

Progress in China in the reduction of water pollution

Dossier de la réduction de H2o
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The quality of water in China has improved in general, but progress remains slow. Some regions continue to face difficulties in achieving their annual objectives for water quality improvement. On Monday, the Ministry of Environmental Protection announced that the quality of water in China has improved in general, but progress remains slow. Some regions continue to face difficulties in achieving their annual objectives for water quality improvement.

In the first semester of the year, the proportion of the surface of water monitored reaching level 3 or higher, which is water that can be potable, increased to reach 70% at the national level, or 1.2 points more than in the same period of the previous year, according to the ministry. The figure has surpassed the target of 68.3% for 2017. At the same time, the proportion of water whose quality is "inferior to level 5", the lowest level in the country's water quality system, and "too polluted for any use", fell to 8.8%, down 1.7 percentage points in a year. Despite overall improvement, eight regions, including Hebei (north), Jilin (north-east) and Fujian (south-east), reported a decrease in the proportion of high-quality water, while five other regions, including Heilongjiang (north-east) and Jiangxi (east), reported an increase in the proportion of polluted water. Decades of rapid growth have contributed to widespread contamination of most Chinese waters by industrial waste and agricultural fertilizers. The government has accelerated its efforts to limit pollution. In December, China began naming "river chiefs" who assume responsibility for protecting resources, preventing and controlling pollution, and restoring the ecological environment.

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