

**Science**[Prev](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next](#)

www.sciencemag.org

Science 23 May 2003:

Vol. 300 no. 5623 pp. 1239–1240

DOI: 10.1126/science.1083312

## • POLICY FORUM

## ECOLOGY

**Three-Gorges Dam--Experiment in Habitat Fragmentation?**Jianguo Wu<sup>1,2</sup>, Jianhui Huang<sup>2</sup>, Xingguo Han<sup>2</sup>, Zongqiang Xie<sup>2</sup>, Xianming Gao<sup>2,\*</sup>

## [-] Author Affiliations

J. Wu is in the Department of Plant Biology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA. E-mail:

[jingle.wu@asu.edu](mailto:jingle.wu@asu.edu) and

Guest Professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. All other authors are at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Habitat fragmentation is the primary cause of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, but its underlying processes and mechanisms remain poorly understood. Studies of islands and insular terrestrial habitats are essential for improving our understanding of habitat fragmentation. We argue that the Three-Gorges Dam, the largest that humans have ever created, presents a unique grand-scale natural experiment that allows ecologists to address a range of critical questions concerning the theory and practice of biodiversity conservation.

[Read the Full Text](#)The editors suggest the following Related Resources on *Science* sitesIn *Science Magazine*

## LETTERS

**Three Gorges Project: Chance and Challenge**

Guozhen Shen and Zongqiang Xie

*Science* 30 April 2004: 681.[Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

## LETTERS

**Three-Gorges Dam: Risk to Ancient Fish**

Ping Xie

Response from Jianguo Wu, Jianhui Huang, and Xingguo Han

*Science* 14 November 2003: 1149–1151.[Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN CITED BY OTHER ARTICLES:

**Three Gorges Project: Efforts and challenges for the environment***Progress in Physical Geography* 1 December 2010: 741–754.[Abstract](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Measured and numerically partitioned phytoplankton spectral absorption coefficients in inland waters***J PLANKTON RES* 1 March 2009: 311–323.[Abstract](#) [Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)**Future options in landscape ecology: development and research***Progress in Physical Geography* 1 February 2009: 31–48.

[Abstract](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

**Optimizing Ecosystem Services in China**

*Science* 24 October 2008: 528b.

[Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

**Three Gorges Project: Chance and Challenge**

*Science* 30 April 2004: 681b.

[Full Text](#) [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)