

***Nature as the Nexus - Benefits from sharing experience through twinning, looking on successes and failures***



MARSEILLE, FRANCE '12

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

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# ***GRP Strategic Profile***

***The mission of the Great Rivers Partnership is to bring together diverse partners and best science to expand options for achieving the sustainable management and development of the world's Great Rivers and their basins.***

We seek **shared solutions** to **common land- and water-use dilemmas**, recognizing the inescapable linkages that connect our **economy, human well-being** and **ecosystem sustainability**.

We view our **history** and **leadership role** in the **Mississippi River Basin** as an **important regional asset**, and a **foundation** for promoting the **global exchange of knowledge and expertise**.

# Great Rivers Partnership

The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

  
science for a changing world




**Mississippi  
River** 

**Yangtze  
River** 

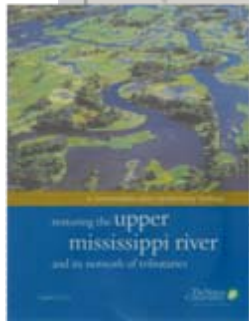
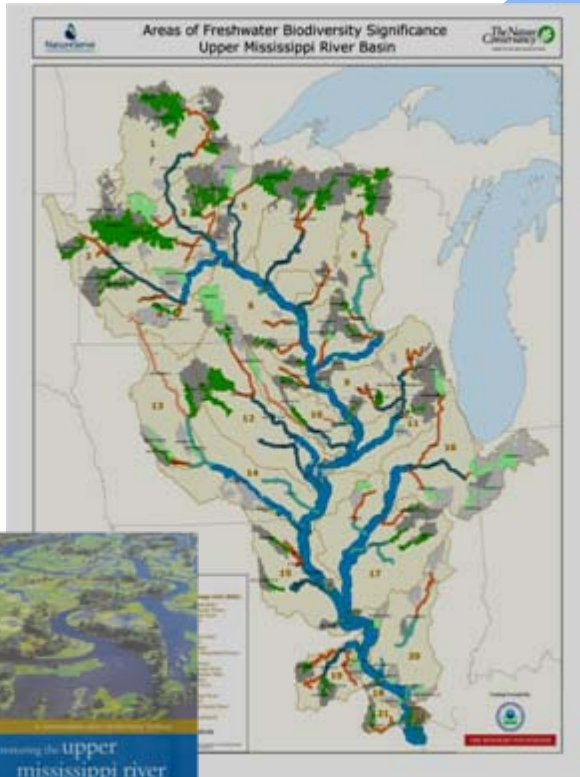
**Magdalena  
River** 

**Zambezi  
River** 

**Paraguay-Parana  
Rivers** 



# Assessing Freshwater Biodiversity



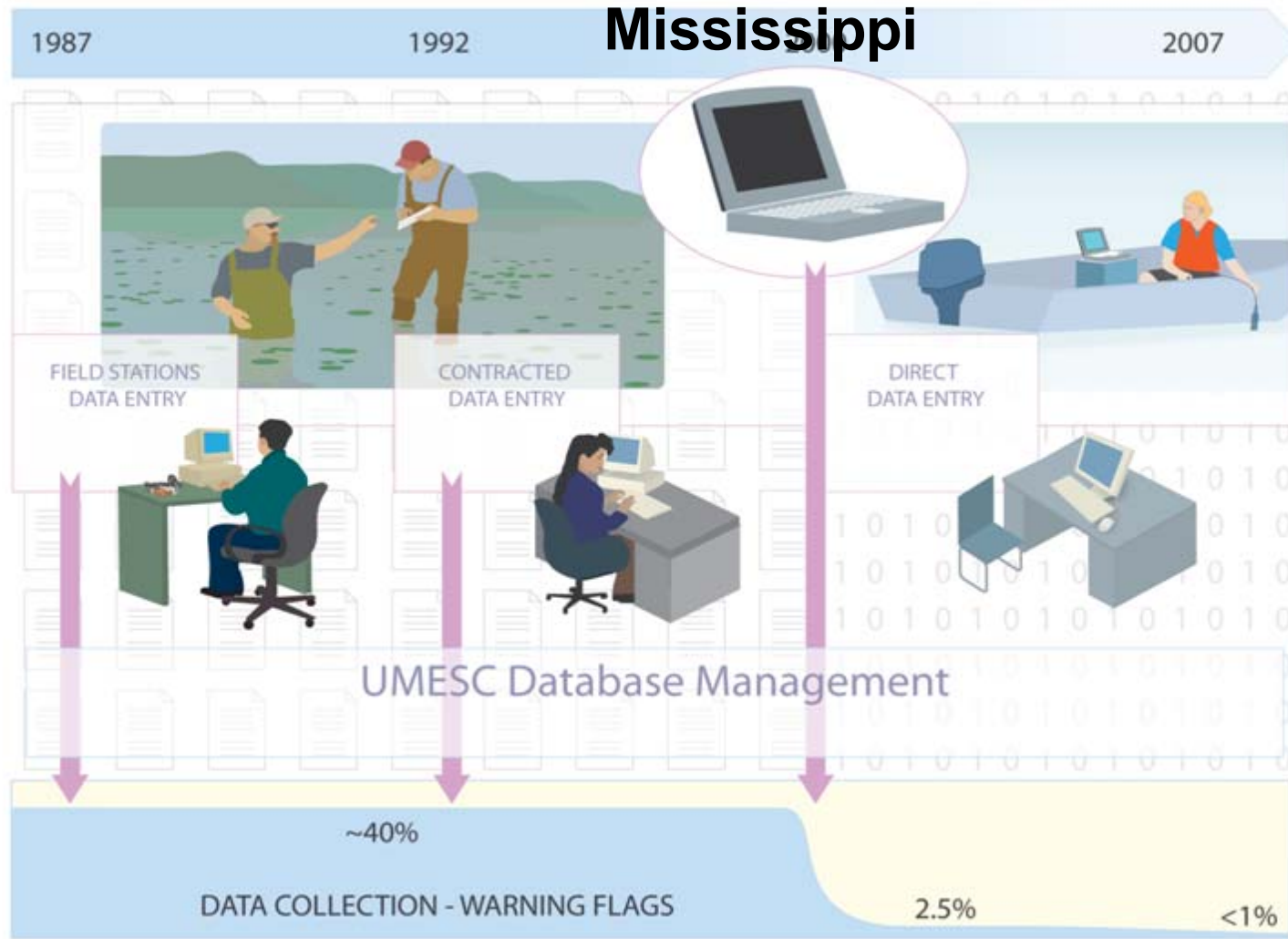
# 2008 Monitoring Workshops



Hydrology Bureau, Beijing

# Status of the Monitoring Networks

## Yangtze



# 2009: On the Mississippi River



**Result: China Central Government grants US \$2.9 million to Yangtze Fisheries Commission for native fish spawning habitat study, based on ideas developed during visit to Mississippi and Columbia Rivers.**

# 2010: On the Yangtze River



**Results: New fish sampling method piloted on the upper Yangtze in 2010; first official fish data collected using new method in May 2011.**



# Yellow River Demonstration





## **2011: Chongqing Field Station above Three Gorges Dam**

**Results: US \$2.5 million granted for new field station near Chongqing, with construction scheduled to begin in Dec. 2011; Three Gorges Project Company granted \$220,000 more to build biological database and serve online data.**



# Next: Fish Passage Structures

**USGS hosted technical exchange on the Columbia River with Chinese partners in Sept. 2011 to explore best practices for fish passage structures**



# Lessons Learned

1. Build partnerships with empowered leaders, and begin with their real needs and challenges
2. Create personal relationships (recognize the “Yao” factor)
3. Explore tangents: GRP strategies included river explorations that exposed the visiting Chinese scientists to the recreational values of great rivers to societies



*“Here, I see harmony between humans and the river.”  
– Weill Lou, Yangtze Fishery Management Office,  
after kayaking on the Mississippi River.*





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MERCI / THANK YOU

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