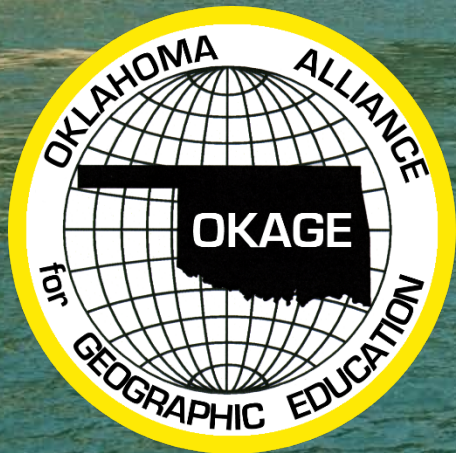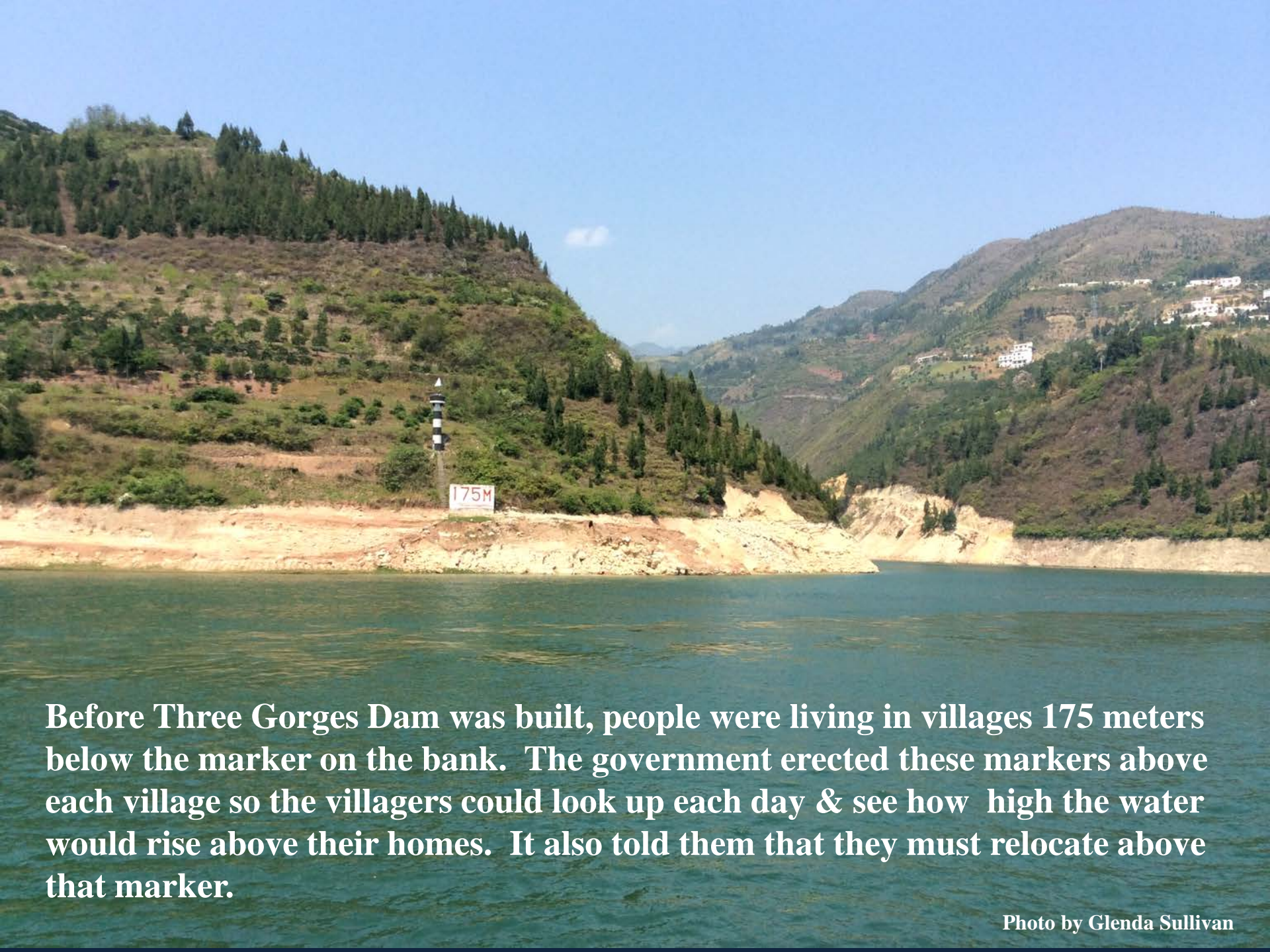# What's Up With The Yangtze River?
Part 3

By Glenda Sullivan
OKAGE Teacher Consultant

Prior to the construction of the dam, the Three Gorges area of the Yangtze was notorious for dangerous shipping conditions. Now the elevated water levels make it safer for ships to travel farther inland on the river.

Yangtze River trade accounts for 80% of China's inland shipping.

Photo by Glenda Sullivan

Before Three Gorges Dam was built, people were living in villages 175 meters below the marker on the bank. The government erected these markers above each village so the villagers could look up each day & see how high the water would rise above their homes. It also told them that they must relocate above that marker.

On the hillside are new orchards surrounding a new community.

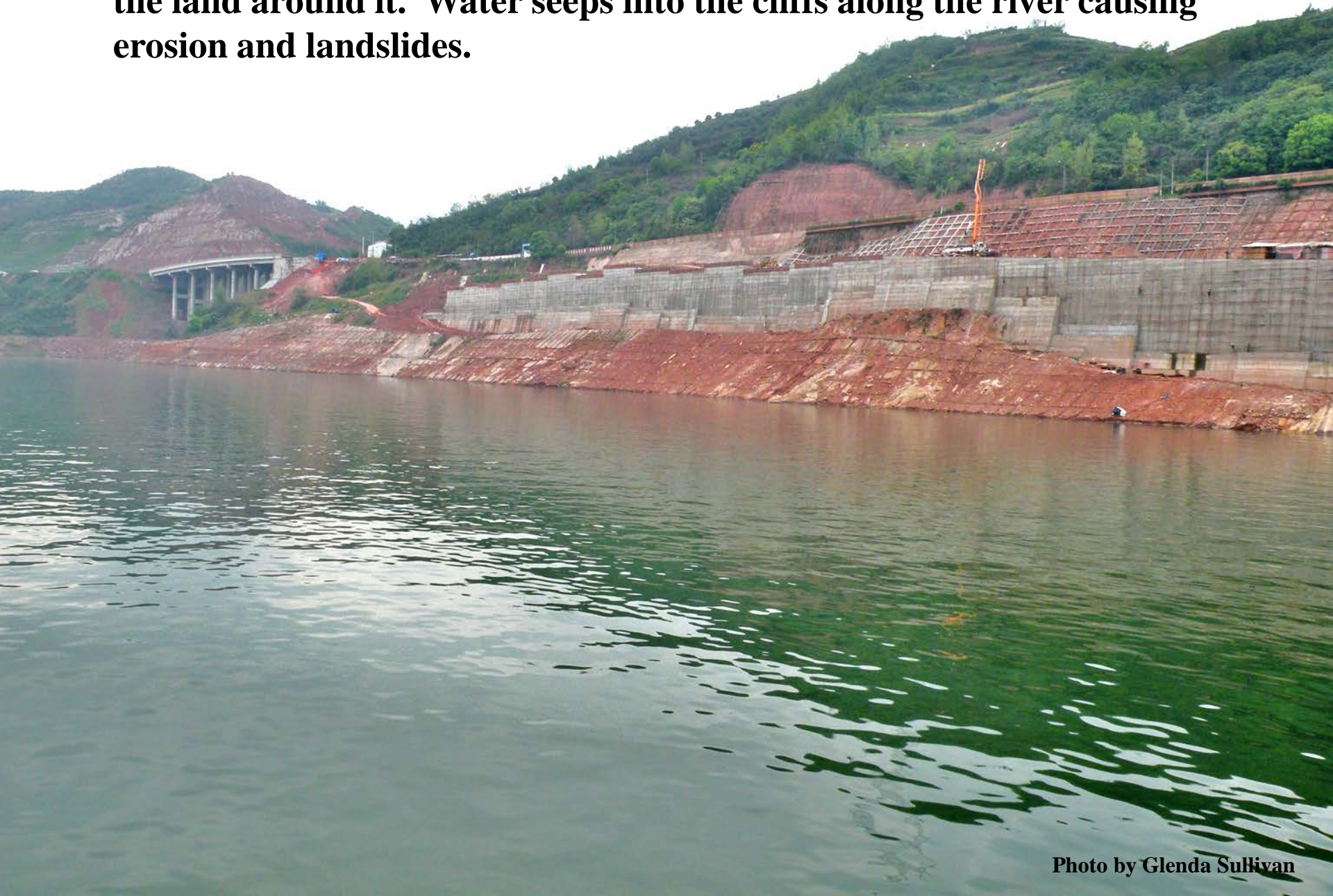100,000 acres of farmland lie beneath the waters of the Yangtze.

Prior to the Three Gorges Dam Project, there were few roads connecting the villages, towns, and cities along the Yangtze River. People traveled by boat along the river.

Then the government built roads and state-of-the-art bridges connecting all the new towns and cities along the Yangtze River.
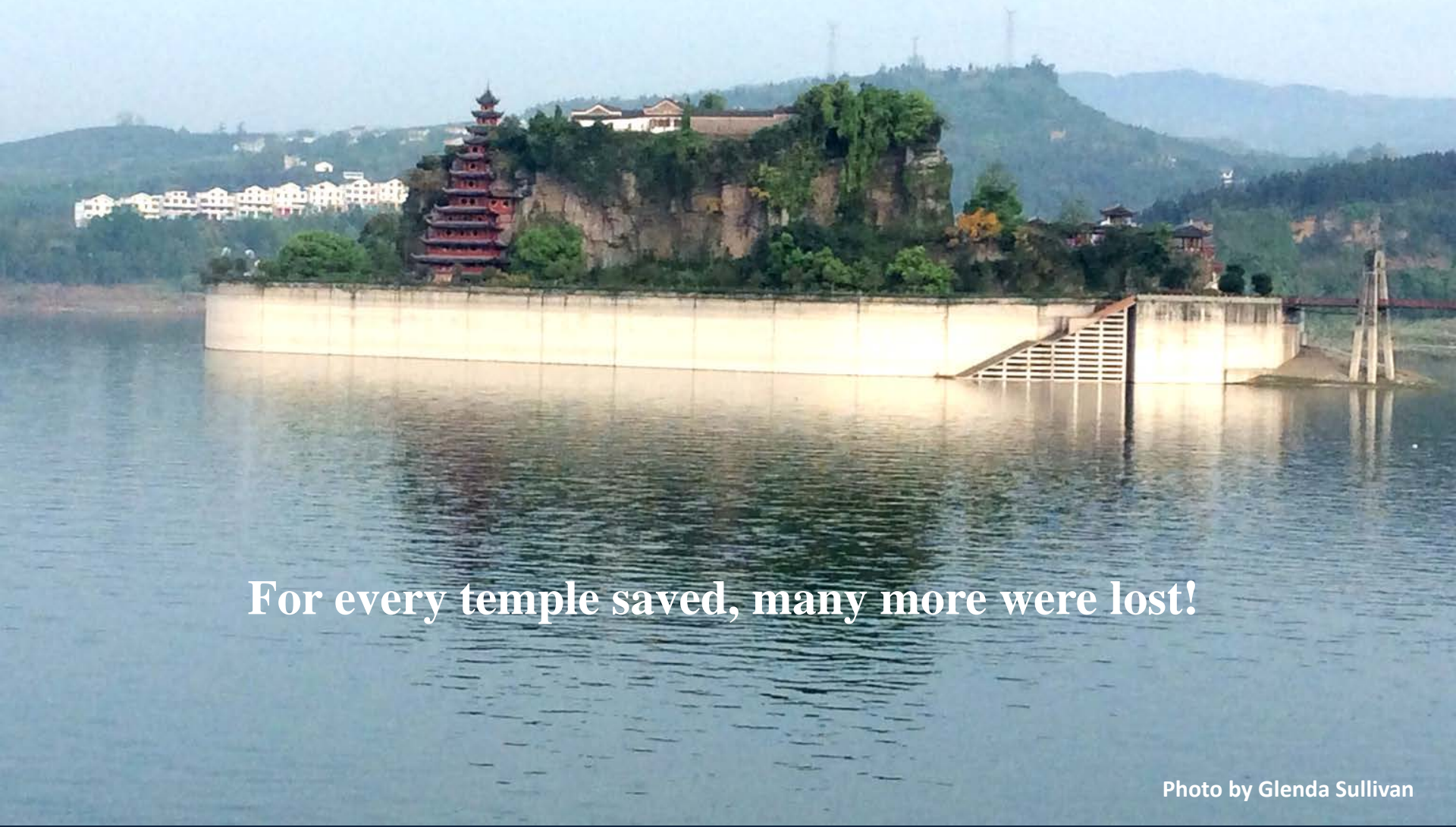
Photos by Glenda Sullivan

The raising & lowering of water in the Yangtze Reservoir destabilizes the land around it. Water seeps into the cliffs along the river causing erosion and landslides.

Many Buddist temples along the Yangtze were threatened by the rising waters. A white wall was erected around Shibaozhai (she-bah'o-ch'eye) Pagoda to save it. The pagoda and the side of the hill it is built into have become an island accessible by a suspension bridge.

For every temple saved, many more were lost!

These burial sites along the Yangtze River were moved to higher ground before cemeteries were submerged by the rising waters.

Showing respect to ancestors is a belief deeply rooted in Chinese society. Therefore, most burial sites were moved above the projected water level.

Photos by Glenda Sullivan

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