

TABLE: 1

Natural Ecosystems: Summary of Major Causes and Consequences of Ecosystem Change

Natural Ecosystem	Causes	Consequences
Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing population ● Conversion to farmland ● Conversion to higher yield monoculture ● Excessive felling ● Low success rate of reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flooding, siltation of rivers ● Loss of biodiversity ● Long-term shortages of forest products ● Soil erosion
Grasslands/Steppe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conversion to farmland ● Overgrazing ● Increasing population ● Poor use of water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Desertification ● Loss of biodiversity ● Increase in soil erosion, siltation ● Increase in floods and droughts ● Salinization
Rivers/Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Untreated urban industrial effluent ● Growth of TVEs ● Increase in agricultural runoff ● Untreated disposal of domestic waste water ● Dam construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pollution of fresh water supply ● Health hazard ● Decreasing aquatic resources ● Siltation
Coastal Wetlands/ Marshlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seen as "wastelands" ● Reclamation for agricultural use ● Drainage for disease control ● Conversion to fish ponds ● Drained and filled for industrial use or urban sprawl ● Pollution from industry or agricultural runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decreasing wetlands area ● Siltation ● Increased flooding ● Decreased water quality ● Loss of biodiversity and wildlife resources

Source: Editorial Board, China Conversation Strategy, Boulder: Lynne Reimer Publishers, 1994 and the World Bank, "China Environmental Strategy Paper," Report No. 9669-CHA, 1992.