

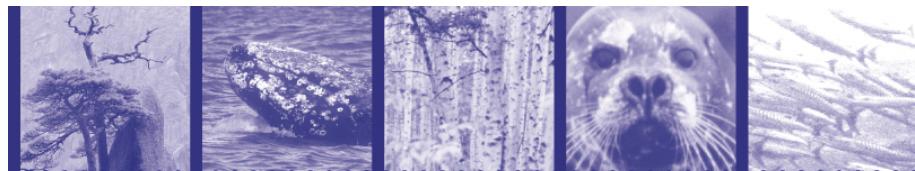
# **Solving China's Pollution Crisis from the Grassroots Up**

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Kristen McDonald  
China Program Director  
Pacific Environment

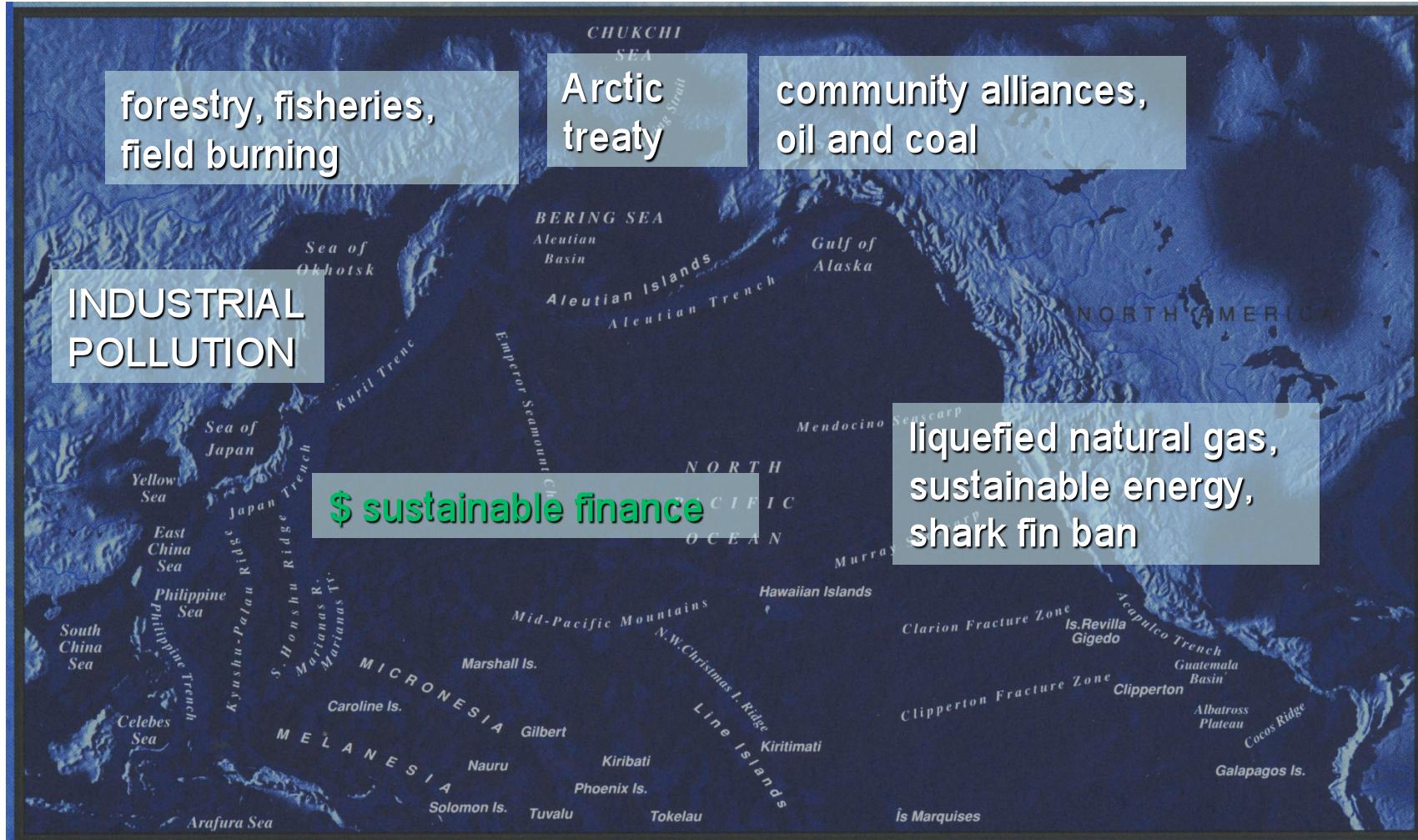
[kmcDonald@pacificenvironment.org](mailto:kmcDonald@pacificenvironment.org)

*Protecting the living environment of the Pacific Rim.*



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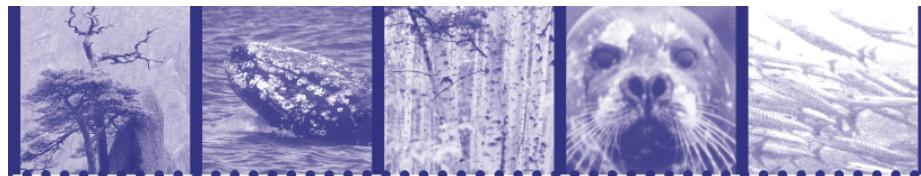
# Pacific Environment's Work in China

**Vision:** grassroots groups in China are leading, visible, and engaged.

**Focus:** industrial pollution

**Tactic:** grassroots capacity building and joint advocacy

- Mentorship and training
- Subgrants
- Technical support
- Joint campaigning
- Networking



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# Water Pollution in China – latest official statistics

- Some 60% of China's groundwater is now classified as polluted.
- 28% of key river basins and 39% of lakes and reservoirs in China are polluted
- 300 million people in China lack access to clean water (1/5 the population of China, almost the population of the US)
- Nearly 44% of water pollution comes from agriculture.



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# How do citizens fight pollution in China?

- Extra-judicial activity
- Rights based resistance
- Both necessary?

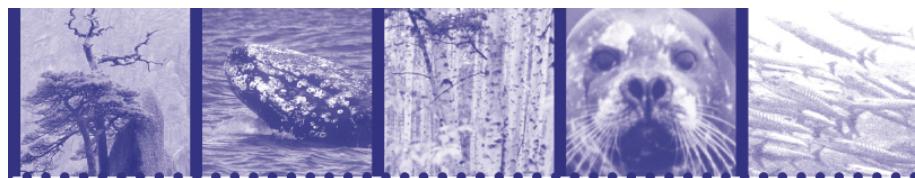


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# History of Environmental Movement in China



***Green Anhui volunteers introduce pollution law guide to villagers.***

- Friends of Nature founded 1993
- Now around 500 independent environmental organizations
- From wildlife → policy issues, pollution
- From domestic → global issues

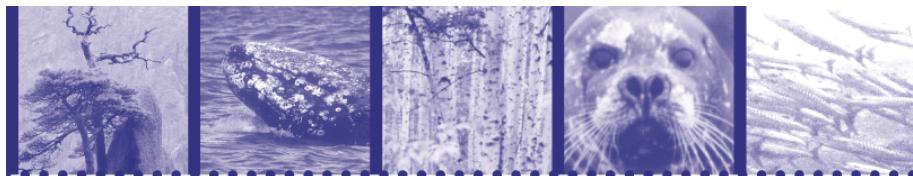


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# Environmental Movement in China: Limitations

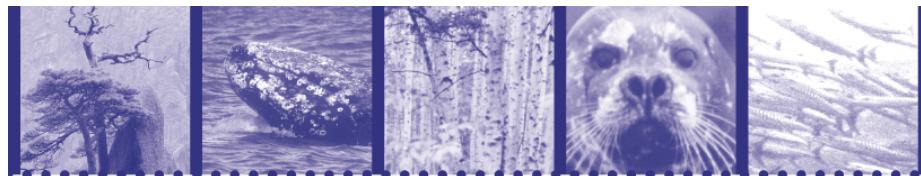
- Registration challenges for NGOs
- Local government suspicion
- Risks of international ties
- Care around “hot topics”
- Setbacks: scandals
- Weak social standing



# How do Local Groups Work on Water Pollution in China?

The basics: *education*

- Water walks
- College student training
- Volunteer programs
- Educational materials
- Elementary schools





# “Happy Water Tours”



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# How do Local Groups Work on Water Pollution in China?

Next steps: *gathering data and mobilizing the public*

- Inspiring public participation
- Corporate and government disclosure of information
- On-the ground monitoring
- Publication of data



Xiang River Monitoring Team, Hunan Province

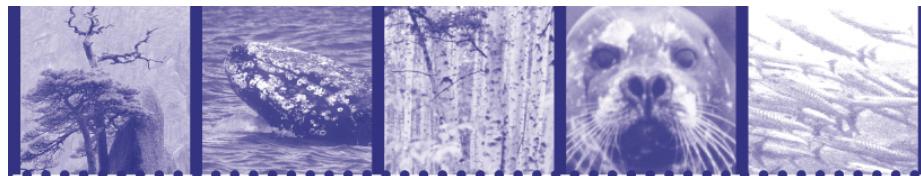


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# Jiangsu Polluting Enterprise Database by Green Stone

- Information disclosure requests
- Community volunteers
- 100s of enterprises/interactive online map
- Connected with National Map



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# Green Hunan Xiang Monitoring Network

Volunteer network of nearly 100 has found 1000s of incidents, stopped hundreds of polluters

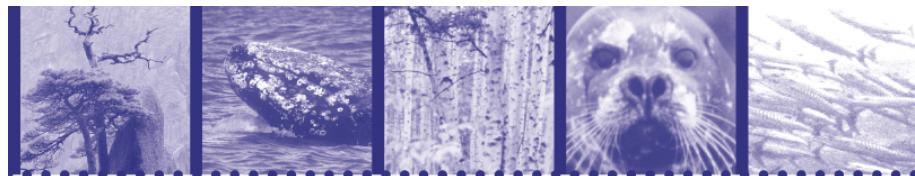
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# How do Local Groups Work on Water Pollution in China?

Next step: *targeted campaigning*

- Corporate campaigns
- Government campaigns
- Policy making
- Media campaigns
- Lawsuits



*Investigating Paper Plants in Anhui*

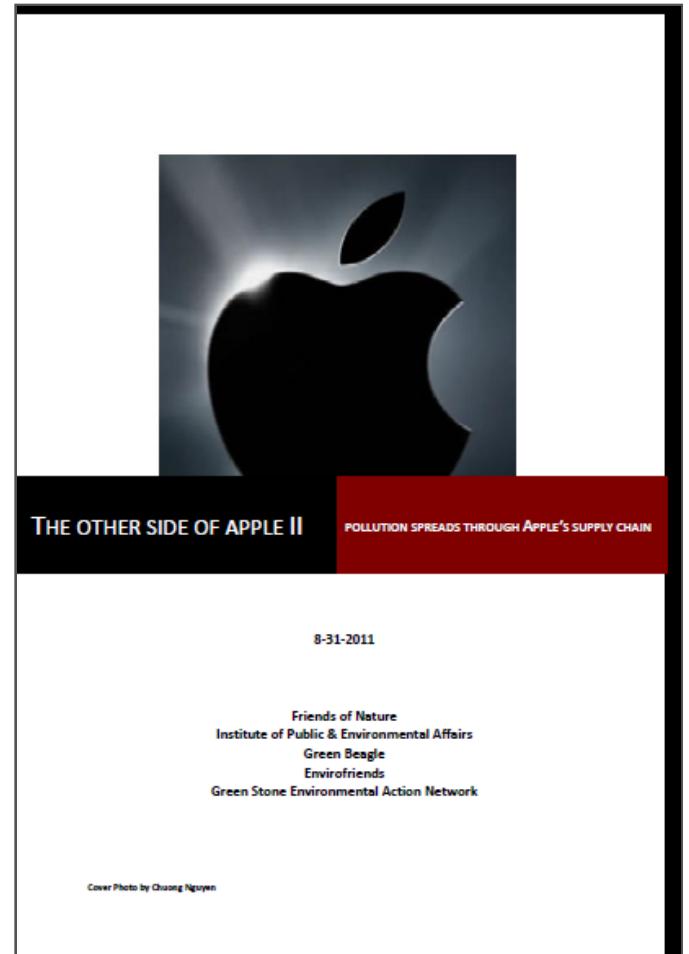


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# Apple Campaign (Green Stone, others)

- Two investigative reports
- Nanjing-based Green Stone conducted investigation of nearby supplier
- Apple met with groups
- Apple now conducting audits, weeding out worst suppliers



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# Air Pollution: the “Airpocalypse” and Citizen Response



- Air pollution = millions of premature deaths in China every year,
- Among China's 74 major cities, 100% have air quality consistently worse than the recommended WHO standards for PM 2.5

2012 Air Pollution scandal:

- US embassy data release
- Government criticism, public backlash
- NGO/media monitoring



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# Air Pollution: the “Airpocalypse” and Citizen Response



- Severe air pollution has mobilized public
- Special government Air Pollution Control Plans
- Enforcement challenges – particularly outside major cities



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# Lesson Suggestions on Pollution in China

- Convey **severity** of pollution problems – compare with US
- Present/Read **case studies** on pollution: Apple, Inc., incidents/accidents, protest, campaign, policy (news, NGO reports)
- ***Discussion questions:***
  - how does China's pollution impact the world?
  - How do we impact pollution in China?
  - What might be done to help?



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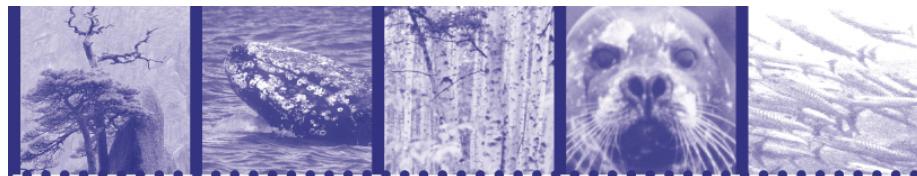
# Thank you! For more information:

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Green Choice Alliance [www.ipe.org.cn](http://www.ipe.org.cn)
- Green Stone [www.green-stone.org](http://www.green-stone.org)
- Green Hunan [www.greennunan.org.cn](http://www.greennunan.org.cn)
- Green Anhui [www.green-anhui.org](http://www.green-anhui.org)
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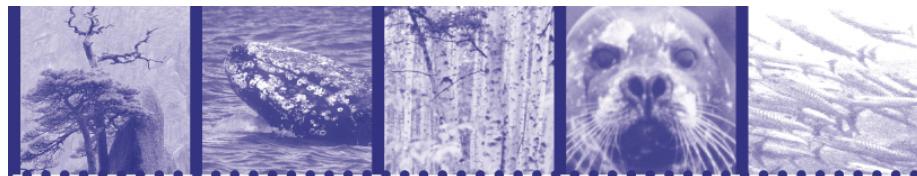
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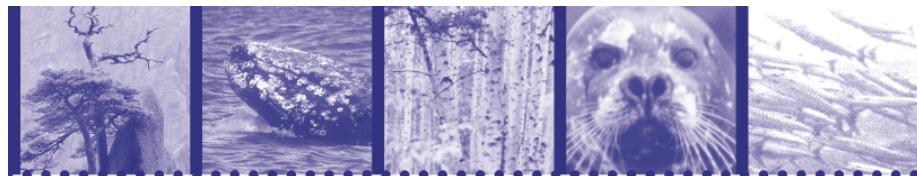
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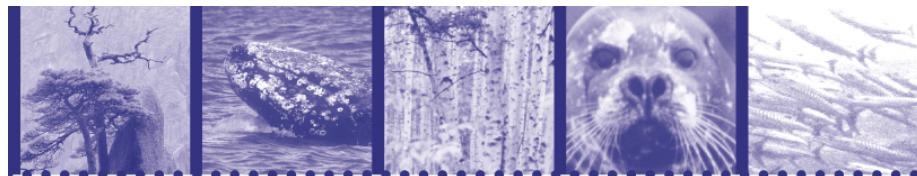
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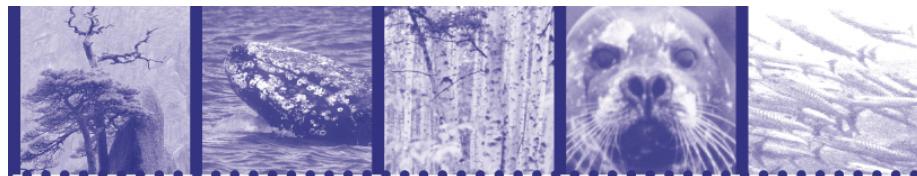
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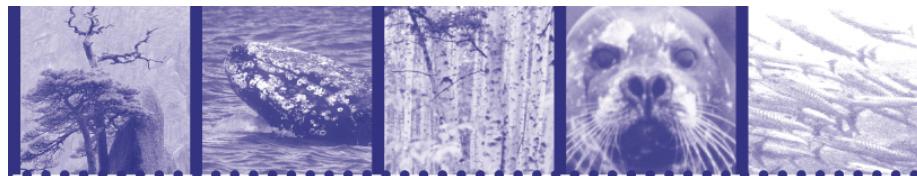
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