrated River Basin Management, Groundwater Management, Hydro-ecology and Bio-monitoring, management information systems for the CPRWRP, clean technology and environmental audits and on early warning and response systems have contributed in disseminating relevant European experiences and assisted in capacity building of Chinese water managers.

Yellow River Integrated River Basin Management: Participatory river basin planning is being piloted in a selected part of the middle reach of the Yellow River. Study reports are prepared in which the applicability of European experiences are studied and tested for Chinese conditions.

A first Rapid Assessment has been prepared on the impact of climate change on future integrated water resources management in the Yellow River and a detailed analysis and identification of adaptation options is under implementation.

Yellow River Integrated Water Resources Protection: The programme has developed computerised water quality models which can be used to assess the environmental carrying capacity of the river by simulation of the impact of pollution loads from urban and industrial waste water discharges. An Emergency Response and Early Warning system is being developed to help the river authorities plan and coordinate responses to pollution incidents in the river basin. To directly reduce pollution and promote water savings, clean technology audits have been conducted of some key industries giving specific advice on improvements to make to industrial processes that would contribute to economic as well as environmental efficiency. The audit process has also strengthened the capacity of regulatory authorities to push industry to invest in more efficient technologies.

Yangtze River Integrated River Basin Management: The RBMP has been introducing concepts and techniques of biological and ecological monitoring with a pilot research in the Chishui River.

New models for institutional mechanisms to enhance stakeholders' participation in integrated river basin management are also being researched as a pilot experience in the Chishui tributary.

A research study to develop a decision support system and process for adaptive water resources management in the Han River Basin is also under implementation.

Changjiang and Pearl River Watershed Rehabilitation Project (CPRWRP): CPRWRP has rehabilitated watersheds in mountainous areas along the water divide between the Yangtze and Pearl River basins. It has introduced sustainable land use systems which enhance soil and water conservation and at the same time provide increased income to farmers. RBMP successfully introduced participatory sub-watershed design, planning and management, which have been adopted as standard practice for watershed rehabilitation in the participating counties. Improved orchard management will contribute to the improved income for local farmers. By testing and implementing an improved monitoring and evaluation system along with a practical MIS system efficient technical and financial project management by the county Water Resources Bureaus has been put in place.

You can obtain more information on www.euchinarivers.org

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