

Tenth Five Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (TFYP)

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The TFYP contains a chapter on conserving and protecting resources, and achieving sustainable utilization

Sustainable use of water resources - Equal importance will be attached to both tapping new resources and economizing on consumption and saving water will be a salient policy. Improving the rate of water use by promoting the use of various techniques and measures for economizing on water, developing water-efficient industries, and building a water-efficient society, will be stressed.

In planning urban construction and the distribution of agriculture and industry, full consideration will be given to the affordability of water resources. Efforts to economize on agricultural use of water and to reduce the loss of irrigation water will be stepped up; by 2005, the effective utilization coefficient of irrigation water is to reach 0.45. The distribution of industry will be adjusted according to the distribution of water resources, technical transformation in enterprises with a view to economizing on water will be accelerated, and the use of recycled water by industries will reach 60 percent in 2005.

The work to economize on water in urban areas will be stepped up, people will be required to get rid of water-wasting tools and equipment, and water-efficient ones will be popularized.

Research and development of water-efficient technology and equipment and the construction of water-efficient facilities will be stepped up.

Planning and management will be strengthened, water resources in whole river valleys will be rationally allocated, and the use of water in daily life and production and for ecological purposes will be coordinated.

Vigorous efforts will be undertaken to engage in artificial rainfall, to recycle treated sewage, and to desalinate seawater. Rational use of ground water and strict control towards over-exploitation of such water will be promoted. New water sources will be opened through various channels, including building a number of key water-source projects, and increasing the country's water-supply capacity by 40 billion cubic meters in the TFYP period.

Reform of the water management system and a mechanism for the rational formation of water prices will be set up. Water-saving publicity and education in order to enhance the people's awareness of the importance of economizing on water will be extensively promoted.

Protect land, forests, grasslands, seas, oceans, and mineral resources - The basic state policy of protecting farmland will be followed, an overall plan for land use will be

implemented, and overall planning for land to be used for various kinds of construction will be undertaken and steps taken to rationally control the scale of increased land for construction.

Land used by mines and industries in urban and rural areas will be sorted out and re-cultivated if possible. Land-use structure will be rationally readjusted according to different land requirements, such as industrial areas, city and town areas, specialized agricultural production areas, and ecological conservation areas. Prevention of forest fires, prevention and treatment of forest diseases and insect pests, logging management, and the system and facilities for administrative law enforcement in forestry, will be strengthened.

Protection of grasslands, controlling cutting grass or reclaiming grassland at will, and strictly implementing the system for a no-grazing period on grasslands, no-grazing areas, and rotation grazing in order to prevent over-grazing, will be strengthened. Effort will be exerted to survey, develop, protect, and manage marine resources and to develop the marine industry.

The use and management of sea areas and protecting the marine rights and interests of the country will be strengthened. Prospecting of mineral resources, strictly improving order in the mining industry, and mandatorily protecting important mineral resources will be accelerated. Deepening the reform of the system for the use of mineral resources and standardizing and developing the market for mining rights will be priorities.

Promoting the research and development of technology for comprehensive use of resources, stepping up the recycled use of waste materials, and accelerating the industrialization of disposition of waste materials in order to turn such materials into useful resources will be undertaken.

Strengthen ecological construction and protect and harness the environment -

Ecological improvement and environment protection will be adopted as an important aspect of undertaking economic development and improving the quality of life for the people. Ecological construction will be strengthened, ecological deterioration checked, efforts to protect and improve the environment, and improve the quality of the environment in urban and rural areas, stepped up.

Strengthen ecological construction - Projects for environmental construction and comprehensive environmental improvement in key areas will be organized, such as natural-forest conservation projects in the upper reaches of Yangtze River, the upper and middle reaches of Yellow River, the northeast, and Inner Mongolia and projects to return grain plots to forests or grass.

Efforts to tackle the sources of sandstorms and to protect the water sources in Beijing and Tianjin and to build an ecological belt around the two municipalities will be accelerated.

Grazing in over-grazed areas will be stopped, with some areas closed to grazing in order to grow grass; projects should be carried out to treat grasslands by implementing "three measures". Efforts should be made to harness small river valleys and to reduce soil erosion. Projects will be carried out for comprehensive treatment of stony desertification in the karst areas of Guizhou, Guangxi, and Yunnan.

Ecological restoration and treatment should be quickly implemented in mining areas. The shelter-forest systems in north, northeast, and northwest PRC and along the sea and the Zhujiang [Pearl River] should continue to be implemented and the pace of planting fast-growing, high-yield timber forests and forests for industrial raw materials should accelerate.

Building of "green thoroughfares" and vigorously planting grass and tree to make cities green will accelerate. Construction of natural reserves, protection of rare biological resources on the brink of extinction as well as wetland resources, projects for the conservation of wildlife and their habitat, restoration of ecological functions and biological diversification, will be given priority.

In the TFYP period, 25 million hectares of land will be treated for soil erosion, and 16.5 million hectares of grassland will be treated with "three measures."