

Civil society approaches, perspectives in China on climate change

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Main approaches

1. Public advocacy in urban cities on mitigation

Activities and campaigns include: promoting tree planting, carbon calculator, air conditioning energy saving,, energy saving lamp, energy efficiency labeling, lights off for one hour etc.

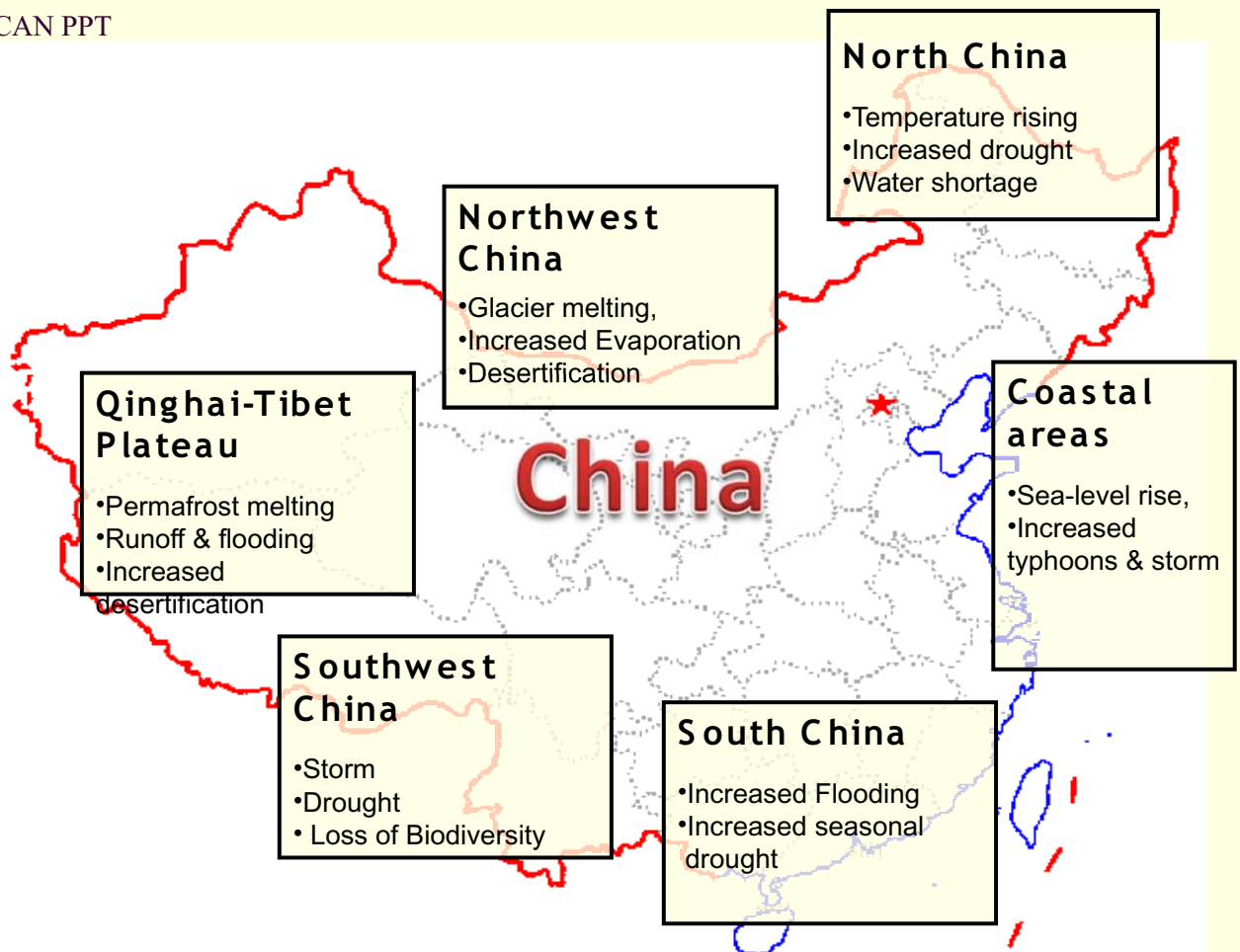
All aim to advocate for a behavior change of citizens and a low carbon life style.

(mainly talk about Chinese local NGOs.)

Public campaigns



Source: CCAN PPT



Main approaches

climate change leads to challenges:

Sea-level Rise;
water supply;
extreme weather;
food security.
making the task of poverty alleviation more challenging

2. Adaption measures in rural areas



Pingwu, Sichuan:
Building biogas tanks (HPI)



**Qinghai: Indigenous
people using solar stoves**

Main approaches

2. Adaption measures in rural areas

1) Emergency relief;

2) Adaption measures embedded in poverty alleviation and community development, to strengthen rural communities' capacity to deal with extreme climate;

Renewable energy projects, installation of water tanks and irrigation facilities in arid areas, disaster management capacity building, vocational training for climate refugees etc.

Main approaches

3. Experimental introduction of market mechanism by a few NGOs

CI & Shan Shui Conservation Center' s CCB project (climate, community and bio-diversity) through a voluntary carbon trading scheme (provide remedy for weakness in CDM)

GEI: energy efficiency financing, sustainable forest management, Conservation Concession Policy and Clean Development Mechanism for Forest Recovery etc.

Main approaches

3. Experimental introduction of market mechanism by a few NGOs

August 5, 2009: The first voluntary carbon trading in China through Beijing Environmental Exchange.

(Promoted by CANGO and Environmental Defense in the U.S and paid by a Chinese insurance company)

Three climate networks

1. CCAN (China Climate Action Network)

1) Activities: follow up global climate change negotiations, engage the government, empower civil society to supervise the business;

2) Link with CAN (among 13 CCAN members, 6 are CAN members, now applying to set up CAN China office);

3) Mainly focused on mitigation.

Three climate networks

2. Chinese Civil Society on Climate Change

- 1) Seven core NGO members;
- 2) Address both climate change and development and adaption issues;
- 3) Activities include doing research, produce reports and positioning statement of Chinese civil society;
- 4) Main point of work in 2010: low carbon economy and development

Three climate networks

3. CYCAN (China Youth Climate Action Network)

Mainly targets at university students in the campus, members come from University Students Groups.

Three climate networks

■ Common points of the three networks

- 1) All are a learning network established under global climate change context;
- 2) All Are very active to communicate with and learn from international NGO community; (participate in and observe COPs, issue positioning statement)
- 3) Meanwhile have started to generate local perspectives and link global context with domestic actions.

(In fact before the birth of the three networks, NGOs have done lots of work before they are put under climate change context)

Characteristics of NGO climate initiatives

- 1) There is a divide of NGOs' work in urban and rural areas, due to the difference in nature of the problem, NGOs' strategies and approaches.
- 2) Generally weak in engaging the government for policy advocacy. Mainly campaign for enforcement of governments policy. (INGO Vs local)

Characteristics of NGOs' climate initiatives

- 3) Generally weak in engaging the business. Limited professional capacity to supervise/monitor for emission cut and energy efficiency improvement.
(a few cases to engage the business by local NGOs for behavior change, weaker than in pollution control)

Characteristics of NGOs' climate initiatives

- 4) Main strategy: to take actions and seek technical fix in a practical way, rather than being reflective on institutional weakness (for example the climate justice).

- 5) Among the civil society, still not much in-depth debates & reflections on some hot topics facing developing countries. For instance, rights to development Vs obligation for carbon emission cut, climate justice, carbon tax and trade etc.

Engage the government on climate change negotiations

The government (NDRC) has showed the willingness to communicate with Chinese NGOs due to its experience in international climate change politics.

Interactions include:

- ☆ Attending NGOs workshop on climate change;
- ☆ Informal exchanges and information sharing in COPs/CPH;
- ☆ Support NGOs to get access to the governments' meeting place.

Engage the government in climate change negotiations

Civil society not treated as independent actors due to:

1. Lack of professional capacity on NGO side;
2. Limited political space;
3. Government takes NGOs and media as a pragmatic instrument that can help the government to relieve pressure on global negotiation table.

Some points to mention

1. To deal with climate change, it might be important to identify and emphasize the correlation between efforts to cut carbon emission and pollutants emission, and take measures to cope with both threats, in order to generate more endogenous motivation inside China.

(a recent book in China: Low Carbon Conspiracy)

Some points to mention

2. While it is very important to advocate on individual behavior change, Chinese civil society also needs to build up its expertise on climate change issues in order to more effectively engage the government and the business, as the business are also the main source of GHG emission.

Some points to mention

3. Climate justice issue inside China: the urban people are in advantageous position to cope with climate disasters compared with rural people.

Case: the drought in China's South Western provinces)

Some points to mention

4. NGOs should work to make sure that vulnerable communities will benefit from or not be harmed by measures to deal with climate change.

(for instance, the impact of big dams, and REDD project on local communities.)

THANK YOU!



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