

Water School for a Living Yangtze

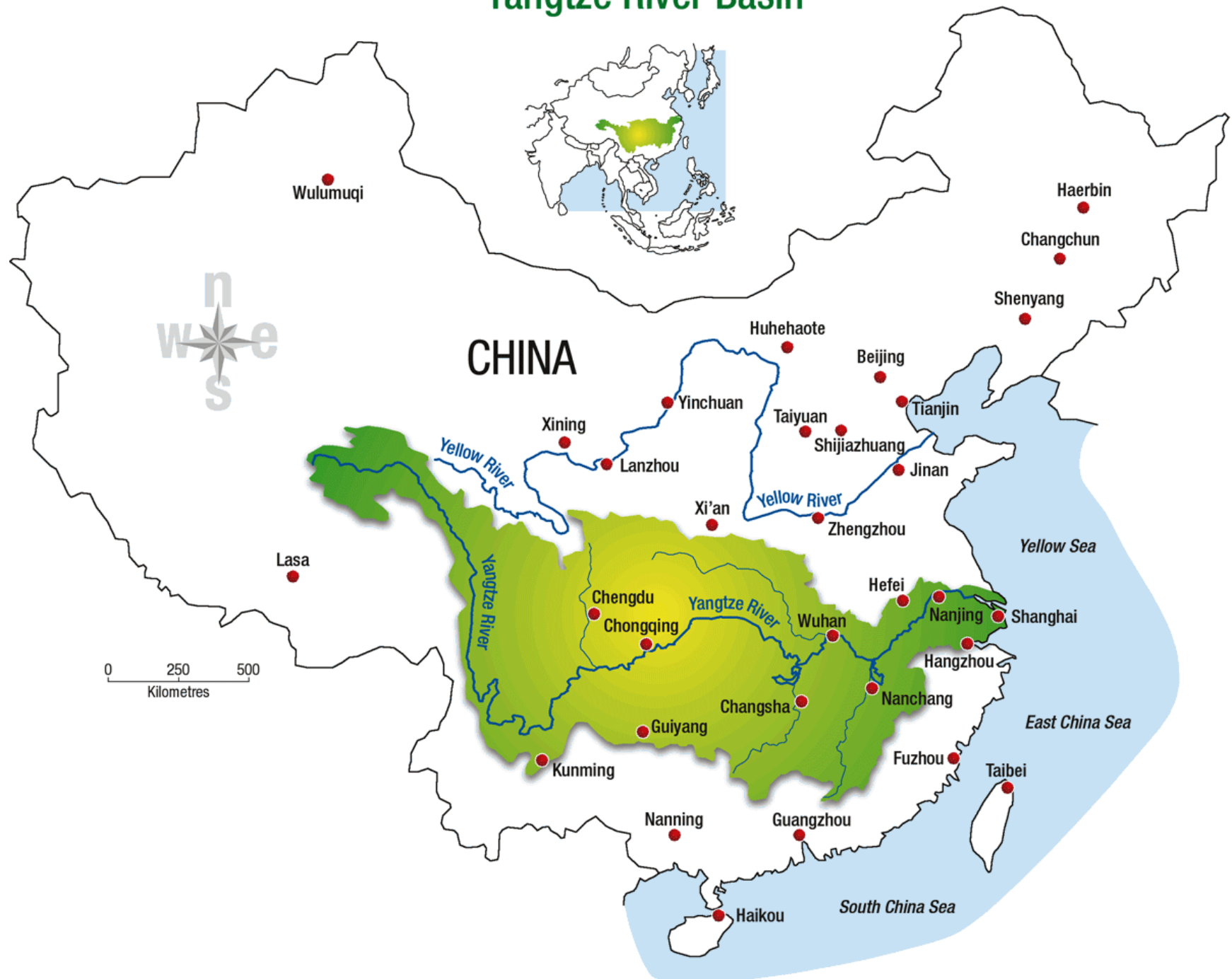
長江水學校 - 攜手保護生命之河

Nov. 6, 2014 Okayama



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Yangtze River Basin



Yangtze River (长江)



- Longest river in China 6,350 km
- Third longest in the world
- River basin is 1.8 million square km
- 1/3 of China's population living there
- Provides habitat for Yangtze River Dolphin and other endangered species
- Importance for sustaining livelihoods and ecosystems throughout the river basin
- Produces 40% national grain (70% paddy rice)
- 1/3 China's cotton
- 48% freshwater fish
- 40% total industrial output

Yangtze Under Threat (长江面临的生态环境危机)

- Population pressure and rapid economic development are causing increased pollution, threatening the ecosystems and communities that depend on the Yangtze for survival
- Current statistics indicate Yangtze is responsible for 60% of the country's pollution
- The single largest source of marine pollution in the Pacific Ocean

Action (公民行动——长江水学校)

- Urgent action needed to protect China's waterways
- Government efforts are not sufficient
- Public participation, collective wisdom and voices are essential
- For effective public participation opportunities need to be created and provided for public learning and action.

Vision and Goals (项目目标)

Vision (远景目标)

- People living in harmony with nature in the Yangtze Basin

Goal (中长期目标)

- Restore ecological integrity of the Yangtze River through effective public participation in sustainable water resource management.

Purpose

Foster environmental stewardship in selected watersheds of the Yangtze through participatory learning and action by schools and communities (*contributing to improved social and environmental conditions in the Yangtze Basin and beyond*).

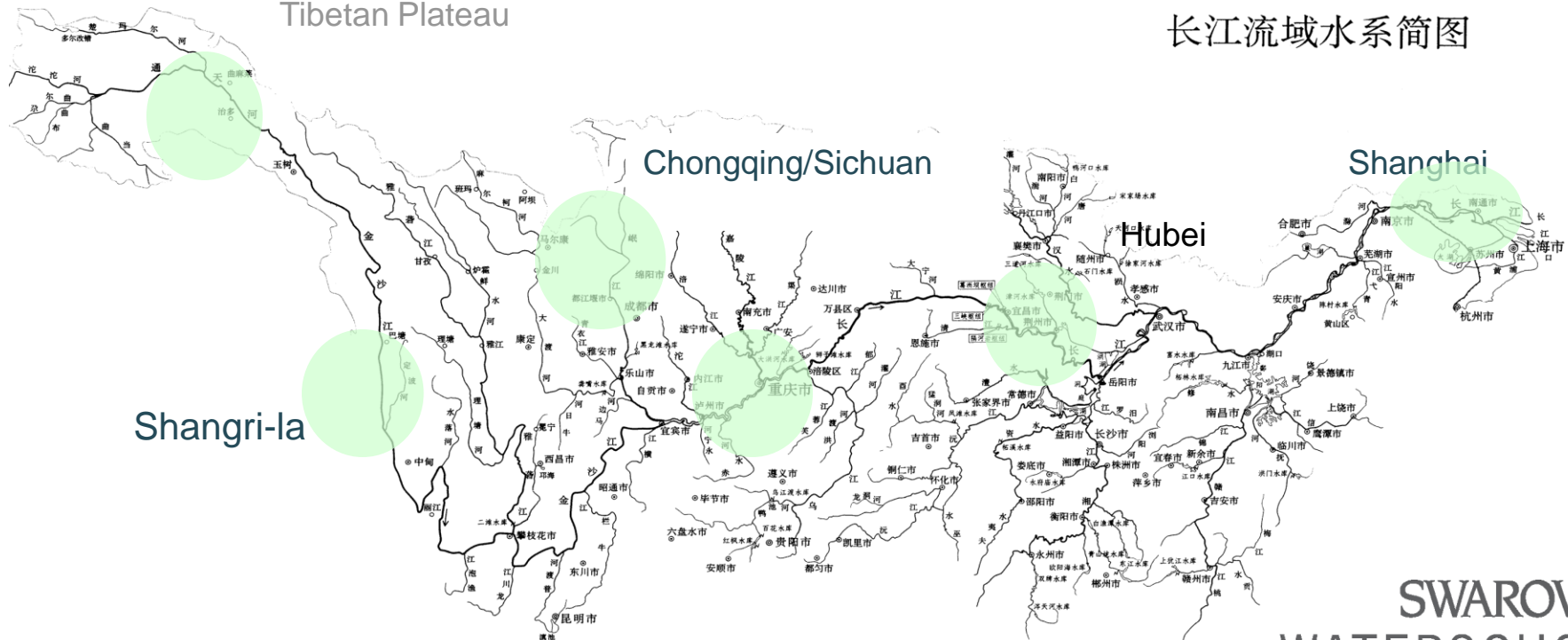


Water School for a Living Yangtze

60 schools in 6 regions in Phase I and Phase II (2008-2013)

Yushu – Source of Yangtze
Tibetan Plateau

长江流域水系简图



Project Principles (项目原则)

Through learning and action at the individual, organizational and societal level:

- Enhance education by:

- rooting the Water School education in the community
- encouraging critical thinking, active engagement and providing meaningful experiences
- making learning authentic and alive

- Encourage stewardship by:

- getting to know a place and its people
- caring for that place and its well-being
- instilling a sense of caring and responsibility for it
- contributing to the maintenance and improvement of the neighborhoods through civic action and environmental restoration
- showing that you can make a difference

- Build community vitality by:

- initiating and participating in actions that build a sense of community spirit

Strategic Approach

The Learning and Action takes place at 3 levels:

■ Individual

- Enhancing knowledge, skills and commitment of teachers, students and community members in sustainable water resource management

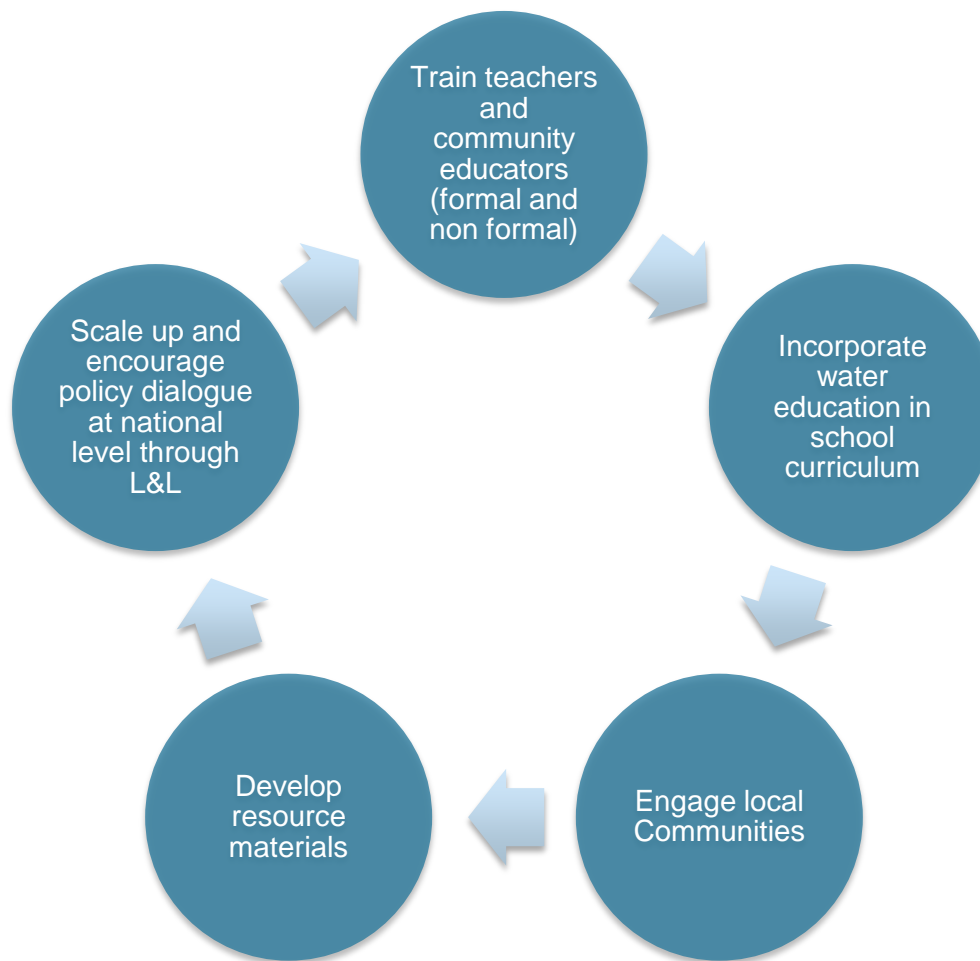
■ Organizational

- Strengthening institutional capacity in water education in selected watersheds of Yangtze
 - Water School Yangtze Leadership Institute
 - Six Regional Leadership Institutes
 - Local Leadership Teams, which are composed of representatives from schools, communities, nature reserves, monasteries etc.

■ Societal

- Connecting with broader structures and decision-making processes through
 - Partnership building
 - Networking (website, newsletter etc)
 - Policy influence

Project Components



Teacher Training Workshop

Basong Niyang River Tibet Aug. 22-24 2014



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Resource Material Development



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School Implementation



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Community Engagement





Linking and Learning



Water School for a Living Yangtze

Case Studies



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Case Study #1:

Bazhu Primary School

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- ✦ Situated deep in the mountains of Weixi County in the Shangri-la region, Bazhu Community is closed off from the outside world.
- ✦ Before joining the Water School programme students and teachers at Bazhu primary school were not used to meeting people from other places, and few had traveled outside of their county



Case Study #1:

Bazhu Primary School

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- ◆ After joining the Water School programme the students have become full of confidence, and through participation in a range of activities they are making real changes to their local environment



Case Study #1:

Bazhu Primary School

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- ❖ Through capacity building, teaching and learning styles, which were previously 'rote learning' focused, now constitute all kinds of hands on and interactive activities
- ❖ Capacity is not only built directly through teacher training. Attending workshops in Beijing and other provinces has provided teachers at Bazhu Primary School the valuable experience of seeing the outside world - most importantly the chance to meet and share experiences with other Water School teachers



Case Study #1:

Bazhu Primary School

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Initially shy and reserved, students at Bazhu Primary School now enthusiastically tell other villagers, local communities and even strangers about the Water School project and the activities they are organizing



Case Study #2:

Huaping Primary School

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- ◆ Students tested water quality in the Hengjiang River, a tributary just off the Huangpu River which flows directly into the East China Sea
- ◆ They discovered high levels of pollution
- ◆ Grade 3 Student Zhang Siting asked her teacher “*How is it possible to make this stinky water clean again?*”

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Case Study #2:

Huaping Primary School

- ◆ Students then went on a trip to one of Shanghai's major waste water treatment plants where they were shown the latest water cleaning technology
- ◆ *" I never before realised what a complicated and difficult process is required for Shanghai's residents to have clean water" said Zhang Siting "From now on I will always cherish and save water!"*

WS-Young Monk School at Dongzhulin



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Vision by Water School Students at DZL Monastery



WS-Chong Qing Nan'an Qiaojiaotou Primary School

Nan'an Qiao Jiaotou Primary School was included in the Water School for a Living Yangtze programme in 2009. Through a unique educational approach the programme allows for successful implementation of environmental protection and water conservation activities. The programme concentrates on various new teaching methods in order to encourage the students own ability towards innovative thinking.



'Greening the Yangtze River'

In response to the 'Greening the Yangtze River in Chongqing' action launched by the All-China Afforestation Committee, the State Forestry Administration, the China Green Foundation and Chongqing Municipal People's Government, Nan'an Qiao Jiaotou Primary School plans to organize a performance to raise water education awareness.



Contributing to "Greening the Yangtze River"



A performance reflecting local water culture

----- Sichuan Pan Zi%



'The Disappearing Begonia Stream'

With increased urbanization, the Begonia Stream is disappearing gradually. If we carry on this way, the Begonia Stream, one of the ancient Chongqing twelve sceneries, will cease to exist and the related dock culture will also become a distant memory.

We hope that through environmental education activities, children will gain more awareness of the importance of water for all life. This knowledge can then be spread from students to their families and on to the wider community. In this way we can all join hands and take part in environmental protection and cultural preservation.%%



Cherish the Earth & Protect Water Resources

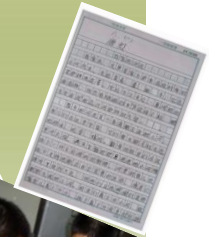
On April 22nd, 2009, the 41st Earth Day, Nan'an Qiao Jiaotou Primary School held an event to raise students' and teachers' awareness of the need for saving natural resources, protecting the environment, and cherishing our Earth, entitled: 'Cherish the Earth & Protect Water Resources'.

Representatives from all classes reported on the current environmental situation on earth, found possible causes and put forward suggestions of how to improve the situation in the future. Meanwhile, students and teachers also signed their names on a 'Cherish the Earth & Protect Water Resources' proposal, indicating their strong determination to protect the earth and its environment through collective action. Community leaders were also invited to participate and share effective means of saving natural resources.%%



Nan' an Qiao Jiaotou primary school is situated at the foot of Mount Tu, at the point where the Yangtze River and the Jialing River meet. The district our school belongs to is a water transport hub.

Through a series of education activities about 'Integrating Local Culture to Promote the Sustainable Management of Community Water Resources', teachers and students learned about rivers and the need to protect them, thereby enhancing their awareness of the shortage of water, strengthening their bonds to the rivers in their hometown and enabling them to actively and effectively take part in the conservation of the environment. We also improved community members' skills and their confidence in participating in water protection, encouraged the local people to take conservation actions for the sustainable development of the region. Under the guidance of experts our school has developed effective means for water protection and conservation. We also encourage community engagement, making the programme a true cooperation between the diverse actors involved.



WS-Regional Coordination Centres (Shangri-la)

Founded in May of 2008, the Shangri-La Regional Coordination Centre is responsible for local project coordination of the Water Schools in the region, project implementation and project expenditure management. With the support of Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities, the coordination centre has supported its regional water schools in implementing more than 50 projects about water education and environment protection during the last two years. The centre further monitors expenditure distribution and operates the fund management system. Many activities, such as the organization of experience exchange meetings, teacher training sessions and regional forums have been carried out by the centre. Through cooperation with Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities which serves as bridge with local government, communities and media, the Shangri-La Regional Coordination Centre has made a great contribution towards environmental sustainability in Diqing.



Director of the Coordination Centre Zhao Guihua



Vice director of the Coordination Centre: Gerong Lamu

Staff



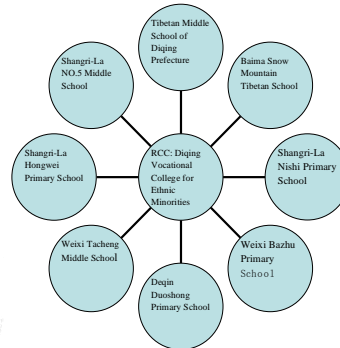
Office staff (from the left): Li Feizhi, Chen Qidong, Zhou Yuying



Regional Resource Development Coordinators (from the left): Yang Zeng, Yang Maochun, He Fakai, Li Honglian



Resource Development



Since the startup of the Water School project in Diqing, Shangri-La Regional Coordination Centre has played a fundamental role in areas such as fund management, technical guidance, information delivery, experience sharing, planning, coordination, liaison, publicity and promotion.

Project discussion



Inspection



Experience Sharing



Display of Achievements



Outcomes

- Active and informed citizenship
- Enhanced protection of watersheds and ecosystems
- Learning community created with heightened capacity to problem solving and address environmental challenges
- Greater understanding of social, economic and environmental inter-relationships
- Increased understanding and exchange between cultures and regions, both nationally and internationally

Foundation for Greater Impacts (Social Learning)

Unique Partnership (at national level)

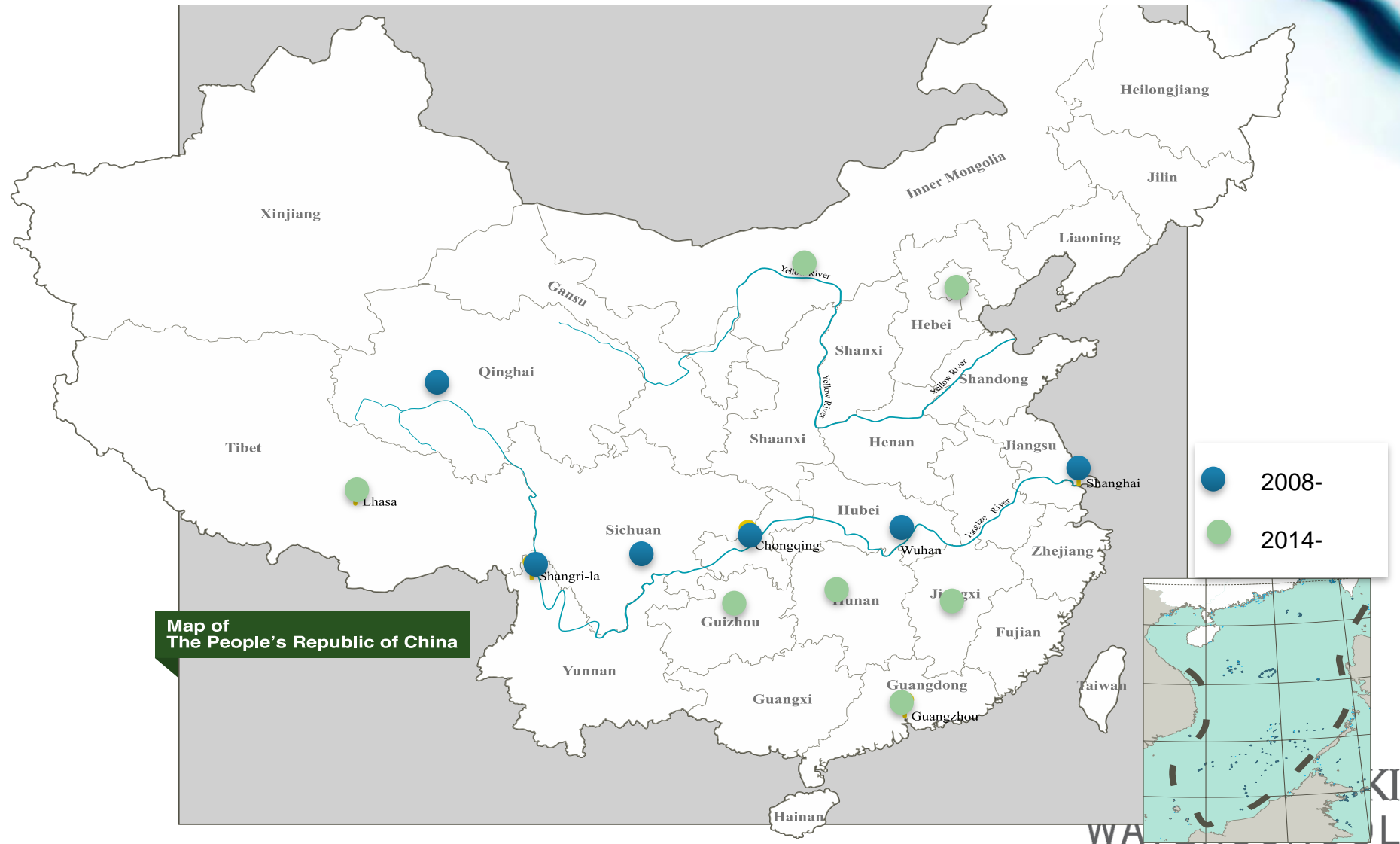
- Swarovski—donor with expertise and rich experiences in sustainable water resource management
- UNESCO—platform for shared learning at international level
- Ministry of Education—policy support and decision makers drawing experiences from Sworavski water school project
- Shangri-la Institute and local partners—SISC with schools, communities, Regional Centers, government agencies (at regional and local levels)

Unique Platform for learning and action at all levels along Yangtze

Learning platform developed at different levels (schools, communities) and areas in Yangtze Basin

Opportunity for learning cross cultures and traditions (Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism ...) Learning ethics that combines modern and tradition that enables development of new knowledge, skills, attitudes and joint actions.

Scaling Up in Phase III





Waterschool China

