

## **Mitigating Marine Pollution across Administrative Boundaries: Bohai Sea Environmental Management Project**

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In PR China, working models were developed to apply integrated approaches to managing marine pollution problems within local administrative boundaries. However, successful examples are lacking to address pollution problems in marine waters shared by several provinces and municipalities. Bohai Sea pollution mitigation and environmental management are treated as a priority project in the forthcoming 5-Year National Economic and Social Development Programme adopted by the National People's Congress. At the same time, the Government is collaborating with UNDP/GEF/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) to implement a 5-year Bohai Sea Environmental Management Project (BSEMP). The purpose of the BSEMP is to develop and test a working model for the country and the region of the East Asian Seas to effectively manage pollution hot spots across legal and administrative boundaries.

Specifically, the BSEMP is to foster collaboration among the adjacent provinces and municipalities to jointly reduce waste discharges and marine pollution confronting them in all. The project is to enable the local governments to adopt integrated management approaches and mechanisms, pollution risk assessment, waste reduction programmes, ecosystem based zoning scheme, cross sector pollution monitoring, and sustainable financial options and mechanisms. The BSEMP emphasizes that stakeholder consultation and participation and training should be the essential elements throughout the project process. Recently, the governors and mayors of the provinces and municipalities bordering the Bohai Sea have expressed their commitments to sustainable development through signing the Bohai Sea Environmental Protection Declaration. The Declaration has also set a stage for BSEMP implementation. The Project offers a framework and opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives sharing the project objectives.