

# Urban Security in China

Wen Bo

Pacific Environment

“COMPLEXITY OF GLOBAL SECURITY AND AGENDA FOR EAST ASIA:  
GREEN ECONOMY, URBAN SECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY”

Research Workshop in Seoul

October, 2010



*PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT*

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)



# Economic Development and Urbanization



## Rise of China in economic strength

- \* Favorable foreign investment policy
- \* An export oriented economy
- \* Fixed-asset investment
- \* Utilization of nature resources
- \* Labor force and capital reserve
- \* Economy of scale
- \* Huge domestic demands/consumption
- \* "Socialist" market economy



*PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT*

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)



# Rapid Urbanization



A government-dominated economy:

infrastructure and mega- projects

State-owned enterprises demand  
more resources and markets

Urbanization as an engine for  
continous growth



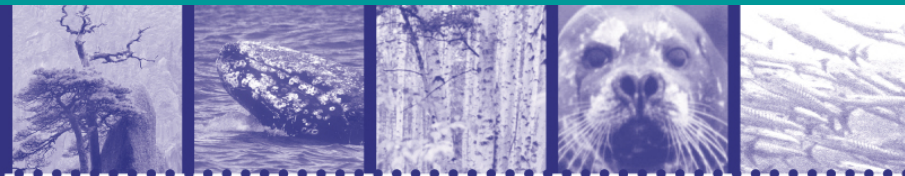
*PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT*

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)





# Goal of Development and Security



**PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT**

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)



# In Search of Urban Security

Chinese leadership and local governments are committed to vision of China' moderation

Lack of public institutions which exist in the developed countries

From "Three Represents" theory to "Harmonious Society"

Establish new social security system

Chinese families prepare for future overhang  
Investment in housing drives real estate boom

Chinese people are forward-looking!



PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)





# Sustainable Cities

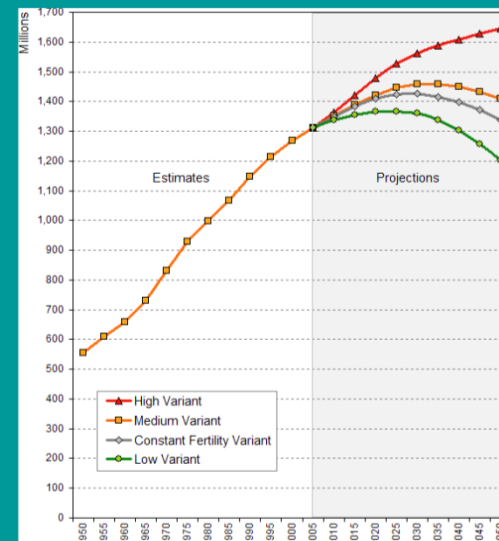
## China's progress on sustainable development policy

- Two major plans
  - China Agenda 21 in 1994
  - 11th Five year Plan 2006-2010 for National Economic and Social Development
- Other efforts:
  - Strengthen corporate social responsibility
  - Develop government efficiency assessment systems since 2004
  - Anti-corruption efforts
  - Energy conservation and renewable energy development



# Population Control

- Most populous country
- 20% of world population
- Around 1.3 billion with 0.606% growth rate
- Effective family planning policy since 1972
- Strictest policy began in 1979
- “One Family, One Child”
- Slogan “One is best, at most two, but never a third”
- Changing attitude towards Children in 21st century
- Late marriage and late birth



# Urban Security in Question

- \* **Environmental degradation**

- Along with massive population and unprecedented economic development
- Significant barriers to Sustainability

- \* **Economic growth**

- Increasing negative environmental consumption, e.g. automobile
- Rising demand for energy
- Threats to the Earth's future environment

- \* **Growing income disparity**

- \* **Lack of a mature civil society sector**



# Environmental Degradation

## Air pollution

The air in many Chinese cities is among the most polluted in the world. In Beijing and other parts of the northeast, levels of nitrogen dioxide – which is known to cause respiratory problems – have jumped 50 percent since 1996. Nitrogen dioxide is released by power plants, heavy industry and vehicle traffic.

- Same pollution as L.A.
- 2 times L.A.
- 3 times L.A.

## Land becoming desert

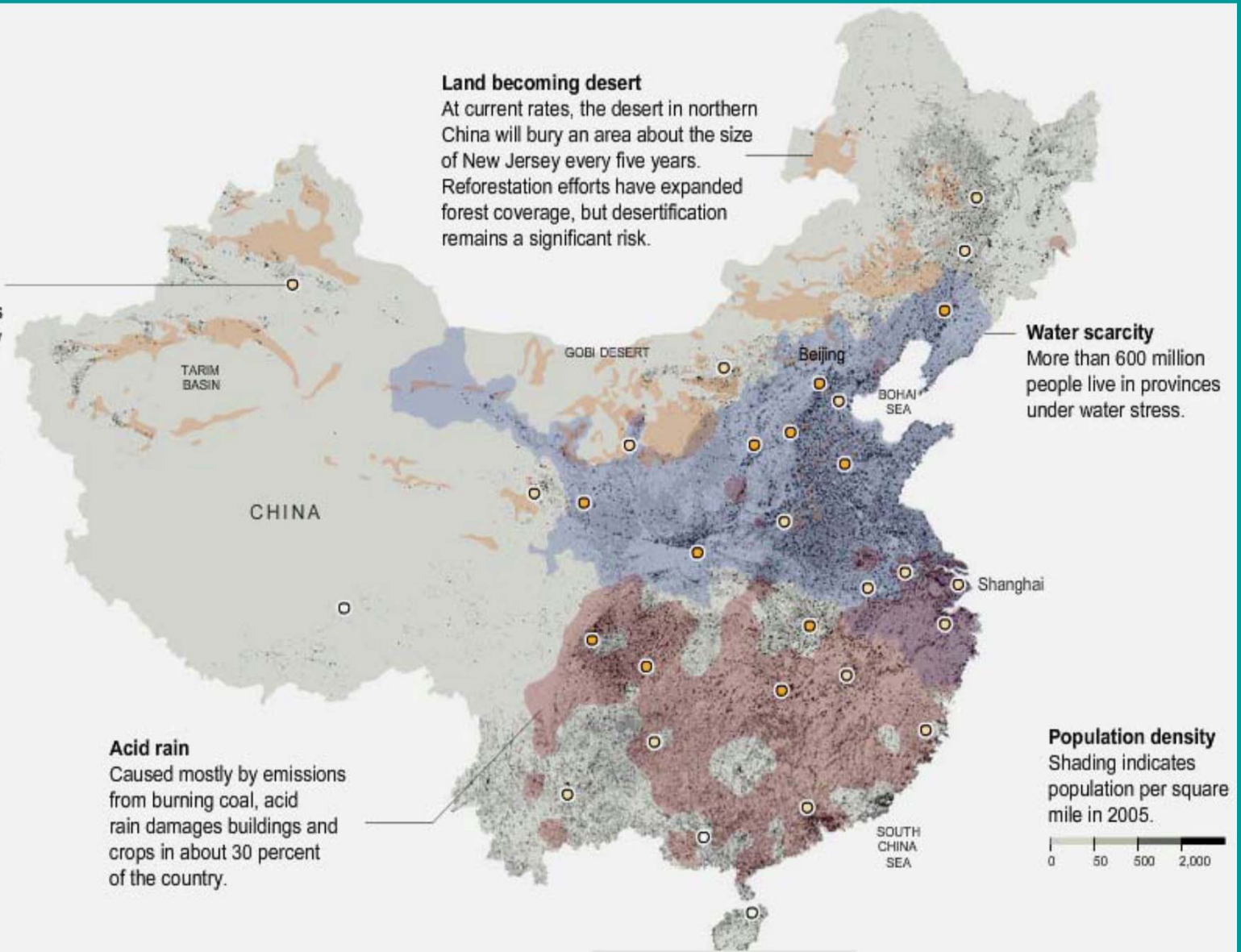
At current rates, the desert in northern China will bury an area about the size of New Jersey every five years. Reforestation efforts have expanded forest coverage, but desertification remains a significant risk.

## Water scarcity

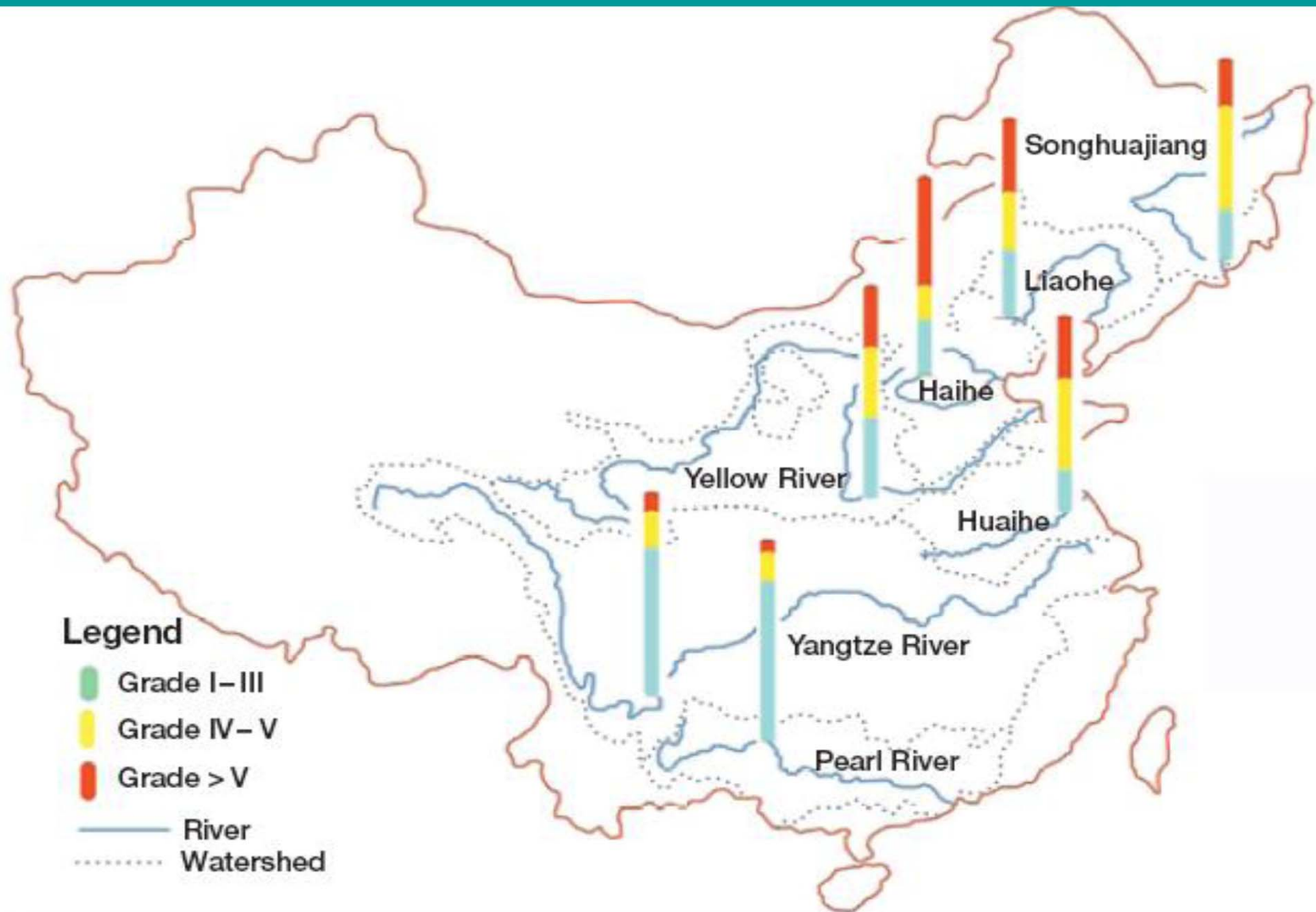
More than 600 million people live in provinces under water stress.

## Acid rain

Caused mostly by emissions from burning coal, acid rain damages buildings and crops in about 30 percent of the country.



# Water Pollution of Seven Large Rivers



## **Environmental Goals in the 11th Five-Year-Plan (2006-2010)**

- **Energy consumption per GDP decline by 20%**
- **Total amount of major pollutants discharged reduce by 10%**
- **Comprehensive utilization of solid wastes increased to 60%**

# Challenges to Achieve Sustainable Cities in China

- Lack of good governance
- Weak citizen participation
- Institutional/Policy constraints
  - –Weak environmental ministry which lacks capacity in term of human resources as well as regulatory functions
  - –Insufficient capacity of local officers in terms of information and training on the implementation of MDGs
  - –Inconsistent and overlap institutions, and even policies



# Urban Water Management

- \* **Conventional mentality and project approach**

- Hydrological projects
- Construct more Waste Water Treatment Plants
- ...

- \* **Water Supply management**

- South-to-North Water Transfer
- Low efficiency water use
- Bad governmental water policy
- Ineffective management

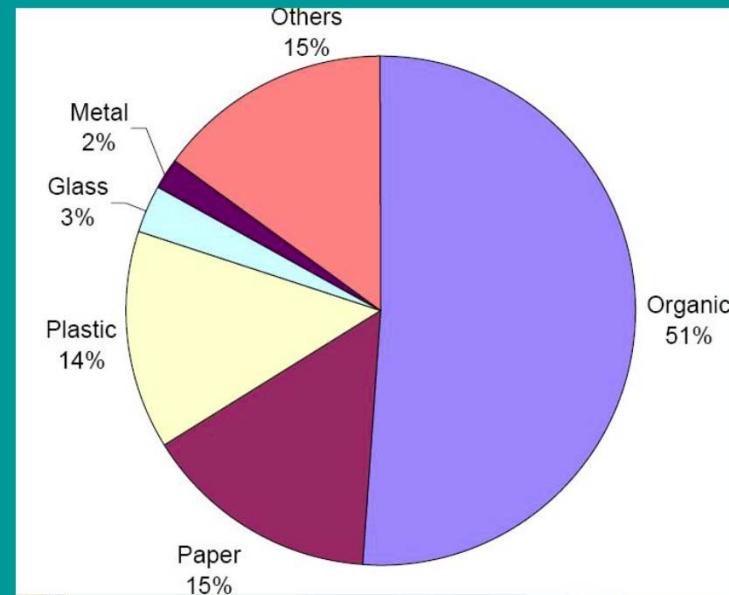
- \* **Future Directions**

- Combine both “hard”-engineering and “soft”-management solutions
- Paradigm shifting towards adaptive & integrated water and river management



# Solid Waste

- Waste incineration
- Rapid Waste generation versus less developed waste treatment
- Undercurrent of imported waste, especially E-waste  
over 70% of world's e-waste dumped in China



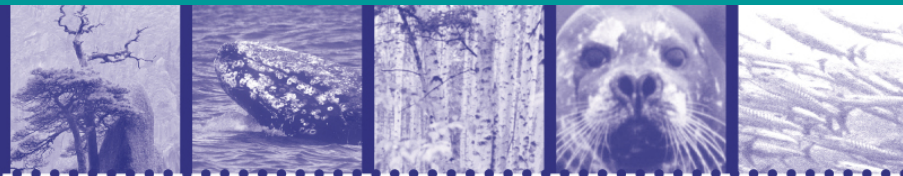
# Energy-related urban security issues

- \* Increased frequency of chemical and oil spills
- \* Shortage of supply and price uncertainty
- \* Car emission and air pollution; climate change





# Destruction of Ocean Threats Urban Security



**PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT**

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)





# Depelation of Marine Resources

- International trade and smuggling of marine species
- Decline of marine fishery
- Lack of marine resources management



**PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT**

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)



# Civil Soceity Approach

Supporting the grassroots through small grants, capacity building support, networking opportunities, trainings and workshops.



**PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT**

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)

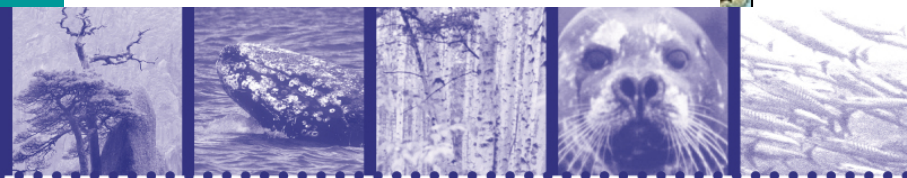




## Emerging Chinese Environmental Groups



**Chinese environmental NGOs and a mature civil society are key for positive environmental change and future security of East Asia**



**PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT**

[www.pacificenvironment.org](http://www.pacificenvironment.org)



# Thanks!

