



WRDMAP



Water Resources Demand Management Assistance Project

THE PROJECT

The Water Resource Demand Management Assistance Project (WRDMAP) is being implemented by the Chinese government through the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) with funding from the UK Government through the Department for International Development (DFID) and considerable counterpart support making it a large Co-operation Project. The project aims to support the reforms required by the 2002 Chinese Water Law, which has as one of its goals to improve people's livelihoods through equitable access to and sustainable use of water resources, particularly for poorer people.

Water scarcity and heavy demand on available resources threatens economic and environmental sustainability in China. Rapid economic growth has led to over-commitment of available surface water resources, overdraft of groundwater resources in many areas and unreliable access to water – all affecting the livelihoods of many particularly rural and poor people and especially those in northern China.



Integrated water resources management (IWRM), river basin management, demand management and the creation of examples of water saving societies are key elements of WRDMAP. The Project is led by strong counterpart direction both at the central level provided by the MWR and at the local level by the provincial Water

Administrative Departments in Gansu and Liaoning. Consultancy support is provided by the Chinese International Engineering Consulting Corporation and the Chinese Institute of Water Resources & Hydropower Research. At provincial level, the consultancy is provided by Hydrological and Water Resources Bureaus of Gansu and Liaoning. Some international 'best practice' advice is provided by Mott MacDonald. The consultants are providing advisory services to strengthen institutional capacity, promote awareness and understanding of IWRM and introduce improved systems for water resources management and water demand management.

The 5 year duration project involves developing and implementing pilot studies for the first three years in the provinces of Gansu and Liaoning. The results and water resources management improvements generated over this time will be broadly disseminated both within the two provinces and also throughout China during the remainder of the project.

The *Central Case Study: Documentation and nationwide promotion of best practices in IWRM* will be implemented by Department of Water Resources (DWR) within the Ministry of Water Resources. The case study will provide direction and guidance to Gansu and Liaoning provinces on interpretation of the 2002 Water Law and its application in the provincial case studies. DWR will monitor implementation and when observing good practices it will assist the case study teams in presenting the information in formats that are suitable for dissemination, promotion and replication nationwide.

Case study Gansu 1: IWRM planning for Shiyang River Basin (SRB) will apply the IWRM principle of water resources management in the context of a river basin. The planning process will be used to develop the mandate of the newly formed Shiyang River Basin Management Bureau (SRBMB) and



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strengthen its organisation. The case study will introduce international practices for river basin organisations, build commensurate capacity in water resources planning and management at the river basin level and encourage communication in the municipalities of Wuwei and Jinchang which have been selected as the case study examples.

Case study Gansu 2: Water saving societies in Wuwei and Jinchang will assist Wuwei and Jinchang Municipalities, the principal administrative units within SRB, to regulate water use within their administrative boundaries. The objective is to achieve a long term sustainable balance between the available water resources, the current use of water and the projected future demands for water.

Case study Gansu 3: Shared water management in Minqin will assist Minqin County and Water User Associations in selected rural communities



to develop a model for increased community and user participation in the management of water resources and water delivery. The objective is to work as close to users as possible, particularly their usage of irrigation water usage. The area suffers from severe groundwater over-exploitation and encroaching desertification.

Case study Liaoning 1: IWRM planning for the upper Daling river basin will assist Chaoyang municipal Water Affairs Bureau (WAB) to apply IWRM planning in the upper Daling river basin, which mainly lies within the municipality. The

case study will focus on the planning functions of a large municipal WAB in the absence of a river basin organisation. Communication



channels upward with the provincial Water Resources Department, horizontally with other municipalities and downwards with counties and communities in the municipality will be developed.

Case study Liaoning 2: Integrated water abstraction and wastewater discharge permitting in Chaoyan will assist the municipal WAB and Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB) to integrate the permitting of water abstractions and wastewater discharges. The process aims to strengthen the shared responsibility for regulation of water use in accordance with the objectives for functional use of water sources and receiving waters as defined in the river basin planning and pollution control.

Case Study Liaoning 3: Water tariff reform and efficiency in Beipiao will assist Beipiao County WAB, Beipiao Water Supply Company (WSC) and selected urban communities to develop a model for sharing responsibilities and functions in the future management and delivery of urban water supply services. The model will be developed as part of a program for tariff reform and water savings in the WSC with a strong focus on institutional development.