

Climate Change Solutions Constrained by Water

Energy alternatives such as hydropower and food crop generated biofuels require water and are directly affected by water availability.

Nuclear power generation and Carbon Capture and Storage technologies are both water intensive users.



NO. 1 PRODUCER

TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE WATER AFFECTS CROPS

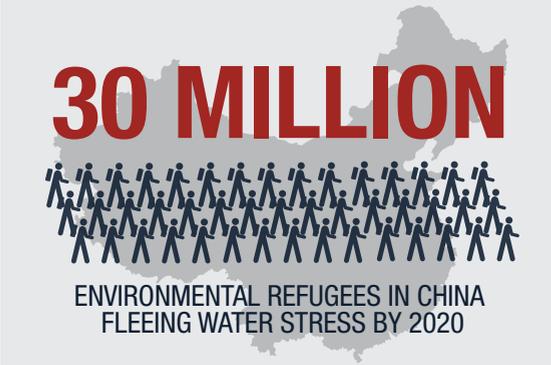
Climate change has brought about droughts, floods and unpredictable precipitation, which affect agricultural yields. Given that China is the no. 1 producer of many key crops and meats, this could have an impact on agriculture prices globally.



Extreme Weather

According to China's National Climate Center, extreme weather in 2010 caused the deaths of more than 4,800 people and resulted in direct economic losses of more than RMB 500 billion.

Transport was also disrupted. Droughts led to historically low water levels on the Yangtze River forcing authorities to halt shipping on the nation's longest waterway in May 2011.



Environmental Refugees

According to the World Bank, 300 million rural Chinese still lack access to safe drinking water. Water stress is expected to worsen and estimates are that there will be 30 million environmental refugees fleeing water stress by 2020 in China.

In 2010, China saw floods, torrential rain and unprecedented droughts. These have even occurred in the water resource rich southern parts of China.

FALLING WATER SUPPLY

RETREATING GLACIERS, MELTING ICE CAPS & GROUNDWATER DEPLETION

Climate Change Affects Water

The supply of freshwater is falling due to retreating glaciers and ice caps, and groundwater depletion.

Some of the key glacier-fed rivers in China such as the Indus, Brahmaputra, Upper Mekong and Salween also provide water to other countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand.

CHINA WATER RISK

CHINA WATER RISK is a non-profit initiative dedicated to addressing business and environmental risk arising from the country's urgent water crisis. We aim to foster efficient and responsible use of China's water resources by engaging the global investment and business communities, civil society and individuals in understanding and managing China's water risk.

ACT NOW, visit us at www.chinawaterrisk.org

GET THE BIG PICTURE

CLIMATE CHANGE & WATER

If you like it share it!
A copy of this brochure can be downloaded from our website.

Sources:
UN Environmental Programme 2009; Ceres "Murky Waters: Corporate Reporting on Water Risk, 2010; World Bank, "Addressing China's Water Scarcity: Recommendations for Selected Water Management Issues, 2009. Song Lianchun, Chief of the National Climate Center, 2011.

Contact Us
info@chinawaterrisk.org

© 2011 China Water Risk
All Rights Reserved

www.chinawaterrisk.org