



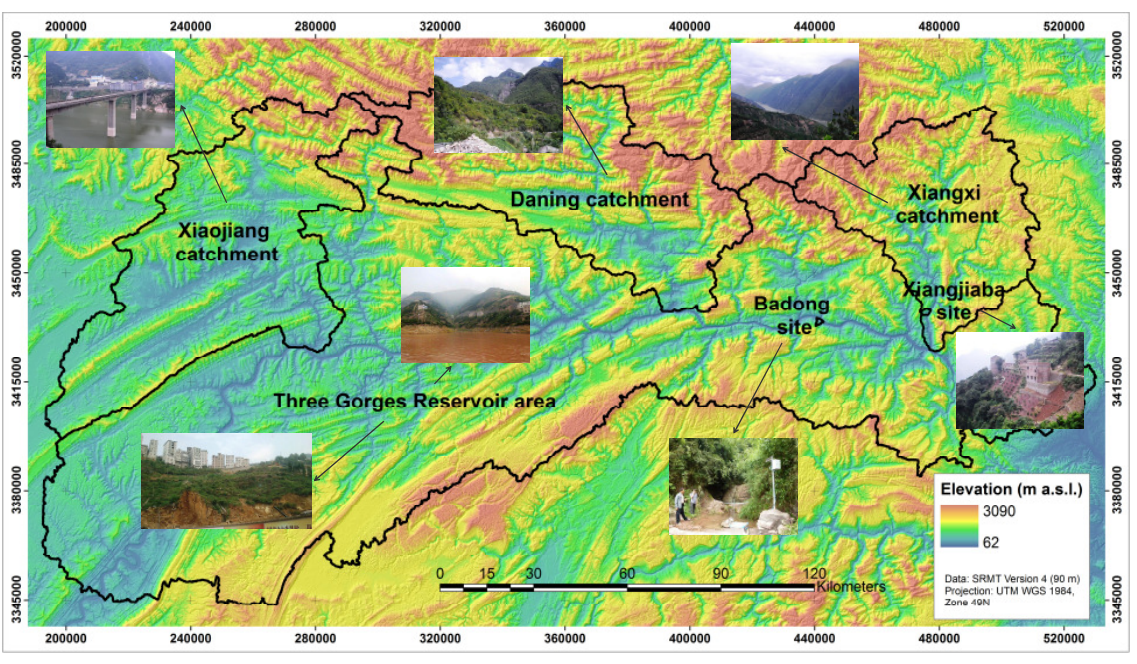
YANGTZE GEO 2012-2015

The Three Gorges Dam – Environmental Research at the Yangtze River

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The Three Gorges Dam (TGD) at the Yangtze River in China is among the most prominent human-induced examples for large-scale environmental impacts. Due to the flooding alongside the Yangtze River and its main tributaries, the region is largely characterized by an enormous boost of typical geo-risks such as soil erosion, mass movements, and diffuse matter inputs.

Within the immediate reservoir area, the movement of farmers to the steep sloping uphill sites can result in a high conflict potential between the available and suitable land. Combined with a very steep topography, sub-tropical monsoon climate, and fragile soils, the population pressure and rapid ecosystem changes still foster the ecological and geological consequences and environmental risks of the TGD.



Study sites of the YANGTZE GEO project in the Three Gorges Reservoir area in Central China

Within the framework of the BMBF (grant No. 03G0827A) funded project **YANGTZE GEO**, German and Chinese scientists jointly focus on the ecological and geological risks in the reservoir of the TGD. Together with their Chinese partners from the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, five German research groups conduct collaborative studies on soil erosion, mass movements, diffuse matter inputs, and sediment pathways. An integrative approach was set up in order to combine multi-scale investigation methods and state-of-the-art techniques from soil science, geology, hydrology, geophysics, geodesy, remote sensing, and data survey and monitoring.

Together with its partner network **YANGTZE HYDRO**, **YANGTZE GEO** will contribute to a better understanding of the dimensions and dynamics of the ecological consequences of such large dam projects at the Yangtze River and worldwide.

