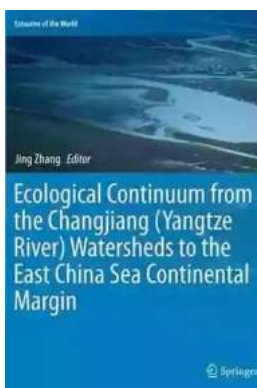


Exploring the Ecological Continuum: From the Changjiang Yangtze River Watersheds to the East

When it comes to understanding the vast and diverse ecosystems on our planet, one cannot ignore the ecological continuum that stretches from the Changjiang Yangtze River Watersheds to the East. This region holds a wealth of natural wonders, with a myriad of species and habitats that form an intricate web of life.

The Changjiang Yangtze River, known as the "Mother River of China," is the longest river in Asia and the third-longest in the world. Originating from the Tibetan Plateau, it meanders through various landscapes, including the densely populated Yangtze River Basin, before emptying into the East China Sea. Its watershed encompasses an area of over 1.8 million square kilometers, making it a crucial lifeline for both humans and wildlife.

As we venture east from the Yangtze River, we witness a seamless transition of habitats, each distinct and unique yet intricately connected. These habitats range from the lush forests of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze to the expansive wetlands, lakes, and floodplains that support a diverse array of flora and fauna.



Ecological Continuum from the Changjiang (Yangtze River) Watersheds to the East China Sea Continental Margin (Estuaries of the World)

by Jing Zhang (2015th Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 22164 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 215 pages



The Biodiversity Hotspots

Within this ecological continuum lies several biodiversity hotspots, which are areas that support an exceptional concentration of endemic species and are under threat from human activities. One such hotspot is the Poyang Lake, located in Jiangxi Province. This Ramsar site serves as a vital wintering ground for migratory birds, with over 400 species recorded in its vicinity.



The Eastern China subtropical evergreen forests, found in the lower Yangtze region and stretching towards the eastern coast, are another hotspot of biodiversity. These forests harbor numerous plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. They are home to iconic creatures like the giant panda, golden monkey, and Chinese river dolphin.

The Challenges of Sustaining the Ecological Continuum

Despite the ecological importance of this region, it faces numerous challenges that threaten its continuity. Rapid urbanization, industrialization, pollution, and deforestation are some of the significant issues contributing to habitat loss and degradation.

One of the key factors affecting this ecosystem is the Three Gorges Dam, built on the Yangtze River in 2003. While the dam provides benefits like flood control and hydroelectric power, it has disrupted the natural flow of the river, altering the course and volume of water, and impacting the biodiversity downstream.

Additionally, the encroachment of human settlements and agricultural activities in the region has led to habitat fragmentation, making it harder for species to move freely and causing loss of genetic diversity.

The Importance of Conservation Efforts

Recognizing the significance of preserving this ecological continuum, various conservation initiatives have been put in place. One such project is the Yangtze Finless Porpoise Conservation Program, which aims to protect the critically endangered Yangtze finless porpoise and its habitat. The program focuses on conservation education, captive breeding, and habitat restoration.

Efforts are also being made to control pollution and regulate industrial activities to minimize their ecological impact. Additionally, reforestation and wetland restoration projects aim to provide suitable habitats for the diverse range of species that call this region home.

The ecological continuum from the Changjiang Yangtze River Watersheds to the East is a testament to the interconnectedness of our planet's ecosystems. It demonstrates the delicate balance required to sustain a rich biodiversity while catering to the needs of a growing population.

By understanding the challenges and actively participating in conservation efforts, we can ensure the preservation of this ecological marvel for generations to come. Let us strive to protect this unique habitat and safeguard the ecological continuum that connects us all.



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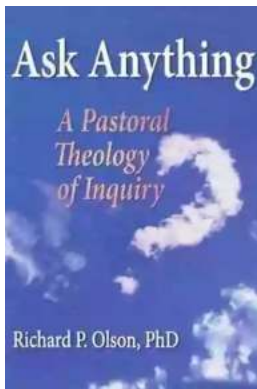
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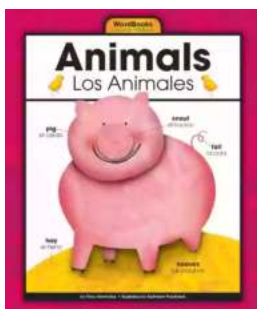


The book provides a cross-disciplinary and multi-scale assessment of a world top river, the Changjiang (Yangtze River) and its adjacent marginal environment, the East China Sea. The studies in this volume bridges the watersheds of the river and the marginal sea through a combined approach of hydro-dynamics, geochemistry, sedimentary processes, ecology and fishery. The response of ecosystem to the external driving forces is examined via process-oriented observations, mesocosm experiments and numerical simulations in combination. The lessons learnt from the case studies of Changjiang and East China Sea can be beneficial to those who are doing inter-disciplinary researches in the continuum from watersheds to continental margins.



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