

Jiangxi Province

Quick Facts

- **Land area:** 64,438 square miles
As a comparison, the land area of Wisconsin is approximately 54,000 square miles
- **Population:** 43,110,000 (2005)
Did you know?: The state with the highest population in the United States is California, with over 36,000,000 people.
- **Population density (people/square mile):** 669
Did you know?: The average number of people/square mile in the United States is 85.
- **Capital:** Nanchang
- **Leading agriculture:** rice, sesame, citrus
- **Leading industry:** microcomputers, cement



Jiangxi Province data from *National Geographic Atlas of China* (2008); United States population data from U.S. Census Bureau website (<http://factfinder.census.gov>).

Poyang Lake Basin

The Poyang Lake Basin is located in northern Jiangxi Province. The basin is the wintering area for Siberian Cranes in the east Asia flyway (over 98% of the world population of this species winters at Poyang Lake!). The Poyang Lake Nature Reserve protects a small area of the larger basin.

Poyang Lake is in the **Changjiang Plain evergreen forest ecoregion**. The Changjiang, or Yangtze River, is the third longest river in the world and flows through northern Jiangxi Province (Poyang Lake empties into this river).

For more information on the Changjiang Plain evergreen forest ecoregion, visit the Wild World website at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/pa/pa0415.html>

Conservation Threats

The lake basins in northern Jiangxi Province are impacted by water use in the broader **watersheds** that surround the basins. As a result, important crane wetlands, such as the Poyang Lake Basin, are connected to the landscape surrounding them.

- Many of the wetlands in the lake basins in northern Jiangxi Province have been converted to rice fields and fish farms. These activities provide needed food for local communities (and crops for export to other cities and regions) but decrease wetland **habitat** for cranes and other waterbirds.
- The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River is being built to reduce flood damage downstream and generate electricity, but it may threaten the water cycles of lakes like Poyang. How do you think this will impact wintering habitat for cranes and other migratory waterbirds?

Linkages

The remaining wetlands along the US eastern crane flyway face many of the same threats as the lake basins in Jiangxi Province. For example, in Wisconsin, 50% of the wetlands historically were drained or filled to create farmlands or build our communities. Today, we have laws to help protect remaining wetlands in the United States, but we still need to educate people – like you – about the importance of preserving these important areas for wildlife and people.

Our wetlands are also tied to the larger watersheds around them. For example, urban areas near wetlands are possible sources of chemicals and other pollutants that may decrease the health of surrounding rivers and wetlands. Some communities are trying to decrease the amount of pollutants that enter watersheds by designing neighborhoods that direct rain water into rain gardens and other areas where water can slowly return to the watershed (the water is naturally filtered through plants and the soil, leaving cleaner water to return to surrounding rivers and wetlands).

Fun Fact

The fifteenth season of the TV series *Survivor* was filmed at Zhelin Lake in Jiangxi Province.

Glossary

Habitat: An animal or plant's home, where they find food, water, shelter and space. A wetland is a crane habitat.

Watershed: An area that drains into a river or wetland. The watershed for the Poyang Lake Basin includes the surrounding rivers that drain into the basin.