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The  
Value of  
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## CASE STUDY SPEAKER



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#### ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN POYANG LAKE BASIN

This study reviewed changes in Poyang Lake wetland ecosystem services, and analyzed contribution of major programs implemented in the region over the past 60 years. We find out that Ecosystem Services have been declining over the past 50 years. Major driving forces are wetland reclamation, water pollution and over exploitation of nature resources. Biodiversity and flood mitigation function of Poyang Lake are by far the most important ecosystem services. Wetland reclamation led to “hard” engineering solutions including construction of dykes and sluices, yet the flood risk grew every year. After the disastrous 1998 flood a “soft” river basin management was adopted with the Central Government’s “32-character policy”. This included water and soil conservation through upstream reforestation and wetland restoration downstream. A Mountain-River-Lake Development Committee was established with the leadership of the Provincial Governor. It made a comprehensive plan for ecosystem restoration, which was implemented by different government agencies. After nearly 30 years of the MRL Program, the status of ecosystems and services has improved.