

NBS Good Practices from Chinese government

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Phase I of East-Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project

1. Background

The South-to-North Water Diversion Project is an important strategic infrastructure for realizing the optimal allocation of water resources in China.

Since Phase I of East-Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project was fully open to water five years ago, the local water resources stock in the receiving area has been revitalized through the introduction of high-quality water resources increment, which has effectively curbed the trend of serious deterioration of ecological environment caused by the over-exploitation and utilization of water resources in the Huang-Huai-Hai Plain, playing an important role in improving the water resources regulation ability under the background of climate change. The carrying capacity of water resources along the project having been effectively improved, the environmental quality having been significantly improved, the ecological security having been effectively guaranteed, and the human settlements environment having been significantly improved, all these achievements ensures the effective promotion of the green development of the region along the project.

2. Implementation time

The Phase I of the Eastern Route project will be open to water in 2013, and the Phase I of the Middle Route project will be open to water in 2014.

3. Stakeholders of Case implementation

It involves the Chinese government, Ministry of Water Resources as a leader and all relevant departments as participants, with the South-to-North Water Diversion Project Management Unit being the implementation units of the project.

4. Beneficiary

The water receiving area of Phase I of East-Middle Route project covers 243 counties (cities and districts) in 36 Prefectural Administrative Regions of six provinces (municipalities directly under the Central Government) including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Henan, Shandong and Jiangsu.

5. Project Level

The National Level

6. Major Benefits and Impacts of Adaptation to Climate Change

Since the Phase I of East-Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project was opened to water, it has been running smoothly, with reliable quality and stable water quality. It strongly supports the economic and social development of the water-receiving areas and promotes the construction of ecological civilization. By the end of April 29, 2019, 24.995 billion m³ of water had been diverted from the East-Middle Route project. Among them, the East Route Project diverts 3.662 billion m³ of water and the Middle Route Project diverts 21.333 billion m³, benefiting over

100 million people and giving full play to its economic, social and ecological efficiencies. The rapid decline of groundwater level in the Huang-Huai-Hai Plain (North China Plain) has been effectively curbed by restricting groundwater exploitation and directly replenishing water and replacing environmental water. The effects are obvious. The groundwater level in plain area has obviously risen and the aquatic biodiversity of river and lakes has been gradually restored. The ecological environment has been continuously improved, which plays an important role in improving the water resources regulation ability under the background of climate change.