NBS Good Practices from Chinese government

May 2019

River (Lake) Chief System

1. Background

In 2017, the Chinese government issued opinions on the full implementation of the river-chief system. In 2018, the Chinese government issued opinions on the implementation of the lake-chief system in lakes, and comprehensively implemented the river (lake) chief system. Thirty-one provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) have identified more than 300,000 River Chiefs at the provincial, municipal, county and township levels and more than 930,000 River Chiefs at the village level. Through the implementation of the River (Lake)-Chief System and the strengthening on the management and protection of river and lakes, not onlythe capacity of regulating and storing river and lakes has been increased, the guarantee of ecological flow of river and lakes has also been strengthened, which finally improves the function of river and lake ecosystems and the ability of adapting to climate change.

2. Implementation time

In 2017, the River-Chief System was fully implemented, and in 2018, the Lake- Chief System was implemented in lakes.

3. Stakeholders of Case implementation

It involves the Chinese government, the Ministry of Water Resources as a leader, all relevant departments of the State Council as participants, and local people's governments at all levels as the implementation units.

4. Beneficiary

Residents along river and lakes in 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities)

5. Project Level

National

6. Major Benefits and Impacts of Adaptation to Climate Change

The implementation of river (lake) long system has the following advantages: the management and protection of river and lakes will be strengthened; the storage capacity of river and lakes will be increased; the guarantee of ecological flow of river and lakes will be strengthened; the function of river and lakes ecosystems and the ability of adapting to climate change will be enhanced.