

PART XI

PROMOTING GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONY BETWEEN HUMANITY AND NATURE

Upholding the notion that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, we must respect nature, follow its ways, and protect it, making conservation and protection foremost priorities so that our natural environment can restore itself. We will pursue sustainable development, improve the coordination mechanisms for ecological conservation, and put in place an eco-civilization system to effect a green transformation in all aspects of our economic and social development and build a Beautiful China.

Chapter 37 Improving the Quality and Stability of Ecosystems

We will continue to take a holistic approach to conserving China's mountain, river, forest, farmland, lake, and grassland ecosystems. We will focus on boosting the restorative capacity and stability of ecosystems, safeguard natural ecological boundaries, and work for overall quality improvements in our natural ecosystems.

Section 1 Improving the Ecological Security Shield System

We will strengthen territorial space planning and management and define and enforce redlines for protecting ecosystems, boundaries for permanent basic cropland and urban development, and various coastal protection lines. Giving priority to key national ecosystem service zones, ecological redlines, and national-level nature reserves, we will implement major projects to protect and restore key ecosystems and accelerate the development of ecological shields such as the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau ecological shield, the key Yellow River ecological zone, the key Yangtze River ecological zone, the northeast forest belt, the northern desertification-prevention belt, the southern mountainous belt, and the coastal zones. We will better protect and manage the ecosystems of major rivers such as the Yangtze River and the Yellow River as well as important lakes and wetlands, and consolidate the building and protection of major ecological corridors. We will strengthen the protection of natural forests and wetlands in all respects and increase the percentage of wetland areas under protection to

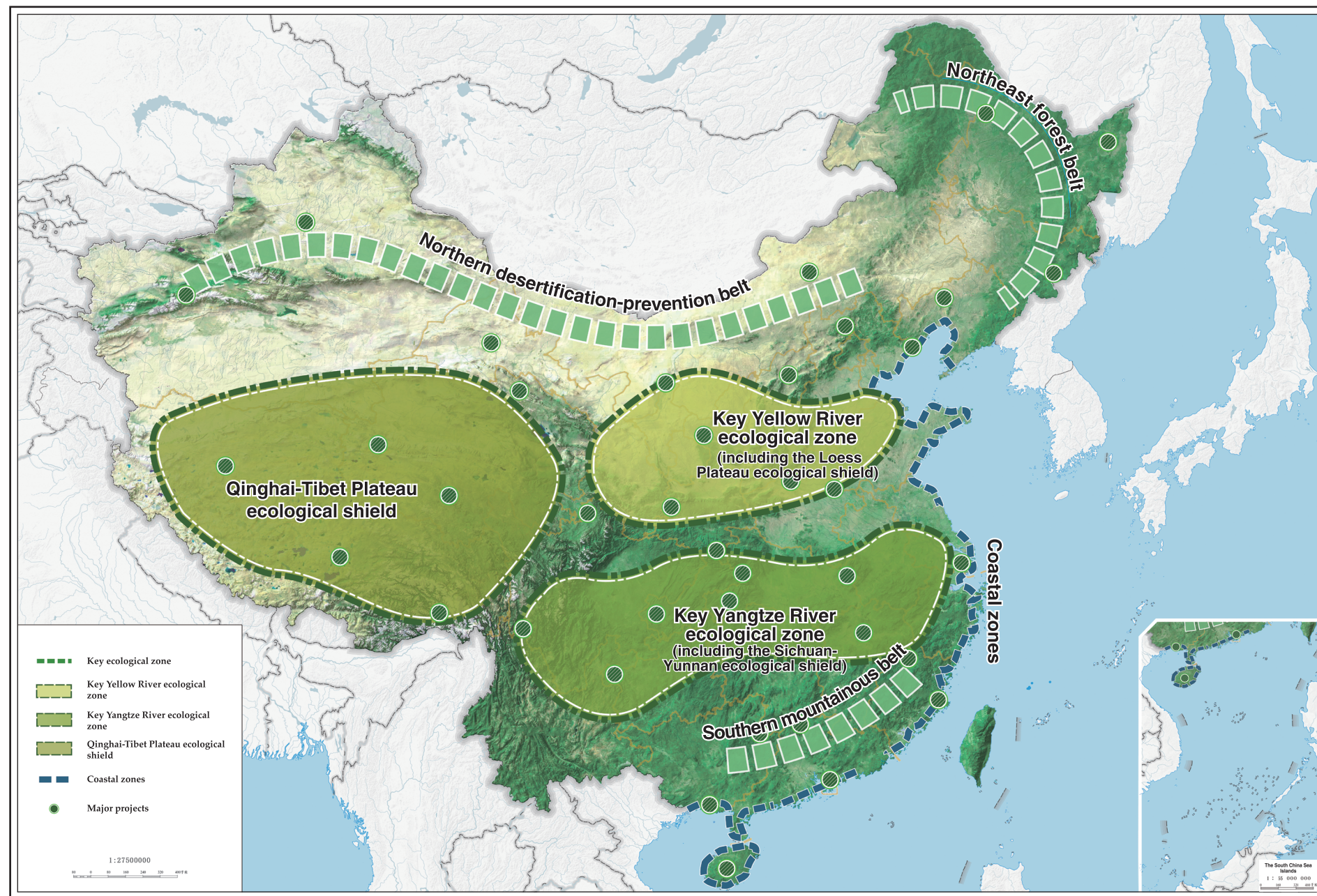
55%. We will promote comprehensive, science-based control of soil erosion, desertification, and rocky desertification, launch large-scale land greening programs, and implement a forest chief system. We will carry out weather modification activities. To allow grasslands, forests, rivers, and lakes to recuperate, we will improve the system of fallowing and crop rotation and consolidate the achievements made in returning marginal farmland to forests and grasslands, to lakes and wetlands, and to mudflats and seas.

Section 2

Building a Nature Reserve System

We will precisely define the boundaries and functional zones of nature reserves and accelerate the integration and upgrading of various types of reserves, with a view to creating a national park-based nature reserve system centered on protected natural areas and supported by various natural parks. We will strictly control non-ecological activities within the boundaries of nature reserves and carefully promote the well-ordered relocation of residents, farmlands, and mining claims away from their core areas. We will improve the management system and operating mechanism for national parks and set up new national parks through the integration of existing areas. We will launch major biodiversity protection projects, build biodiversity protection networks, step up the conservation and restoration of key nationally protected, rare, and endangered wildlife and their habitats, and strengthen the management and control of exotic species. Our policies on areas of land and sea used for ecological protection and restoration will be further refined. We will improve the systems for regulating nature reserves and enforcing redlines for ecological conservation and carry out monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of ecosystem protection.

Figure 7. Major Projects to Protect and Restore Key Ecosystems



Section 3

Improving the Compensation Mechanisms for Ecological Conservation

We will increase transfer payments to key ecosystem service zones, headwater areas of major water systems, and nature reserves. We will encourage diverse forms of horizontal eco-compensation between beneficiary regions and protected regions and between upstream and downstream river basins, including funding and industry-based support. We will promote market-based mechanisms for different forms of eco-compensation and encourage the involvement of all types of nongovernmental capital in ecological conservation and restoration. We will improve the eco-compensation system for forests, grasslands, and wetlands. We will also promote the establishment of eco-compensation mechanisms covering the entire watersheds of major rivers such as the Yangtze River and the Yellow River. A mechanism will be put in place for realizing the value of eco-products, with trials to be launched in the Yangtze River basin, Sanjiangyuan National Park (home of the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers), and other places. Eco-compensation regulations will be formulated and put into effect.

Box 14 Projects to Protect and Restore Key Ecosystems	
01 The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau ecological shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Focus on key water source supply areas for the Yellow River such as Sanjiangyuan, the Qilian Mountains, Roigê, and Gannan;▪ Strengthen the protection of natural zonal vegetation and rare species and their habitats;▪ Treat another 1 million hectares of desertified land and another 3.2 million hectares of degraded grassland;▪ Close off 200,000 hectares of desertified land for protection.

continued

Box 14 Projects to Protect and Restore Key Ecosystems	
02 Key Yellow River ecological zone (including the Loess Plateau ecological shield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the Loess Plateau, the Qinling Mountains, and the Helan Mountains; Strengthen the control of grassland degradation, desertification, and salinization; Strengthen integrated management of soil erosion and protect and restore wetlands such as those in the Yellow River Delta; Conserve and restore 800,000 hectares of vegetation cover; Treat soil erosion on another 2 million hectares of land and desertification on 800,000 hectares of land.
03 Key Yangtze River ecological zone (including the Sichuan-Yunnan ecological shield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the Hengduan mountainous region, the karst rocky desertification region, the Three Gorges Reservoir region, Dongting Lake, and Poyang Lake; Carry out targeted forest quality improvements, restoration of rivers, lakes, and wetlands, and comprehensive management of rocky desertification; Strengthen the protection and restoration of rare and endangered wildlife; Complete the afforestation of 1.1 million hectares; Treat soil erosion on another 5 million hectares of land and rocky desertification on another 1 million hectares of land.
04 The northeast forest belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on key wetlands in the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains, the Changbai Mountains, the Sanjiang Plains, and the Songnen Plains; Carry out the protection and restoration of natural forests; Protect major marshes and wetlands and rare migrant bird stopover habitats; Develop 700,000 hectares of reserve lands that can grow into natural forests; Treat another 300,000 hectares of degraded grasslands.
05 The northern desertification-prevention belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the Inner Mongolian Plateau, the Hexi Corridor, the Tarim River basin, and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region; Promote the development of shelterbelt networks, the restoration of degraded forests and grasslands, and the control of the sources of dust storms affecting Beijing and Tianjin; Afforest 2.2 million hectares of land; Treat another 7.5 million hectares of desertified land and another 2.7 million hectares of degraded grasslands.
06 The southern mountainous belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the Nanling mountainous area, the Wuyi mountainous area, and the karst rocky desertification areas in Hunan and Guangxi; Carry out targeted forest quality improvements; Promote comprehensive control of soil erosion and rocky desertification; Strengthen ecological protection and restoration on rivers and lakes; Protect endangered species and their habitats; Create 90,000 hectares of shelterbelts; Treat another 300,000 hectares of rocky deserts.

continued

Box 14	
Projects to Protect and Restore Key Ecosystems	
07 Coastal zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Focus on the Yellow and Bohai seas, the Yangtze River Delta, the coastal areas in Guangdong, Fujian, and Zhejiang, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Hainan Island, and the Beibu Gulf;▪ Provide comprehensive protection to natural shorelines;▪ Improve and restore 400 kilometers of shorelines and 20,000 hectares of coastal wetlands;▪ Create 110,000 hectares of shelterbelts.
08 Protection of nature reserves and wild species of fauna and flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promote the development of national parks in the Sanjiangyuan area, the habitats of Siberian tigers, Far Eastern leopards, and giant pandas, and the Hainan tropical rainforests;▪ Establish the Qinling National Park and the Yellow River Estuary National Park through the integration of existing areas;▪ Establish gene storehouses and rescue and breeding sites for rare and endangered species of wildlife;▪ Save 48 critically endangered wild animal species and 50 plant species with extremely small populations.