

Research

Multiattribute decision making for the assessment of disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area

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ABSTRACT. Disaster resilience assessments are critical to both urban and rural development, especially in disaster-prone regions. The Three Gorges Reservoir Area is a typical disaster-prone area, but there is a lack of research on disaster resilience in this area. We proposed a set of indicators and methodologies as a development of a comprehensive disaster resilience evaluation index system that encompasses societal, economic, natural environment, and infrastructure perspectives. Then an integrated approach, which combines 3 weight value determination methods, 6 evaluation methods, and 3 sorting methods, was developed and applied to disaster resilience assessments of 17 counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, from which a final ranking was obtained. The conclusions we got from the research are: (1) the overall disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area is relatively low; (2) the disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area has significant regional differences, as well as social, economic, infrastructural, and environmental resilience; and (3) the societal, economic, and natural environment resilience all have a certain correlation with disaster resilience. Finally, suggestions were given to improve the disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. This study can provide a framework and method for disaster resilience assessment.

Key Words: China; disaster resilience assessment; multiattribute decision-making method; resilience indicators.

INTRODUCTION

As intensive human activities have led to substantial global climate change, natural hazards have become more and more frequent and intensive causing significant damage to the society, economy, infrastructure, and environment (Galindo and Batta 2013, Aghakouchak et al. 2018). As can be seen from Figure 1, from 1998-2017, direct economic and societal losses in disaster-hit countries were US\$2908 billion, with 1.3 million deaths, and 4.4 billion injured, homeless, or in need of emergency assistance (Wallemacq 2018). Therefore, reducing the risk of natural disasters has become a significant challenge for most countries and regions. Progress in disaster risk reduction research has shown that it is often not the hazard that determines a disaster, but the vulnerability, exposure, and the lack of disaster resilience (Aitsi-Selmi et al. 2015). Clear scientific and objective quantification of disaster resilience can inform the formulation of appropriate resilience improvement policies. The assessment of disaster resilience is a topic of significant importance (Aldrich 2012, Kythreotis and Bristow 2017), especially for developing countries with frequent disasters and large losses (UNISDR 2015).

China is the largest developing country in the world with complicated natural conditions and often suffers from different natural disasters, especially landslides, floods, earthquakes, and storms (Liu et al. 2018). The economic losses caused by disasters are second only to those in the United States (Wallemacq 2018). The Chinese government has attached great importance to strengthening disaster management and disaster prevention to improve disaster reduction and relief capabilities in disaster-prone areas. The Three Gorges Reservoir Area in China is a typical disaster-prone area that suffers from frequent geological disasters and is characterized by serious soil erosion, intense agricultural activity, and poor economy (Zhou et al. 2010, Ma et al. 2015, Peng et al. 2019). In addition, large-scale dam projects have a range of social impacts, including: the migration and resettlement of people near the dam sites; changes in the rural economy and employment structure; effects on infrastructure and housing; and so on (Tilt et al. 2009). An empirical study by Tilt and Gerkey (2016) found that population resettlement caused by dams may lead to a decrease in resilience. Therefore, disaster resilience assessment for the Three Gorges Reservoir Area is very essential to locate any weaknesses, which would help to enhance its disaster resilience. However, previous studies on the area mainly focused on geological disasters (Bai et al. 2010), environmental change (Tan and Yao 2006), and poverty (Xu et al. 2017, Cheng et al. 2018, Peng et al. 2019), and comparative studies on disaster resilience in a holistic and comprehensive manner are few.

Vulnerability and resilience assessments of natural hazards have emerged in the past decades as an important research field (Birkmann et al. 2013, Fekete et al. 2014, Saja et al. 2019). Although vulnerability and resilience assessments share the same purpose, i.e., to reduce disaster risk, they are overlapping but different concepts (Kelman et al. 2016). Disaster resilience is the ability to reduce loss, recover, and adapt from a crisis or disaster

Fig. 1. Top five countries/regions for disaster losses from 1998 and 2017.



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quickly (Manyena 2006, Norris et al. 2008, Wagner and Breil 2013). Whereas UNISDR's (2009) definition of vulnerability is limited to the susceptibility to hazardous events, "the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard." Thus, vulnerability assessments focus more on the exposure of a social-ecological system (Yang et al. 2018), whereas resilience assessments focus more on the recovery and adaptability of the system (Cutter et al. 2008). Therefore, their evaluation index systems will contain different dimensions and indicators (e.g., Cutter et al. 2008, Hahn et al. 2009, Gautam 2017, Huong et al. 2019).

Despite the growing research on disaster resilience assessments, there is still considerable disagreement about what should constitute the disaster resilience index system. An authoritative and widely applicable disaster resilience evaluation system has not yet been developed (Saja et al. 2019). To get the main dimensions of the disaster resilience index, we summarized the elements that have been included in disaster resilience assessment (Fig. 2), referring to the following representative studies: Chang and Shinozuka 2004, Folke 2006, Mayunga 2007, Cutter et al. 2008, 2010, 2014, Razafindrabe et al. 2009, Cimellaro et al. 2016, and Kotzee and Reyers 2016. These studies provide useful references when constructing the disaster resilience index system. Economy, society, environment, and infrastructure have been most considered (Cutter 2016, Saja et al. 2019), thus our disaster resilience indicator system will include these four aspects. Along with some important attributes such as age, employment, education, and information access included in the resilience assessment, further analysis found that many factors such as expenditure, insurance, credit, social allowances, population growth, and redundancy of infrastructure were also considered. There are also numerous studies that include the environmental components in vulnerability assessments (Damm 2010, Renaud et al. 2013, 2016). However, most of the existing studies on disaster resilience assessments focus on the social resilience to natural disasters, while the natural environmental resilience is often ignored (Saja et al. 2019). In fact, disaster impacts can also be reduced by improving the resilience of natural systems to disasters (Cutter et al. 2010). Some scholars such as Altieri et al. (2015) and Duncan et al. (2017) have proven that bad climate and weather will have a significant negative impact on disaster resilience. However, climate and weather factors are rarely included in these disaster resilience assessments (Cutter et al. 2008, Cimellaro et al. 2016, Kotzee and Reyers 2016). Therefore, the disaster resilience evaluation index system proposed we propose will take them into consideration.

There are different ways to measure composite indicators. Among them, the comprehensive index method, the principal component analysis, and the analytic hierarchy process are all used to quantify disaster resilience (Cutter et al. 2010, Yan et al. 2014, Kotzee and Reyers 2016). In addition, because of varying views on the importance of indicators (Meerow et al. 2016), different weighting methods have been adopted, such as the average weight method (Cutter et al. 2014) and the Delphi method (Alshehri et al. 2015). However, because different methods have both advantages and limitations, it is difficult to determine which weighting or evaluation method is best suited to evaluate disaster resilience. Also, different evaluation methods are evaluated from different perspectives, thus the results of different methods may differ. For

example, the SAW method focuses on the size of the index value, whereas the TOPSIS method focuses on the distance between the index value and the optimal value or the worst value. Some studies have proven that the combination method, which combines results of various evaluation methods by centralized sorting method, can improve the comprehensiveness and reliability of the conclusions (Guo 1995, Chen and Li 2004, Peng et al. 2016a). However, there is still a lack of research on disaster resilience assessment using the combination method (Rus et al. 2018). In addition, the current research on disaster resilience evaluation considers the selection of indicators, but ignores the influence that the change of weight may have on the evaluation results (Rus et al. 2018).

Fig. 2. Most common elements in disaster resilience index systems. Note: the higher the word frequency, the larger the word font.



Based on the above considerations, our aim is to develop a disaster resilience evaluation index system from societal, economic, infrastructural, and natural environmental perspectives, and explore an integrated approach to produce an accurate evaluation of disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. Based on the ranking, the Pearson correlation coefficient is used to calculate the correlation matrix for the disaster resilience and the four subsystems' resilience. At the same time, countermeasures for improving the disaster resilience are proposed to reduce disaster impacts, which improve adaptability and resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.

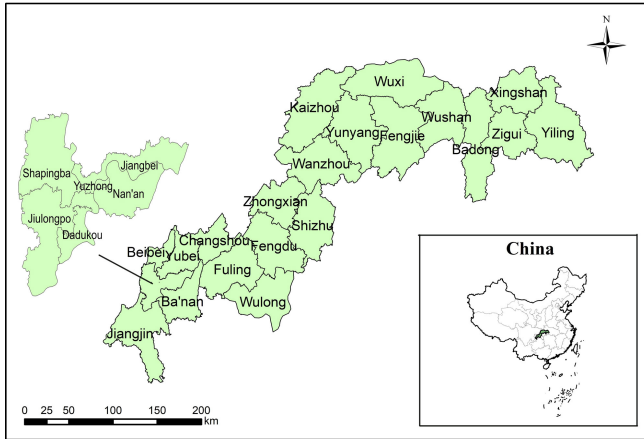
BACKGROUND OF THE THREE GORGES RESERVOIR AREA IN CHINA

The Three Gorges Reservoir Area in China, which is 54,200 km², is located in the Chongqing and Hubei provinces (Fig. 3). The area is dominated by mountains and hills, with a mid-subtropical humid monsoon climate. The annual average temperature is 17°C ~ 20°C, and the average annual precipitation is 1000 ~ 1200 mm. The main hydro-meteorological disasters in the region are heavy rain, floods, high temperatures, and continuous rain. Its forest coverage rate is 49.08%, mainly distributed in coniferous and broad-leaved forests, commercial fruit trees, and crops.

The agricultural production is mainly food crops. Arable land accounts for 40% of the land area. The average per capita is 0.005 ha, which is lower than the national average (0.007 ha; Peng et al. 2016b). Of the total population, 60% is engaged in agricultural work, although agricultural income accounts for only 19.8% of total revenue (Peng et al. 2016b). There are 26 counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, of which 10 are state-level poverty

counties. The poor are subsidized by the government for basic living expenses and a minimum living allowance. In addition, in the rural areas, there has been a new rural cooperative medical care system to ensure that farmers receive more adequate medical resources and services.

Fig. 3. Map of the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.



The Three Gorges Project is the largest water conservancy project in the Yangtze River Basin. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam has raised the water level to over 180 meters above sea level, inundated a large area of agricultural land, forest, house, and infrastructure, and displaced more than 1 million people in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area (Stone 2008, Kittinger et al. 2009). Notably, only 87.7% of farmers were resettled to areas where farming is possible, and per capita arable land was only a third of what it was before migration (Shi and Yang 2009). Reclaiming the land, constructing new infrastructure, and building new houses led to deforestation, causing serious soil erosion and increasing the risk of landslides and floods. Frequent heavy rain and the high reservoir water level also can increase the risk of landslide and flood. Dam-related seismicity also brings other natural hazards including earthquakes. In 2016, 481 earthquakes occurred in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. A total of 4847 potential geological hazards were recorded in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, of which 113 had structural changes and poorer stability in 2016 (MEP 2017).

Due to limitations of the terrain, many rural settlements are located in geological hazard threat areas, and some are even located in known disaster areas. Disasters such as landslides, collapses, and earthquakes often cause casualties, destroy houses, farmland, roads, telecommunications equipment, and so on, resulting in power outages, water cuts, shutdowns, and disruptions in transportation and communications. Many measures have been implemented to improve the region's ability to respond to disasters, involving risk investigation, education and training, migration, landslide monitoring, and engineering treatment (Liu et al. 2016).

DATA AND METHODS

Data sources

Although the Three Gorges Reservoir Area has 26 counties, only 17 counties were used as the research sample because of the lack

of disaster data in 9 counties; Badong, Xingshan, Zigui, and Yiling are in the Hubei reservoir area, and other counties are in the Chongqing reservoir area. The landslide disaster index data were provided by the Geological Disaster Prevention and Control Headquarters in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, which is responsible for the monitoring and analysis of geological disasters in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, thus the authenticity and reliability of the data are guaranteed. Except for landslide disaster index data, the basic indicators data of economy, society, infrastructure, and environment selected in this research were extracted from the 2016 statistical bulletin of the national economy and social development of the counties, the statistical yearbooks of the respective counties in Chongqing, Yichang, and Enshi, the ecological and environmental monitoring bulletin of the Three Gorges Project of the Yangtze River, and the Chongqing water resources bulletin. Except for the landslide disaster data, the above data sets, compiled and published by the statistical bureau of the counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, the statistical bureau of Chongqing, Yichang, and Enshi, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (now the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China), or Chongqing Water Resources Bureau, are available online. Links to these data sets can be found in Appendix 1. Some indicator data are calculated indirectly from the raw data. Table 1 lists the formula for calculating the indicator data.

Table 1. Indicator calculation formula.

Basic Index Layer	Calculation Formula
Proportion of population under 18 years old and over 60 years old	Proportion of population under 18 years old + proportion of population over 60 years old
Government disaster relief experience	Number of government disaster relief experiences from 2011 to 2016
Energy efficiency	Total industrial output/total industrial energy consumption
Coefficient of income disparity between urban and rural areas	(income of urban residents - income of rural residents)/income of all residents

Measuring methods

To resolve consistency problems of the weighting and evaluation methods, we employed a combined evaluation method that includes widely accepted weighting and evaluation methods (Jiang 2012), then used a centralized sorting method to combine and sort the evaluation results. The method proposed not only considered the influence of the different weights on the evaluation results but also considered the complementarity of the methods. For example, both the simple additive weighting (SAW) method and weighted product (WP) method are simple in their calculations, but more data from the original information are lost, whereas TOPSIS (technique for order of preference by similarity to ideal solution), VIKOR (*VlseKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kaompromisno Resenje* in Serbian), and other methods are more complicated, but they make full use of the original data information. By choosing the latter methods, we can effectively avoid any error caused by the disadvantages of the former evaluation methods. Therefore, we develop a disaster resilience evaluation index system for the Three Gorges Reservoir Area in China, then apply the developed comprehensive evaluation model

Table 2. Abbreviations of the various methods.

Methods	Abbreviations
Simple additive weighting	SAW
Technique for order preference by similarity to ideal solution	TOPSIS
<i>Vlsekriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Resenje</i> (in Serbian)	VIKOR
Elimination and Et choice translating reality II	ELECTRE II
Preference ranking organization methods for enrichment evaluations II	PROMETHEE II
Weighted product	WP
Root mean squared error of ranks	RMSER
Matching degree	MATCH%

to quantify the disaster resilience level in the area. The abbreviations of the methods we used are defined in Table 2.

The concept of resilience is not completely unified and the importance of indexes is not confirmed by the existing research (Meerow et al. 2016). In addition, the system of resilience indexing is not fully mature therefore researchers hold different views. Different weights of indicators may lead to inaccurate evaluation results; therefore, we use three common objective weighting methods: average weight method, gradual equal weight method, and entropy method. Average weight method is a method of assigning the same weight to each index. Under the gradual equal weight method, the weight of the subsystem is equal to 1 divided by the number of subsystems. The weight of the subclass is equal to the weight of the subsystem divided by the number of subclasses in the subclass layer. The weight of the basic index is equal to the weight of the subclass divided by the number of indicators of basic index layer. The gradual equal weight method can avoid the excessive weight difference among subsystems caused by the difference in the amount of basic index in each subclass layer. Entropy method provides the weights of the basic index based on data dispersion (Zou et al. 2006).

Multiattribute decision making, also known as multicriteria decision making (MCDM), is an important part of modern decision science. Its theories and methods have been widely applied in engineering, technology, economy, management, and other fields. Because the index weights have been calculated by the weighting methods, 6 evaluation methods applicable to the situation in which the index weight is known were adopted in this study to evaluate disaster resilience in 17 counties. These six methods are highly recognized in the field of MCDM (Jiang 2012). The SAW method is a MCDM method that is widely known and used (Hwang and Yoon 1981) and is suitable for evaluation problems characterized by simple calculation with low complexity. TOPSIS is one of the two existing MCDM methods for selecting compromise solutions (Hwang and Yoon 1981). By determining the shortest distance from the ideal (best) solution and the largest distance from the nadir (poorest) solution, TOPSIS evaluates alternatives. The WP method uses the weight of each attribute value (or indicator value) as the power of the corresponding attribute, so that the gap between the evaluation values of different alternatives becomes larger (Chang and Yeh 2001). The VIKOR method was developed from the compromise programming method, characterized by providing maximum

group benefits and minimizing the number of the worst criterion. Therefore, the compromise solution can be accepted by the decision maker, and the compromise solution is the feasible solution, which is closest to the ideal solution of all solutions (Opricovic and Tzeng 2004). The PROMETHEE II (preference ranking organization methods for enrichment evaluations II) method is a multicriteria evaluation method put forward by Brans et al. (1986), which requires the criterion weight coefficient to be determined, with the decision maker defining or selecting an appropriate preference function for each criterion. The ELECTRE II (elimination and Et choice translating reality II) method builds a weak order relationship that does not require a transfer relationship between alternatives (Wang and Triantaphyllou 2008).

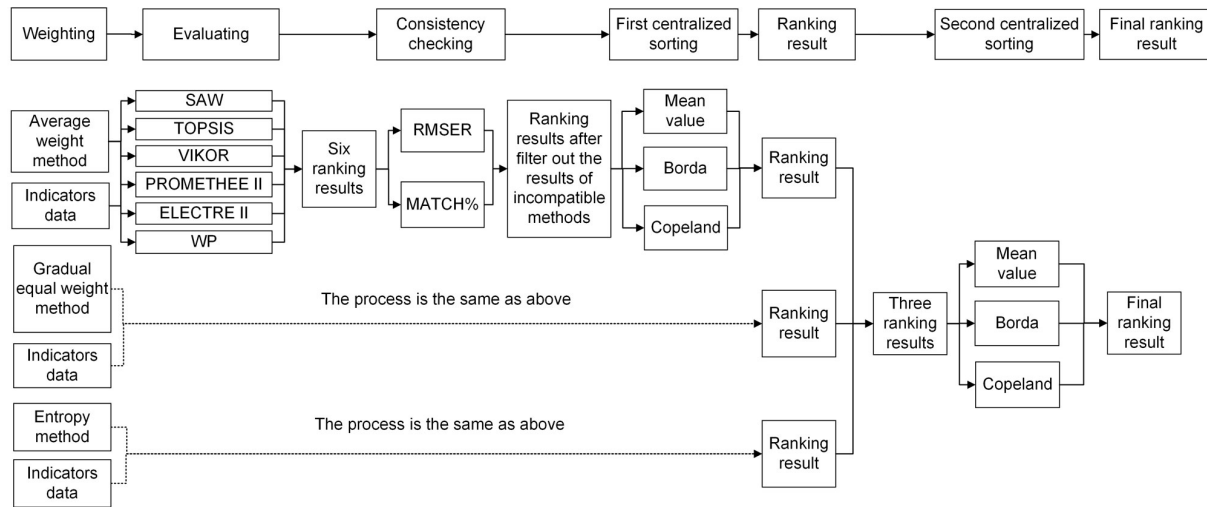
The outcome produced by the six ranking methods may not be consistent for a given index data and weight. In fact, the similarity and dissimilarity of the six methods should be examined to help select a more satisfying evaluation result (Liu et al. 2016). We use two validity coefficients to analyze the consistency and variety among six rank methods. Root-mean-square error is a method of calculating the dispersion of sample observations (Zanakis et al. 1998). The Match% method refers to the ratio of the number of alternatives (or evaluated object) with the same ranking to the total number of alternatives, which the ranking results obtained using the two evaluation methods (Zanakis et al. 1998). These two methods are used to calculate the consistency between one evaluation method and the other evaluation methods.

The centralized sorting method adopts many evaluation methods, and then combines several evaluation results. It provides a way to solve the problem of consistency of evaluation methods (Tang and Zhang 2009). We used the mean value method, the Borda method, and the Copeland method to evaluate the ranking results. The mean value method reorders the evaluation objects according to the average value of the evaluation results (Tang and Zhang 2009). In the Borda and Copeland methods, the minority is subordinate to the majority. In the Borda method, the more times the evaluation object is superior to other evaluation objects, the better the evaluation object is (Tang and Zhang 2009). In the Copeland method, the more times the evaluation object is superior to other evaluation objects and the fewer times it is inferior to other evaluation objects, the better the evaluation object is (Tang and Zhang, 2009).

The calculation steps were as follows:

1. Min-max normalization was used to normalize the initial data matrix.
2. The average weight method (refers to the method of assigning the same weight to each index) was then employed to determine the weight of each index.
3. Based on the calculated weights, six evaluation methods (SAW, TOPSIS, VIKOR, ELECTRE II, PROMETHEE II, and WP) were then used to evaluate the disaster resilience of the counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.
4. After determining the disaster resilience evaluation ranking, two similarity calculation methods, RMSER (root mean squared error of ranks) and MATCH% (matching degree) were used to eliminate incompatible evaluation results. More specifically, high RMSER and low MATCH% indicated low compatibility.

Fig. 4. Resilience evaluation method.



5. Three centralized sorting methods (the average method, the Borda method, and the Copeland method) were used to centralize the rankings for the compatible evaluation results.
6. The gradual equal weight method was then used to determine the weight of each index and steps of 3, 4, and 5 were repeated.
7. The entropy method was used to determine the weight of each index and steps of 3, 4, and 5 were repeated.
8. Three centralized sorting methods (the average method, the Borda method, and the Copeland method) were then used to centralize the three ranking results obtained in steps of 5, 6, and 7, from which the final ranking results were determined.

The specific steps are outlined in Figure 4.

Because the weighting methods, evaluation methods, similarity calculation methods, and centralized sorting method we used are very mature and widely used, the detailed calculation steps of these methods can be found in previous research (Guo et al. 2009, Li and Wang 2012, Liu et al. 2016). After obtaining the disaster resilience and 4 subsystems resilience ranking of 17 counties, the Pearson correlation was used to calculate the correlation matrix.

Establishment of the disaster resilience evaluation system

Human and natural patterns and processes interact in cities and form an aggregation of ecological, infrastructure, social, and economic components. Because of the differences between countries and regions, local disaster resilience evaluation systems are required. Therefore, based on the preceding analysis and the summary of previous disaster resilience evaluation studies, the disaster resilience evaluation for the Three Gorges Reservoir Area was developed around four resilience dimensions: the natural environment, economy, infrastructure, and society. Economic resilience refers to the speed and quality of postdisaster urban recovery, focusing on economic diversity (or dependence on natural resources), employment, household assets, financial capacity, and government economic support to promote urban

reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. Social resilience refers to the effectiveness of social action in disasters and is related to population attributes, social security, education, transportation, and other factors that affect community comprehension, communication, and mobility (Cutter et al. 2014). Infrastructure resilience is related to infrastructure redundancy and whether key facilities play a role in accessing critical resources, networks, or services such as electricity, tap water, networks, and transportation systems, as well as emergency services such as urban medical and early warning facilities in the aftermath of disasters. The natural environment provides the necessary materials and development spaces for the society, the economy, and the infrastructure, but at the same time, the natural environment is often related to the disaster environment; therefore, natural environment resilience can directly affect disaster resilience, and indirectly affect social, economic, and infrastructure resilience because of the specific ecological conditions, the type of disaster, and the local climate.

Therefore, infrastructural, economic, and social resilience were taken as the core dimensions for urban disaster resilience, and ecological resilience taken as the basic dimensions. The conceptual evaluation system framework is shown in Figure 5.

Fig. 5. Theoretical framework for measuring disaster resilience.

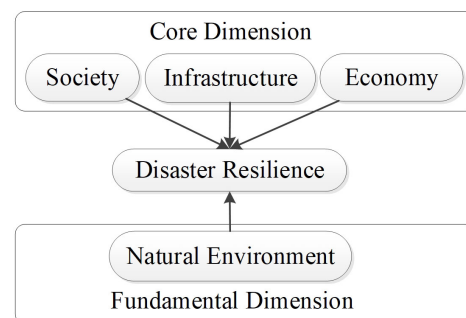


Table 3. Disaster resilience evaluation model.

Destination layer	Subsystem layer	Subclass layer	Basic index layer	Effect on resilience		
Resilience	Society	Population	Proportion of population under 18 years old and over 60 years old	Negative		
			Population density	Negative		
			Population growth rate	Negative		
			Social Security	Proportion of population with a minimum living guarantee	Positive	
				Number of civic organizations per 10,000 population	Positive	
				Proportion of population with health insurance	Positive	
		Number of doctors per 10,000 population		Positive		
		Main food production per capita (grain, vegetables, fruit)		Positive		
		Government disaster relief experience		Positive		
		Education	Number of public libraries per 10,000 population	Positive		
			Number of full-time teachers per 10,000 students	Positive		
			Traffic	Vehicle ownership per 10,000 population	Positive	
	Economy			Comprehensive Economy	GDP per capita	Positive
					Proportion of added value in primary industry	Negative
					Unemployment rate	Negative
		Proportion of nonagricultural population			Positive	
		Energy efficiency			Positive	
		Potential loss threatened by per unit volume landslide	Negative			
		Government Finance Individual Economy	Local financial expenditure	Positive		
			Savings per capita	Positive		
			Loans per capita	Positive		
			Coefficient of income disparity between urban and rural areas	Negative		
			Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure	Number of residential units per 10,000 population	Positive
					Number of schools per 10,000 population	Positive
	Number of beds for social welfare adoption units per 10,000 population	Positive				
	Number of hospitals per 10,000 population	Positive				
	Number of beds in hospitals per 10,000 population	Positive				
	Housing area per capita	Positive				
	Economic Infrastructure	Electricity consumption per capita		Negative		
		Water consumption per capita		Negative		
		Road length per capita		Positive		
		Highway density		Positive		
		Broadband Internet coverage		Positive		
		Number of mobile phones per 10,000 population		Positive		
	Natural Environment	Ecological Condition Natural Disaster	Forest coverage	Positive		
			Degree of soil erosion (soil erosion modulus t/km ² /a)	Negative		
			Earthquake frequency	Negative		
			Distribution density of hidden landslide	Negative		
			Climate	Days of high temperature	Negative	
				Rainstorm frequency	Negative	
		Days of continuous rain		Negative		
		Days of continuous strong cooling		Negative		

These 4 dimensions were then further divided into 12 subclasses, each of which had several basic indexes. There were five considerations when selecting the basic indicators: (1) they needed to be based on previous research and be relevant to disaster resilience; (2) they must reflect the local geographical and regional characteristics; (3) they must be able to be converted into comparative forms; (4) they must be available from reliable data sources; and (5) a selective elimination of the relevant indicators was necessary if there was a high degree of correlation between the factors (Cutter et al. 2010, Zhou 2016). Therefore, based on these principles for index system construction and the data resources, initially, 63 indicators were collected for this study. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to eliminate all the highly correlated variables (Pearson's $R > 0.70$), and 42 variables

were retained as elements of the evaluation index system of disaster resilience (Table 3).

High social resilience means that a community can cope with the pressure of a disaster and have fewer negative societal consequences. We further subdivided the social resilience factors (population, social security, education, and traffic) into 12 subindicators. Linking population attributes with social resilience suggests that communities with a large proportion of young and middle-aged people, a low population growth rate, and low population density may be more resilient than communities without these characteristics (Borsekova et al. 2018). A greater concentration of doctors and health insurance enrollees indicates higher overall physical and mental health in the community. The

number of vehicles indicates the ability to escape. Communities with higher education levels have a higher comprehensive quality in disaster response (Frankenberg et al. 2013). Experience with disaster relief and a good local food supply are also necessary qualities for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters (Barthel et al. 2015).

Economic resilience is the capacity to reduce both direct and indirect disaster-related economic losses (Chang and Shinozuka 2004). Economic resilience is assessed from both macro and micro perspectives and includes consideration of the comprehensive economy, municipal finances, and the individual economy. Therefore, the indicators are related to the community's dependence on natural resources, its economic stability, and its compensation equality. Generally, gross domestic product (GDP) is used to indicate the overall size of the economy (Lu 2018), and if the impact of population size is excluded, GDP per capita can be used to reflect the overall economic characteristics; for example, a high GDP per capita and a low unemployment rate indicate a stable local economy. The energy efficiency reflects the impact of energy consumption on economic development. The potential losses per unit volume of a landslide can be used directly to evaluate economic resilience. In recent years, some studies on economic resilience have paid more attention to economic crises and regional industrial structural adjustments (Brown and Greenbaum 2017). As a traditional industry, primary industry depends on the available resources but can have a negative impact on the environment; therefore, the more enterprises that rely on natural resources, the slower the recovery rate. For the individual economy, families with higher average expenditures are more resilient to natural disasters, and access to microcredit, internal remittances, and social benefits can help families build resilience to natural disasters (Arouri et al. 2015, Kamal et al. 2018). The urban-rural income gap reflects the degree of balanced and coordinated development in the regional economy (Lu 2018), with unfair income distribution increasing the risk to vulnerable groups after a disaster.

Infrastructure as an indicator has been widely accepted by economists. The World Bank's 1994 *World Development Report* divided infrastructure into two categories: economic infrastructure; public utilities such as electricity, pipeline gas, water supply, sanitation facilities and sewerage systems, public works such as irrigation and roads, and other transport sectors such as railways, urban transport, seaports, waterways, and airports; and social infrastructure, which generally refers to business services, science, education, culture, health care, and related areas (World Bank 1994). The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) defined infrastructure system resilience as the ability to predict, absorb, adapt, and quickly recover from a disruptive event, with the indicators being the number of residential units, schools, and hospitals per 10,000 people, and housing area per capita; all of which measure infrastructure soundness and ownership and estimate the capacity of a county to provide housing and emergency medical services for displaced people (NIAC 2009). Economic infrastructure variables, such as per capita road length, road density, Internet broadband coverage and mobile phones per 10,000 people, not only provide a means of communication for pre-event evacuations, but also serve as a conduit for vital postdisaster supplies (Cutter et al. 2010). The greater the per capita electricity

consumption and water consumption of rural residents, the greater the inconvenience brought by the disaster.

The environment is generally divided into the human environment and the natural environment. Because of the overlap of the human environment and society and the economy and infrastructure, this research only involved the natural environment. Natural environmental resilience emphasizes the coordinated development of human and environmental systems. For example, the instability resulting from the climate and weather can affect the level and accessibility of food supplies, social and economic stability, and regional competitiveness (Altieri et al. 2015). The climate change risks are characterized by the frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climatic events that are caused by both human and natural conditions (Zhang and Li 2018). We selected eight indicators from three aspects; the ecological environment, disasters, and climate. Forest coverage indirectly affects natural environmental resilience by regulating the water, soil, biology, and climate. In the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, water and soil losses, earthquakes, and landslides are common natural disasters, with extreme weather events being common causes. Therefore, in areas with fewer water and soil losses, earthquakes and landslides, and good climate conditions, the possibility of disaster is low.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Ranking results

In the case of average weight method, the results of the six evaluation methods are shown in Table 4. According to scores calculated by the SAW and TOPSIS methods, we can conclude that the disaster resilience of the counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area are relatively low.

Table 4. Disaster resilience ranking calculated using the average weight method.

Counties	Score for S	S	Score for T	T	Score for W	W	Score for P	P	V	E
Dadukou	0.532	3	0.521	3	0.843	16	0.039	7	3	6
Fuling	0.490	7	0.493	7	0.933	9	0.070	6	7	6
Changshou	0.440	11	0.457	11	0.970	1	-0.063	12	11	15
Wanzhou	0.445	10	0.460	10	0.885	14	-0.015	8	10	10
Fengdu	0.465	8	0.475	8	0.950	5	-0.020	9	8	9
Zhongxian	0.412	15	0.438	15	0.903	12	-0.099	15	15	16
Kaizhou	0.410	16	0.437	16	0.881	15	-0.112	16	16	14
Yunyang	0.436	12	0.454	12	0.948	6	-0.085	14	12	11
Fengjie	0.454	9	0.466	9	0.952	4	-0.053	10	9	8
Wushan	0.435	13	0.451	13	0.928	10	-0.062	11	13	13
Wuxi	0.528	4	0.518	5	0.907	11	0.094	5	4	5
Wulong	0.573	1	0.551	1	0.958	2	0.199	1	1	1
Shizhu	0.524	6	0.516	6	0.955	3	0.096	4	6	4
Yiling	0.544	2	0.531	2	0.935	7	0.158	2	2	2
Xingshan	0.525	5	0.519	4	0.934	8	0.116	3	5	3
Zigui	0.416	14	0.444	14	0.836	17	-0.071	13	14	12
Badong	0.383	17	0.416	17	0.899	13	-0.181	17	17	17

Note: S = SAW, T = TOPSIS, W = WP, V = VIKOR, P = PROMETHEE II, E = ELECTRE II. SAW, TOPSIS, WP, and PROMETHEE II all had a final score, and the rank is followed by the final score.

In addition, we can see that there are some differences in the ranking results of different methods. Further, there is a great difference between the ranking results of the WP method and the other five methods, indicating that WP has the highest RMSER

and the lowest MATCH% compared with the other methods; therefore, as WP has the lowest compatibility, the results calculated by WP were eliminated. Based on the results of the gradual equal-weight method and the entropy method, similar conclusions can be drawn, as shown in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5. Disaster resilience ranking calculated using the gradual equal weight method.

Counties	Score of S	S	Score of T	T	Score of W	W	Score of P	P	V	E
Dadukou	0.506	5	0.441	6	0.839	16	0.038	7	6	7
Fuling	0.471	7	0.432	8	0.933	9	0.073	6	7	6
Changshou	0.432	9	0.398	10	0.970	1	-0.029	8	12	9
Wanzhou	0.389	14	0.339	16	0.884	14	-0.100	13	17	14
Fengdu	0.422	11	0.368	13	0.951	5	-0.074	12	13	13
Zhongxian	0.382	15	0.352	14	0.902	12	-0.130	15	15	15
Kaizhou	0.395	13	0.381	12	0.881	15	-0.101	14	11	12
Yunyang	0.421	12	0.413	9	0.949	6	-0.058	10	8	8
Fengjie	0.427	10	0.396	11	0.952	4	-0.061	11	10	10
Wushan	0.433	8	0.435	7	0.927	10	-0.045	9	9	11
Wuxi	0.586	1	0.611	1	0.908	11	0.203	3	1	4
Wulong	0.585	2	0.556	3	0.958	2	0.212	1	5	2
Shizhu	0.565	3	0.588	2	0.957	3	0.204	2	2	1
Yiling	0.522	4	0.487	4	0.935	7	0.175	4	3	3
Xingshan	0.505	6	0.482	5	0.934	8	0.109	5	4	5
Zigui	0.371	16	0.341	15	0.831	17	-0.157	16	14	16
Badong	0.332	17	0.311	17	0.895	13	-0.251	17	16	17

Note: S = SAW, T = TOPSIS, W = WP, V = VIKOR, P = PROMETHEE II, E = ELECTRE II. SAW, TOPSIS, WP, and PROMETHEE II all had a final score, and the rank is followed by the final score.

Table 6. Disaster resilience ranking calculated using the entropy method.

Counties	Score of S	S	Score of T	T	Score of W	W	Score of P	P	V	E
Dadukou	0.530	4	0.518	6	0.843	16	0.0305	7	9	7
Fuling	0.493	7	0.496	7	0.933	9	0.0677	6	10	6
Changshou	0.443	11	0.462	11	0.970	1	-0.064	12	11	15
Wanzhou	0.447	10	0.463	10	0.885	14	-0.019	9	14	10
Fengdu	0.471	8	0.483	8	0.950	5	-0.017	8	5	9
Zhongxian	0.418	15	0.446	15	0.904	12	-0.097	15	16	16
Kaizhou	0.415	16	0.444	16	0.881	15	-0.111	16	12	14
Yunyang	0.441	12	0.461	12	0.949	6	-0.083	14	13	11
Fengjie	0.459	9	0.473	9	0.953	4	-0.052	10	2	8
Wushan	0.440	13	0.459	13	0.928	10	-0.059	11	7	12
Wuxi	0.534	3	0.526	3	0.907	11	0.098	4	3	5
Wulong	0.576	1	0.557	1	0.959	2	0.199	1	1	1
Shizhu	0.529	5	0.523	4	0.955	3	0.097	5	4	4
Yiling	0.545	2	0.533	2	0.935	7	0.152	2	6	2
Xingshan	0.528	6	0.521	5	0.934	8	0.113	3	8	3
Zigui	0.419	14	0.448	14	0.836	17	-0.072	13	15	13
Badong	0.387	17	0.422	17	0.899	13	-0.181	17	17	17

Note: S = SAW, T = TOPSIS, W = WP, V = VIKOR, P = PROMETHEE II, E = ELECTRE II. SAW, TOPSIS, WP, and PROMETHEE II all had a final score, and the rank is followed by the final score.

The mean value, Borda, and Copelands method were used to synthesize the ranking results in Table 4, 5, and 6, and the results are shown in Table 7. Then, these three ranking methods were used to synthesize the ranking results in Table 7, from which Table 8 was obtained. It can be seen that the evaluation results are

gradually consistent after two centralized sortings. Finally, the final disaster resilience ranking for the 17 counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area was obtained (Fig. 6; Table 9) based on the results in Table 8.

Table 7. Results from the first centralized sorting.

Counties	Rank of A	Rank of G	Rank of E
Dadukou	3	6	3
Fuling	7	7	7
Changshou	11	10	11
Wanzhou	10	14	10
Fengdu	8	13	8
Zhongxian	15	15	15
Kaizhou	16	12	16
Yunyang	12	9	12
Fengjie	9	11	9
Wushan	13	8	13
Wuxi	5	1	5
Wulong	1	3	1
Shizhu	6	2	6
Yiling	2	4	2
Xingshan	4	5	4
Zigui	14	16	14
Badong	17	17	17

Note: In Table 7, A = average weight method, G = gradual equal weight method, E = entropy method.

Table 8. Results using the second centralized sorting.

Counties	Result of M	Result of B	Result of C
Dadukou	4	3	3
Fuling	7	7	7
Changshou	10	10	10
Wanzhou	12	12	12
Fengdu	8	8	8
Zhongxian	16	16	16
Kaizhou	14	15	15
Yunyang	11	11	11
Fengjie	8	9	9
Wushan	12	13	13
Wuxi	3	4	4
Wulong	1	1	1
Shizhu	6	6	6
Yiling	2	2	2
Xingshan	5	5	5
Zigui	14	14	14
Badong	17	17	17

Note: In Table 8, M = the mean value method, B = Borda method, and C = Copeland method.

According to the methods we used, the resilience of four subsystems can also get a final ranking, as shown in Figure 7.

Analysis of the ranking results

From the ranking results, the disaster resilience intensity was divided into three grades according to the final ranking: counties ranked 1-6 were the high resilience areas, 7-12 were the medium resilience areas, and 13-17 were the low resilience areas. Table 10 gives a detailed analysis of these three disaster resilience levels in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.

Fig. 6. Disaster resilience ranking in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.

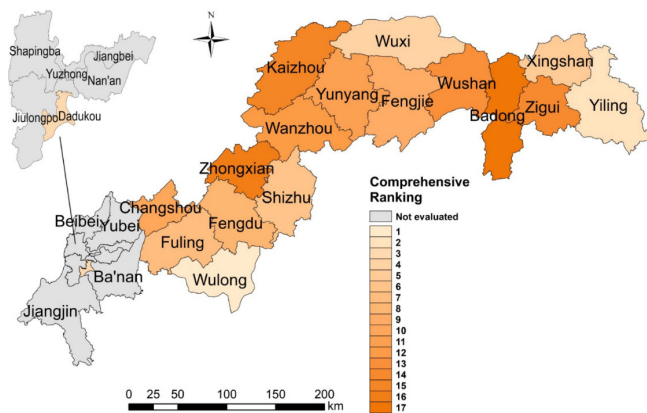
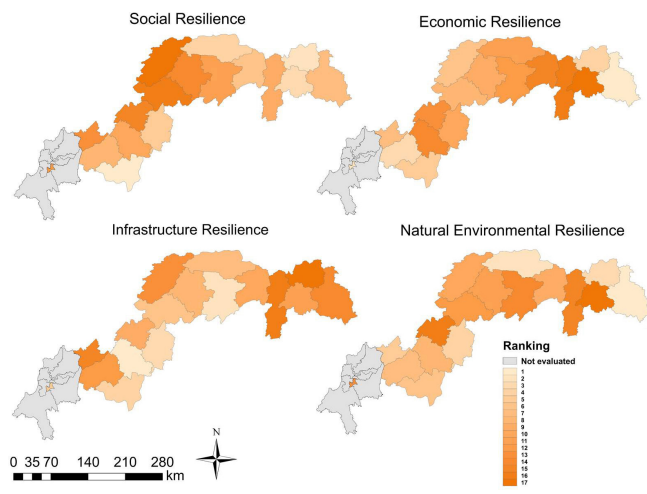


Table 9. Final results.

Counties	Final ranking	Counties	Final ranking
Dadukou	3	Wushan	13
Fuling	7	Wuxi	4
Changshou	10	Wulong	1
Wanzhou	12	Shizhu	6
Fengdu	8	Yiling	2
Zhongxian	16	Xingshan	5
Kaizhou	15	Zigui	14
Yunyang	11	Badong	17
Fengjie	9		

Fig. 7. Disaster resilience ranking for the four subsystems in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.



As can be seen from Figures 6 and 7, the disaster resilience and four subsystems resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area has distinct geographical differences.

- On the whole, the disaster resilience gradually decreases from the Chongqing reservoir area to the Hubei reservoir area. Specifically, the disaster resilience of the Zhongxian-Zigui section (except for Wuxi) was low, mainly because of the low economic, environmental, and social resilience. The reason why the other counties have high disaster resilience was that all four subsystems were found to be more resilient. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the comprehensive disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area by implementing measures in the areas of low subsystem resilience, especially in the Zhongxian-Zigui section.
- The social resilience in the Zhongxian-Fengjie section, Dadukou, and the Changshou area were all found to be low because the population, social security, and traffic resilience were low. Therefore, these counties urgently need to improve the population and social security resilience by, for example, reducing the natural population growth rate and reducing the population density. The government needs to strengthen the minimum living security of the urban residents, increase the proportion of the population with health insurance, and guarantee the farming areas to ensure food security. Other counties were found to have relatively high social resilience because of their high population, social security, education, and traffic resilience.
- The Fengdu-Zigui section was found to have low economic resilience because the government's financial and personal economic resilience were low. The main characteristics of low economic resilience are low GDP per capita, high value added in the primary industry, a small agricultural population proportion, and a large income gap between the urban and rural areas. To promote resilience, the industrial structure needs to be optimized, and the integration of the primary industry into the secondary and service industrial chains needs to be sped up to promote industrial structure rationalization in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. The reason for the higher economic resilience of other counties was the high resilience in comprehensive economy, government finance, and individual economy. For counties that have strong economic bases (Yiling, Xingshan, Dadukou, etc.), strategic emerging industries and high-tech industries such as the Internet of Things, robotics technology, high-end equipment manufacturing, new energy vehicles can be developed and transportation network systems can be promoted and strengthened to develop modern logistics industry (Huang et al. 2015).
- The infrastructure resilience in the Chongqing reservoir area was found to be relatively high but relatively low in the Hubei reservoir area, which was primarily because the economic infrastructure resilience in the Hubei reservoir area was low; therefore, the government needs to increase financial subsidies to improve the infrastructure in this area.
- The geographic distribution of environmental resilience and comprehensive disaster resilience were found to be similar, which indicated that the environmental resilience had the greatest influence on the comprehensive resilience. Specifically, the environmental resilience in the Zhongxian-Zigui section (except for Wuxi) was found to be relatively low, primarily because of the low ecological and disaster

Table 10. Disaster resilience analysis of the 17 counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area.

Classification	County	Specific analysis
High resilience areas	Wulong, Yiling, Dadukou, Wuxi, Xingshan, Shizhu	The four subsystems in these six counties had relatively high recovery capacities. However, except for Wulong, each county had weaknesses; the infrastructure resilience in Yiling and Xingshan, the social resilience and natural environment resilience in Dadukou, and the economic resilience in Wuxi were all below the medium level. Further analysis showed that there were low traffic resilience in Dadukou and Xingshan, low individual economic resilience in Wuxi, and low population resilience, climate resilience, and ecological resilience in Dadukou.
Medium resilience areas	Fuling, Fengdu, Fengjie, Changshou, Yunyang, Wanzhou	These six counties had relatively high infrastructure recovery capacities, with Fengdu, Fengjie, and Wanzhou ranking quite high; however, the economic infrastructure resilience in Changshou was very low. The social resilience was generally at a medium level, but the education resilience in Wanzhou, the social security resilience in Changshou, and the population resilience in Fengdu were all low. The main reason for the low economic resilience was that the government's fiscal resilience was weak, and Fengdu was ranked as backward mainly because of its weak comprehensive economic capacity, government financial capacity, and personal economic capacity. Although Yunyang and Fengjie had medium comprehensive economic resilience, their individual economic resilience needs urgent improvements. The ecological and disaster resilience in these six counties were poor, especially in Wanzhou and Fengdu. Disasters in Yunyang and Fengjie are more threatening. On the whole, these six counties were at a medium level.
Low resilience areas	Wushan, Zigui, Kaizhou, Zhongxian, Badong	The resilience of the four subsystems in these five counties was poor. For example, although Wushan, Zigui, and Badong had relatively strong social resilience, the resilience of the other subsystems and especially economic resilience was weak. Although Kaizhou ranked high in economic resilience, its government finance and individual economic resilience were poor, and its social resilience ranked the lowest. Although the infrastructure resilience in Zhongxian was at a medium level, the resilience of the other three subsystems was poor, especially population resilience, social security resilience, and traffic resilience in the society subsystem, government finance in the economy subsystem, and climate resilience in the natural environment subsystem.

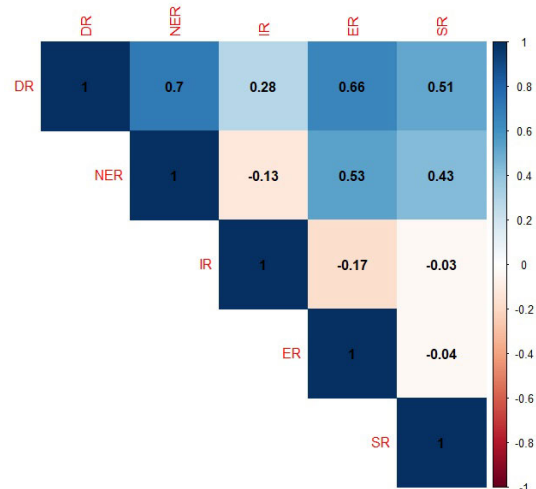
resilience; however, Wuxi and the other counties had higher environmental resilience because their ecological conditions and climate resilience were relatively high and the disaster threat relatively low. Because disaster occurrences are often related to ecological conditions, and the lower part of the mountain bodies on both sides of the Three Gorges have been immersed for a long time, the overall environmental system has become relatively fragile, which means that there is a risk that the disaster frequency will increase. Therefore, the most important task is to improve the ecological environment.

Overall, the disaster resilience level in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area was found to be relatively low, primarily because of the low resilience of the society, economy, infrastructure, and natural environment. Low ecological environment resilience was found in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area because of the unstable climate conditions, the high disaster frequency, the large hidden landslide dangers, the serious soil erosion, and the low vegetation cover. The infrastructure resilience was also low because of the harsh natural environment, which made infrastructure construction difficult. Because of the low infrastructure resilience, the economic losses, and threats to life suffered from various disasters, and the somewhat backward social and economic development in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, the economic and social resilience were also relatively low.

Relationship between the disaster resilience and the resilience in the four subsystems

Figure 8 shows the correlations between disaster resilience and the resilience in the four subsystems. (1) There was a moderate correlation between the comprehensive resilience and the natural environment resilience, economic resilience, and social resilience, respectively, while a stronger relationship was found between the

Fig. 8. Correlation matrix for the disaster resilience and the four subsystems' resilience. Note: SR = social resilience, ER = economic resilience, IR = infrastructure resilience, NER = natural environment resilience, DR = disaster resilience; the correlation matrix was calculated using Pearson's correlation; $r > 0$ indicated a positive correlation between the two variables; $r < 0$ indicated a negative correlation of the two variables; $|r| \geq 0.8$ indicated that the two variables were highly correlated; $0.5 \leq |r| < 0.8$ indicated that the two variables were moderately correlated; $0.3 \leq |r| < 0.5$ indicated that two variables had a low correlation; and $|r| < 0.3$ indicated that the correlation between the two variables was weak and basically irrelevant.



natural environment resilience and economic resilience; that is, as the correlation between infrastructure resilience and comprehensive disaster resilience was basically irrelevant, it could be inferred that improvements in natural environment resilience, economic resilience, and social resilience would lead to higher improvements in the comprehensive resilience.

(2) The correlation analysis between the four subsystems showed that the natural environment resilience was only moderately correlated with economic resilience, which could be due to the impact of the harsh natural environment on economic resilience. The natural environment resilience was also found to have a low correlation with social resilience, indicating that there may be high social resilience but low natural environment resilience. Basically, no correlation was found between the natural environment and infrastructure resilience, infrastructure and economic resilience, infrastructure and social resilience, and economic and social resilience. Some studies have found the natural environment affected infrastructure construction, that economic and social development interacted, and infrastructure construction could affect social development. The results of this study found that the resilience correlations between four subsystems were weak, which indicated that even though there was some influence between every two subsystems, there was not a strong correlation between the resilience in every two subsystems. Therefore, the key to improving the comprehensive disaster resilience in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area is to enhance the ecological environmental resilience.

CONCLUSIONS

This study provides an integrated methodology and a set of indicators to measure disaster resilience, which can help obtain objective and consistent evaluation results. Governments can compare the resilience of different districts and counties to know their relative resilience and whether they need to learn from more resilient districts and counties to determine emergency responses, recovery, and mitigation in critical circumstances. Based on a four-level hierarchical indicator system, we evaluated the disaster resilience in 17 counties in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area by combining six evaluation methods and three weighting methods. The ranking results of six evaluation methods were different, particularly with the WP method. After removing the ranking result of WP, the final ranking results were obtained by the mean value, Borda, and Copeland methods.

According to the evaluation results of 17 districts and counties, the overall disaster resilience level of the Three Gorges Reservoir Area was found to be low. This indicates the necessity of having resilience management plans in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, particularly for the counties with poorer resilience to natural disasters such as Wushan, Zigui, Kaizhou, Zhongxian, and Badong. In terms of geographical distribution, the disaster resilience was found to gradually decrease from the Chongqing reservoir area to that in Hubei. The geographical distribution of the environmental resilience was similar to that of the comprehensive resilience. The environmental resilience in the Zhongxian-Zigui section (except Wuxi) was low. Infrastructure resilience in the Hubei reservoir area was lower than that in the Chongqing reservoir area. The social resilience in the Zhongxian-Fengjie section, Dadukou, and Changshou reservoir area was low, and the economic resilience in the Fengdu-Zigui section was low.

Therefore, corresponding measures should be taken to promote the resilience of subsystems so as to enhance the overall disaster resilience. The natural environment resilience was found to be mostly related to the comprehensive disaster resilience. Within the four subsystems, economic resilience was moderately related to the natural environment resilience. This suggests that improving the natural environmental resilience is an important way to enhance the disaster resilience. As a result, the government should pay more attention to the improvement of the resilience of the natural environment.

This study is expected to provide a more reasonable basis for policymakers to make more effective use of scarce resources and maximize their role, rather than distribute resources equally in all counties of the Three Gorges Reservoir Area. Because the resilience was examined from a static perspective in this study, quantifying the resilience changes in the studied area should be considered in future studies.

Responses to this article can be read online at:

<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/issues/responses.php/11464>

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Data Availability Statement:

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author, Haixiang Guo. The data are not publicly available because some of the information involves national privacy. Code sharing is not applicable to this article because no new code was created.

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