

**Avoiding Military Conflict:** Recently, a US military board reclassified climate change & water risk from a "threat multiplier" to a "catalyst for instability & conflict". This month we review the impact of water risks on national security and other conflict pinch points such as food and energy security in an increasingly hot and water scarce world. Already Oxfam is seeing the impact on small farmers who support 1.5–2 billion people with food and fear we will end up "Hot & Hungry" and share with us how local disaster response plans deployed can help ease exposure to such risks. Energy security is also an issue. Beijing's new low carbon development plan in a bid towards cleaner air means more clean energy. Hydropower seems an obvious choice but with over 46,000 dams, Chinese NGOs are worried that China's rivers are already at maximum dam capacity. The Woodrow Wilson Center's Dong & Turner say its time to rethink China's dam rush. Moreover, China's drive in hydropower has meant damming in seismic zones; Chinadialogue's Yunnan Chen expands on the need for urgent review. Natural disasters such as floods & earthquakes strain military resources, ultimately weakening national baseline readiness. An effective Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system, can go some way to mitigating this by preventing the construction of environmentally unsound projects. Unfortunately, fraudulent & substandard EIA reporting persist in China. Green Stone Environmental Action Network's Li and Wang share their findings from the ground in Jiangsu province whilst we review the EIA process. Ensuring water security is not China's issue alone. Recently, China reported that glaciers in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have shrunk by 15% in the last three decades. This is China's largest surface freshwater reserve; it provides water to 250 million people in China and up to 500 million in South Asia. China's pursuit of clean energy security and climate change may accelerate geopolitical risk. In short, water matters to national security. Surely it's time to plan for these black swan risks to avoid military conflict.



## EDITORIAL

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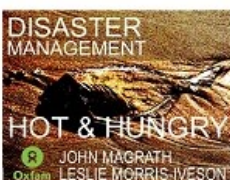
Ensuring water security is not China's issue alone. Recently, the Chinese Academy of Science reported that glaciers in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have shrunk by 15% in the last three decades. This is China's largest surface freshwater reserve; it provides water to 250 million people in China and up to 500 million in South Asia. China's pursuit of clean energy security and climate change may accelerate geopolitical risk. In short, water matters to national security. Surely it's time to plan for these black swan risks to avoid military conflict.

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Government:

- State Council: [Boost Water Conservation](#) to save 80bn cum by 2020
- State Council: [Action Plan on Energy Saving & Low-Carbon Development](#)
- NDRC, MoF & MWR: [Water & Soil Conservation Fee Standard](#) to be RMB2.00-2.50/sqm by location
- MEP: [2013 Environmental Status Report](#): overall water quality is average
- MEP: [Water & Air Emissions Rules for Boilers, Incinerators & Some Refineries](#)
- MLR: [Geological Environment Monitoring Management Measures](#)
- MEP: Guidance on [Promoting Public Participation](#) in Environmental Protection
- MEP: [Major Environmental Cases \(1Q2014\)](#)- 83 co's & industrial parks listed (*Chinese*)
- MEP: [Notice on Strengthening Environmental Statistics Works in Key Industries](#) (*Chinese*)

Reports:

- CAS: [Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau glaciers shrunk 15%](#) in last three decades
- Goldman Sachs: CWR featured in [Fortnightly Thoughts: Evolution of Pollution Solutions](#)
- HSBC: [China's Low Carbon Development Plan](#)
- BAML: [Blue Revolution - Global Water Primer](#)
- CNA Military Advisory Board: [National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change](#)
- FAO: [The Water-Energy-Food Nexus at FAO: Concept Note](#)
- IIED: [Watered Down? Review of Social & Environmental Safeguards for Large Dam Projects](#)
- WBCSD: [Water, Food & Energy Nexus Challenges](#)
- WBCSD: [Co-optimizing Solutions: Water & Energy for Food, Feed & Fiber](#)

Events:

- 13 June 2014: [HK Water Governance Symposium](#)
- 25 June 2014: [Industrial Leaders Forum, Aquatech Shanghai](#): CWR, McKinsey & HSBC host roundtables for industry leaders

Interest:

- Daily wastewater treatment capacity =126mn cum, up 3.4mn cum from last year
- >RMB170bn of wastewater discharge fees collected during 2003-2013
- MEP launches ad campaign to urge public to join the war on pollution against air, water & soil
- China's hybrid rice set to break world record yield at 1,081.8kg/mu
- China to close >2,000 small-scale coalmines by 2015
- Zhao Xizi, Chairman of All-China Chamber of Commerce for Metallurgical SMEs says steel mills don't have cash to meet smog standards
- Fujian: 1st environmental court opens with 12 experts to assist in litigation
- ABD loans China US\$200mn to improve water access & quality
- UN Watercourses Convention will be effective in August 2014 once Vietnam joins

Hot on Weibo:

- Guangdong Floods 1.2mn people affected; RMB4.2bn in direct economic loss underground drainage system blamed

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