MISSION
International Rivers protects rivers and defends the rights of communities that depend on them. We work to stop destructive dams and promote water and energy solutions for a just and sustainable world.

VISION
Rivers are vital to sustaining all life on earth. We seek a world where healthy rivers and the rights of local communities are valued and protected. We envision a world where water and energy needs are met without degrading nature or increasing poverty, and where people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
From Around the World, Rivers Unite Us

Throughout 2014, rivers have continued to offer water, food, inspiration and much beauty to the world. They have also continued to face attacks. Even though better alternatives are now widely available, a new dam-building fever is gripping the world, with more than 3,000 projects under construction and in the pipeline.

I wish I could report that we managed to break this dam-building fever in 2014. We did not, but as the following pages will show, our committed band of Board members, staff and partners have made a big difference in protecting healthy rivers all over the planet. We have supported the mobilization of dam-affected people from the Amazon to the Mekong, the Andes to the Salween, the Congo to the Sarawak. We have helped stop destructive dams in Patagonia, and have put numerous other projects on hold. We have brought the fight for healthy rivers to governments, courts and corporate headquarters, and strengthened the environmental and human rights standards of powerful actors. We’ve also organized workshops to present realistic, climate-resilient alternatives to destructive dams in places ranging from India to Vietnam.

We made continued progress in our quest to become a truly international organization in 2014. With offices in Africa, Latin America, and East, South, and Southeast Asia – and 26 staff members from twelve countries – we are a force to be reckoned with.

This annual report offers a snapshot of our work in 2014, and will allow you to hold us accountable for what we set out to do. We hope you’ll continue to support our work and remain part of the growing global movement for healthy rivers. Thank you.

For people, water, and life,

Peter Bosshard
Interim Executive Director
International Rivers operates and supports local movements in Asia, Latin America and Africa. While our campaigns differ from region to region, five key issue areas unite our work globally.

- **Defending Human Rights**
- **Improving Dam Standards**
- **Protecting Healthy Rivers**
- **Promoting Energy Solutions**
- **Addressing Climate Change**
Our Southeast Asia team supported Thai communities who challenged the Xayaburi Dam’s constitutionality on the bases of human rights and environmental protection. The Thai Supreme Administrative Court accepted the lawsuit and the case is currently underway.

The Africa Team provided resources to Congolese communities affected by the Inga 3 Dam, and organized a visit to DC, where community members presented a petition demanding improved communication and assessments from the World Bank.
Winning Reparations for the Maya Achi

For 16 years, Monti Aguirre, Latin America Program Coordinator, worked to secure reparations for communities affected by Guatemala’s Chixoy Dam – and in 2014, her efforts met with success. The project, built in the 1980s, forcibly displaced more than 3,500 Maya Achi people and damaged over 6,000 families’ lands and livelihoods. When residents opposed relocation, over 400 people were massacred by government forces.

Survivors have since called upon the Guatemalan government and the dam financiers – the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank – to pay reparations. After almost 20 years of relentless advocacy, on November 8, 2014, President Otto Perez Molina asked the communities’ forgiveness for the Guatemalan government’s role in the destruction caused by the Chixoy Dam, and presented a Reparations Executive Agreement to the communities.

The reparations agreement includes $154.5 million to fund individual compensations, infrastructure, development assistance and environmental restoration in the Chixoy Basin.

“A great and important precedent has been set today. International financial institutions, governments and investors must step up to take responsibility for the damages caused by development projects they build and finance.”

- Monti Aguirre, Latin America Program Coordinator
• The China Team supported Chinese NGOs in making powerful and evidence-based policy recommendations to the Chinese government regarding dam building, resulting in new laws that ensure better public participation and environmental protection.

• In response to the Inga 3 Dam proposal on the Congo, the Policy Team published a brief that proves that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the dam falls short of international best practices.
The period of large dam construction in the US may be over, but the US government, as the World Bank’s largest shareholder, is still one of the world’s leading financiers of large dam projects overseas – or was, until the 2015 US Budget Bill was passed, with input from the International Rivers’ Policy Team and other environmental groups.

In the bill, Congress asks the US government to oppose any financial support for large dams that lack both support from affected communities and adequate environmental and human rights safeguards. Gone are the days when the US government can support dam-building projects that do not meet the highest international standards.

International Rivers’ Policy Team, working out of Washington D.C. and Berkeley, California, collaborated with senators and partners to advocate for the strong language that was written into the budget bill. As the bill begins to take effect, we’ll use the new legislation to push the World Bank to clean up its act and get out of destructive dams.

“The Congressional criteria reflect the lessons of past experience with large dams. If taken seriously, they will stop the worst projects from going forward, and can improve the projects that still get built. The burden of proof is now on the World Bank and other financiers to show that they can indeed develop large dams under such best-practice guidelines.”

- Peter Bosshard, Interim Executive Director
PROTECTING HEALTHY RIVERS

• The Southeast Asia Team coordinated a campaign to assess how Laos’ Don Sahong Dam will affect the Mekong River. The campaign created widespread public pressure: Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam expressed concerns over the dam, leading Laos to agree to conduct a consultation process.

• The China and Southeast Asia Teams collaborated to envision, secure funding for, and co-organize a meeting of 200 academics, NGO representatives and affected community groups along the Salween River. The meeting served as the official launch of a Nu-Salween-Thanlwin studies program to protect the future of the river basin.
Keep Patagonia’s Rivers Free

In 2007, HidroAysén proposed building five dams on Patagonia’s Baker and Pascua rivers. The dams would have flooded nearly 15,000 acres of rare forest ecosystems and required the world’s longest clear-cut to make way for a 1900 km transmission line. The government’s approval of the dams in May 2011 set off major protests around Chile, and spurred the creation of the Consejo de Defensa de la Patagonia (CDP, or Patagonia Defense Council) and the birth of the Patagonia Sin Represas campaign.

What began as a grassroots effort to protect Patagonia – the largest wilderness area still left on the planet – developed into a full-fledged international campaign. International Rivers’ Latin America Team worked alongside the CDP for seven years to halt the HidroAysén dam project; we finally celebrated success in 2014. After countless meetings, public hearings and assessments, on June 9, 2014, Chile’s Committee of Ministers overturned the environmental permits, effectively cancelling the five-dam project. The campaign to protect Patagonia and its rivers was the largest environmental struggle – and success – in the country’s history.

“The government’s rejection of the HidroAysén project is not only the greatest triumph of the environmental movement in Chile, but marks a turning point, where an empowered public demands to participate in the decisions that affect their environment and lives.”

- Patricio Rodrigo, Former Executive Secretary of the Patagonia Defense Council
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

• The South Asia, Southeast Asia and Policy Teams collaborated to hold Integrative Resources Planning workshops in India and Vietnam.

• The Africa Team hosted an Energy Solutions seminar in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to share information about renewable energy and discuss options for alternative energy projects.
Micro Hydro Gets a Boost

Northeastern India is endowed with several perennial rivers with huge energy potential. Large dams are being constructed bumper to bumper, without clear understanding of their impact on the river basins and people living downstream, and without benefit to the region itself. To present a less-destructive alternative, International Rivers’ South Asia Team partnered with a local government agency to put on a two-day workshop that introduced micro hydro to state officials, academics and activists working in the region.

Micro hydro – a small-scale alternative to large dams that does not require reservoirs and has little to no effect on the environment – produces just enough energy for one community. The workshop aimed to inspire funding agencies, grassroots NGOs and state governments to work with local engineers, village youth and fabricators to choose micro hydro over large dams. By the end of the workshop, several agencies were already communicating with micro hydro suppliers, and the workshop had been featured on the front pages of three regional papers. The South Asia Team is confident that micro hydro can help turn the tide away from the exploitation of rivers and people, and toward creating local benefits from natural resources.

“The next steps in the micro-hydro sector will be crucial to help turn the tide away from the exploitation of rivers and people, and toward creating local benefits from the natural resources in the region.”

- Bharat Lal Seth, South Asia Program Coordinator
Building the Global Movement for Free-Flowing Rivers

Since our founding, International Rivers has laid the groundwork for the world’s river movement. This map shows the breadth of our reach, depicting regions where our programs either worked alongside or provided support to local movements in 2014.

KEY:
- International Rivers has an office
- International Rivers’ staff convened or attended meetings, workshops and conferences
- International Rivers’ staff awarded re-grants to local partner organizations
- International Rivers facilitated the award of Global Greengrants to local organizations
- Dam-building “hotspots” where dams are currently under construction

GLOBAL GREENGRAINTS AND INTERNATIONAL RIVERS

For over 15 years, International Rivers has partnered with Global Greengrants Fund to identify and award small grants to highly effective grassroots organizations that protect their land and rivers in areas where we work. Global Greengrants Fund is the growing environmental and supporting grassroots action around the world. Our unique partnership and grantmaking strategy strengthens the local-to-global connection, building the global environmental movement from the bottom up.

The areas marked in blue are places where International Rivers recommended a Global Greengrants Fund award in 2014.

For more info visit: www.greengrants.org/
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

- The Policy Team participated in the People’s Climate March in DC outside the UN Climate Summit, and convened a workshop for participants.

- The Africa Program hosted a three-hour workshop session with the Congo Youth Leaders to discuss how climate change affects rivers.

- Together with a coalition of organizations, International Rivers launched a campaign leading up to the COP20 climate summit in Lima, Peru, to spread the word that large dams are not clean energy (FMI: http://intlrv.rs/COP20DamsNotCleanEnergy).
Championing Rivers in a Changing Climate

Dammed rivers – and the communities living near them – are at extreme risk in a changing climate. Large dams exacerbate the effects of climate change, threatening freshwater fish while diverting water from agriculture – two ecosystem services essential for riverine communities. As droughts worsen, dams run the risk of becoming obsolete, and organic matter flooded by reservoirs emits large quantities of greenhouse gases.

Until recently, the dam industry and its backers poorly understood the impact of climate change on dams and riverine communities. International Rivers addresses climate change by framing the issue in international media and bringing these messages to the public eye.
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The Annenberg Foundation
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FINANCIALS

2014 Support and Revenue
- Grants: $1,506,920
- Contributions: $196,079
- Other: $23,530
Total Income: $1,726,529

2014 Expenses
- Program Activities: $1,836,364
- Administration: $321,618
- Fundraising: $254,075
Total Expenses: $2,412,057

2014 Net Assets
- Net Assets at the Beginning of Year: $3,144,259
- Net Assets at the End of Year: $2,371,132
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monti Aguirre</td>
<td>Latin America Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ange Asanzi</td>
<td>Africa Program Assistant</td>
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<td>Peter Bosshard</td>
<td>Co-Director of Programs</td>
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<td>Pianporn Deetes</td>
<td>Thailand Campaign Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Director of Finance and Operations</td>
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<td>Susan Howatt</td>
<td>Campaigns Director</td>
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<td>Zachary Hurwitz</td>
<td>Policy Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Director of Web and IT</td>
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<td>Josh Klemm</td>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
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<td>Berklee Sati</td>
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<td>Ame Trandem</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Staff Accountant</td>
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<td>Dipti Vaghela</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 STAFF UPDATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Bardeen</td>
<td>Communications Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bosshard</td>
<td>Interim Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Jensen-Cormier</td>
<td>China Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Jovais</td>
<td>Grants Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Mang</td>
<td>Co-Director of Programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### INTERNS, VOLUNTEERS, AND TEMPORARY STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erica Carvell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Munq DeVoe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat Fong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fionella Simbi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernadette Talbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jace White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiran Patel</td>
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I AM 70% WATER
#RIVERS UNITEUS
International Day of Action for Rivers 2014

Every year on March 14, thousands of people around the world lift their voices to celebrate the world’s rivers. International Rivers has coordinated the International Day of Action for Rivers since it was created during the first International Meeting of Dam-Affected People and Their Allies in 1997.

*Rivers Unite Us* was the theme for the 17th annual Day of Action. We recorded over 95 actions in 42 countries – the most country participation ever. As part of the event, we launched a photo project, Rivers Are in Our Hands, in which we invited participants to submit a photo with a message on their palm with the hashtag #RiversUniteUs. People responded enthusiastically: We now have a collection of over 100 photos on Flickr.

95 Actions
42 Countries
116 #RiversUniteUs Photos

To see the photos and learn more visit: https://www.facebook.com/DayofActionforRivers and http://www.internationalrivers.org/node/8248