

# Three Gorges Dam



<b>When was it built?</b>	1994 - 2008
<b>Where is it located?</b>	In China, on the Yangtze River.
<b>Why was it built?</b>	To control flooding, to allow ships to travel further inland and to produce hydroelectric power.
<b>Impact on people</b>	2 million people have been forced to relocate. Erosion downstream has led to contaminated drinking water. Up to 2,000 deaths a year, due to the river, have been prevented. More reliable fresh water has been supplied to people and the industries downstream.
<b>Impact on animals</b>	Over 50% of plants growing in the area are already endangered. 27% of fish species found in the river are endangered. The Chinese river dolphin was once found in the area but is now extinct.
<b>Impact on the environment</b>	Rising waters upstream of the dam have flooded ancient ruins and shrines. Fertile farmland upstream has been destroyed by rising water levels. Wetland habitats for birds have been destroyed by the reservoir creation.

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