

China

Tackling pollution in Zhejiang Province

Around half of China's water pollution comes from land use and degradation. Encouraging business to invest in upstream conservation could be the answer for ten million people in the Greater Hangzhou area.

The context

With nearly a quarter of China's urban residents lacking access to proper drinking water and sanitation facilities, water scarcity and pollution is a significant issue. Around half of China's water pollution comes from land use and degradation, where fertilizers, pesticides, and livestock waste are carried into lakes, rivers, wetlands, aquifers and coastal waters. Meanwhile, sediment pollution affects the water sources for 82 million people in China's 30 largest and fastest growing cities.

The action

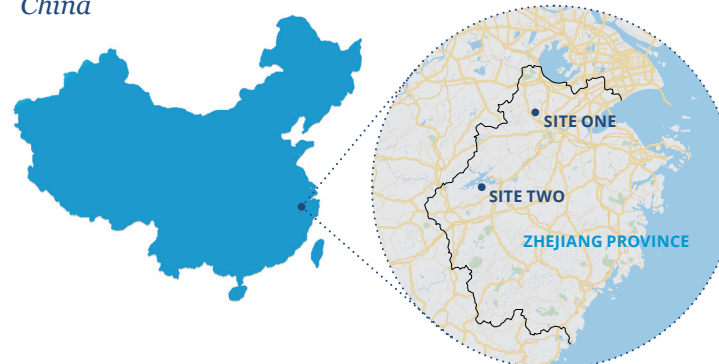
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) China has established two pilot Water Funds at strategic sites in Zhejiang Province. These funds have multiple aims: to bring together scientists, business and industry and find ways to reduce the impact on the environment; to encourage funding for long-term conservation; and to ensure local people can pursue livelihoods that secure their wellbeing as well as improve watershed health.

The future

The funds have encouraged downstream investors – including large businesses and government agencies – to support upstream land conservation and restoration. At the larger Qiandao site, TNC began working with local farmers in 2018 to implement organic, high-end tea and high-yield rice-paddy agriculture. Using cutting edge technology (drones, AI and Cloud data storage), farmers can now improve precision of their fertilizer application and therefore reduce the amount they use. The Water Fund has also established nature-based solutions such as ecological ditches, and launched water education programs for students so that they can learn why and how to protect source water in the future. Ultimately, the Qiandao Lake Water Fund practices will improve 15,000 livelihoods while reducing fertilizer and pesticide use across 30,000 acres.



China



SITE ONE

Longwu Reservoir, used by more than 4,000 residents

SITE TWO

Qiandao Lake, the source of drinking water for more than 10 million people

Read the full story at: global.nature.org/content/beyond-the-source

Lead the way to a secure water future with the Water Funds Toolbox

What are Water Funds?

A Water Fund is a framework that enables cities, communities and companies to invest in the management of the landscapes where their water is sourced; so that upstream forests and wetlands are protected to continue naturally cleaning and filtering water. Upstream communities can benefit from enhanced livelihoods and improvements to health and wellbeing whilst downstream communities experience improved water quality and, in many cases, fewer disruptions and shortages.

What is the Water Funds Toolbox?

The Water Funds Toolbox is a step-by-step online guide for developing a Water Fund. It features videos, testimonials, templates, tools, case studies and much more. The heart of the toolbox is the Water Fund Project Cycle, which outlines the five phases that take a Water Fund from feasibility through to maturity.



Ready to make a difference?

Develop your knowledge

Through the Water Funds Toolbox you can access the state of the art curriculum for developing Water Funds. Authored by Water Funds practitioners for practitioners.

Curriculum includes:

- Water Funds 101
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Action Planning
- Courses specific to governance, science, finance, implementation and communications

nature.org/WaterFundsTraining

Build your network

Join the global community of Water Funds practitioners working to apply and refine the Water Fund model around the world.

Network activities:

- Webinars
- Discussion boards
- News
- Member profiles
- Recognition programs
- Network-wide competitions
- Peer learning & review

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Water Fund Project Cycle

1

Feasibility

Defining the problem, attracting partners and hiring the WF Director

2

Design

Developing a strategic plan with solutions and establishing the WF governance

3

Creation

Formalizing the WF structure and official launching

4

Operation

Developing and implementing annual work plans

5

Maturity

Securing the WF's long-term viability and creating large-scale impacts