



# International Rivers



ANNUAL REPORT 2013



## Toward Understanding Thresholds for Global “River Change”



At International Rivers, our research on dam development trends and advocacy for policies that protect rivers increasingly takes place at national and regional levels throughout the Global South. Yet, as the only global advocacy group 100% dedicated to rivers and the people who depend on them, we also have a responsibility to build upon our nearly 30 years of expertise to understand and diagnose trends in river health on a planetary scale.

Our new State of the World's Rivers project does just that. This online, data-driven, interactive atlas offers comparative analysis of river health indicators for the world's 50 largest river basins. The project, featured in this annual report, began with a deepening concern that the cumulative and planetary-scale consequences of converting living rivers into electricity plants and wastewater discharge zones are reaching a tipping point. Prompted by a growing “dam rush” in key rivers worldwide, this new research project asks the questions: *What is the state of the world's rivers today? What might be the state of the world's rivers a generation from now?* The project begins to define the terms by which the ecological integrity of rivers, and planetary processes that rivers propel, could be understood, analyzed and debated. We believe it's a critically important question to understand how much “river change” the planet – and societies – can absorb before ecological thresholds are crossed, and before waterways cease to function as living rivers.

Large dams – individually and collectively – change rivers like no other human invention. The trends in large dam construction are alarming. Already, more than 50,000 large dams have impaired two-thirds of the world's rivers. If

the collective ambitions of the hydropower industry and government energy planners in many parts of the Global South are realized, hydroelectric generation will double by 2050 – which will require 9,000 new large dams. Practically no river basins will be spared from hydrological disruption.

These energy questions are interlinked with the broader debate on the most effective approaches and solutions to mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. While the grave challenge of reducing the rate of increased carbon concentrations in our atmosphere is an appropriately paramount concern for humanity, too little attention is being given to understanding the thresholds for maintaining river health. This holds especially true given that so many consequences of climate change are water-based – floods, droughts, changing ocean currents and chemistry and so on. Maintaining viable, functioning rivers – and all the incalculable services they provide – ought to be a paramount strategy for adapting society and ecosystems to the changes brought on by higher levels of carbon in our atmosphere.

Yet, there's no United Nations body, no inter-governmental panel, no set of accords or river health indicators to compel nations to report on the state of the world's rivers. In our investigation, the body of data on river health indicators varies greatly across river basins and nations, and such data is often borne out of site-specific environmental impact statements for particularly large dam projects. There are, of course, brilliant and committed academics who have devoted their careers to grappling with these questions, and their work became the basis for this initial phase of our State of the World's Rivers project.



Some facts about planetary “river change” we’ve known for years – at any given time, the world’s built reservoirs contain three times more water than that which flows in rivers. Scientists have concluded that the cumulative weight of reservoirs on the earth’s surface has tilted the axis of the planet. An estimated 40 cubic kilometers of sediment – a volume greater than Lake Mead, the giant reservoir behind Hoover Dam – is trapped each year behind dams, which starves deltas of nutrient and sediment replenishment. Infamously, rivers such as the Colorado, Indus and Yellow are so dammed and diverted that they seldom flow into the sea – unarguably altering the physical, chemical and biological processes of coastal marine ecosystems.

This print version of State of the World’s Rivers is a sampler – rather than a summation – of the rich and detailed interactive online tool that can be found on our website. We chose indicators that emphasized ecological processes and function – such as river fragmentation, dam density and river connectivity. We selected a narrow range of water quality parameters, a decision largely driven by availability of data. We selected biodiversity parameters such as species richness and rates of biodiversity decline. The State of the World’s Rivers online platform – which can be found at [www.internationalrivers.org/worldrivers](http://www.internationalrivers.org/worldrivers) – provides the user with an opportunity to view data spatially, see rankings and comparisons for indicators across the 50 basins we reviewed, and view a sampling of river basins in focus.

We hope this tool generates a level of interest and support that can help advance the project into future phases. Furthermore, the synthesized data leads International Rivers to key conclusions and recommendations.

We recommend the following measures be taken to protect the world’s rivers:

- The evidence of planetary-scale impacts from river change is strong enough to warrant a major international focus on understanding the thresholds for “river change” in the world’s major basins, and for the planet as a whole system. An appropriately resourced inter-governmental panel of experts should be convened to assess the state of the world’s rivers, develop metrics and thresholds

regarding river health and the impacts of changes to river systems on key life processes on Earth and on human society.

- Damming rivers should become an option of last resort for managing water and generating electricity. Governments and other actors should adopt state-of-the-art River Basin Planning and Integrated Resource Planning processes and follow the highest social and environmental standards for their water and energy sector projects.
- No more dams should be built on the mainstems of rivers, which play a crucial role for the sustainability of freshwater ecosystems.
- Local communities have been the guardians of freshwater ecosystems for generations. Their voices should be heard and respected in the protection and management of rivers. River basin projects must be based on demonstrable public acceptance, including the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples for projects that impact their lands.

The following pages will provide some glimpses and case studies into the amazing world of rivers, and the severity of their declining health. A visit to the online platform will create an opportunity for much deeper engagement with the State of the World’s Rivers assessment.

From there, we invite collective action. River change is real. Large dam building is accelerating the rate of change. These changes have a wide range of consequences. Understanding the scope and degree of these consequences for our living rivers – and the planetary processes they drive – is a concern of urgency equal to that of a carbon-heavy atmosphere. Join International Rivers in advancing this State of the World’s Rivers project and elevating the river crisis into the global discourse on human progress and ecological sustainability.



  
Jason Rainey  
Executive Director

## 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.

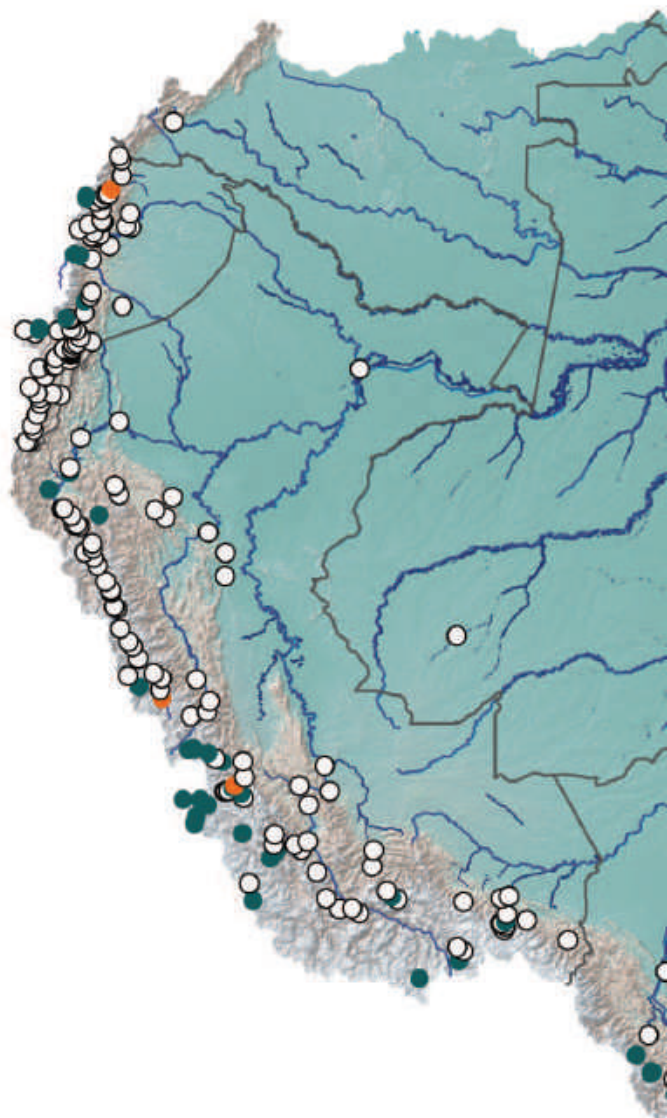
We envision a world where water and energy needs are met without degrading nature or increasing poverty, and where people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.



# Amazon River Basin

## QUICK FACTS

- The world's largest hydrographic basin, the Amazon covers nearly 7 million square kilometers in nine countries – about 40% of the total surface area of South America. Over half of the Amazon basin is located within Brazil's national boundaries.
- With over 1,000 tributaries, the Amazon is the second longest river in world (over 6,000 km in length from its headwaters in the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean).
- The source of 20% of all fresh water on the planet, the average discharge of the Amazon is approximately 219,000 m<sup>3</sup>/sec. During rainy season, the Amazon floodplain can extend up to 30 miles wide in some places.
- A striking characteristic of the Amazon is its tremendous biodiversity, including over 50,000 species of plants, 3,000 species of fish and over 400 known species of mammals. Nearly 2,000 known species of birds and the majority of the world's primates are endemic to the Amazon.
- The Amazon is also a region of tremendous cultural diversity, including hundreds of indigenous groups with distinct languages and cultures. Today, most of the Amazonian population resides in urban areas, from small towns to large cities, such as Manaus and Belem in Brazil.



## CURRENT THREATS

### DAMS

There are 388 dams planned in the Amazon basin, including:

- » 116 dams in the Tapajós-Juruena basin, Brazil
- » 26 dams in the Marañón Basin, Peru

The Belo Monte Dam Complex has been under construction since mid-2011 on a major Amazon tributary. Belo Monte will divert the flow of the Xingu River and displace more than 20,000 people, threatening



ecosystems, biodiversity, and the survival of indigenous tribes that depend on the river for their livelihoods.

The São Luiz do Tapajós Dam is one of seven large dams planned for the Tapajós and Jamanxim rivers and currently awaiting approval. The dams will directly flood indigenous peoples' lands and conservation areas.

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

A proliferation of dam cascades,



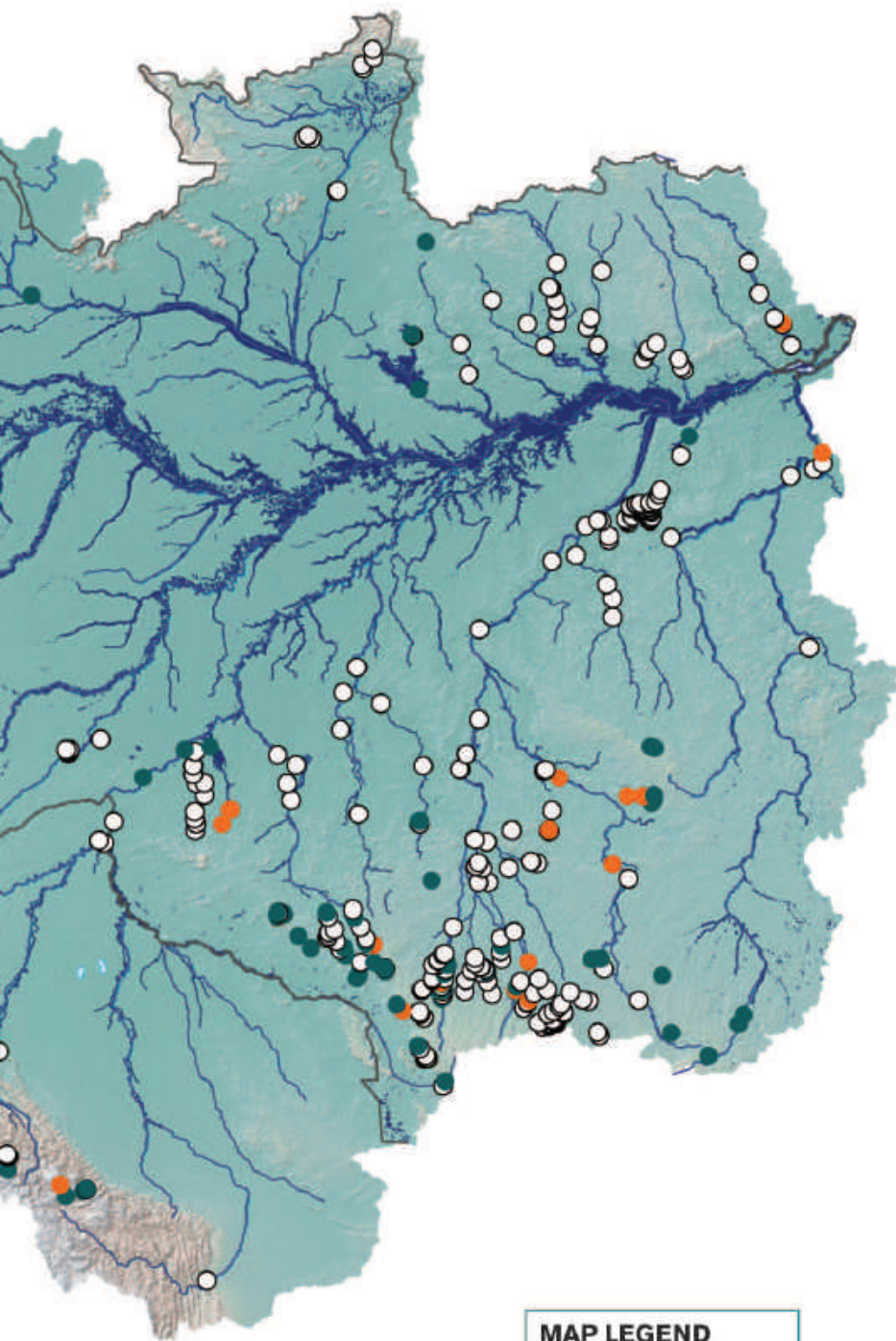
mining, and agribusiness development is decreasing biodiversity, water quality and forest cover, while increasing greenhouse gas emissions from reservoirs, spillways, and turbines.

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Dam building is violating the rights of indigenous peoples and other traditional populations, including their right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent regarding projects that threaten their territories and livelihoods.







#### MAP LEGEND

- Existing Dams
- Under Construction
- Planned Dams



## WHAT WE ARE DOING

International Rivers is working with local partners to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and other local populations threatened by destructive dams, prioritizing grassroots education and capacity-building, as well as support for legal actions. We also work to promote policies and practices among government agencies, corporations and financial institutions that take into account the true social and environmental costs and risks of hydroelectric dams, while supporting alternative strategies that prioritize energy efficiency and upscaling of renewables, especially solar and wind energy.



# Mekong River Basin

## QUICK FACTS

- The Mekong is the longest river in Southeast Asia, and the world's 12th longest. It flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- It is the second most biodiverse river in the world, with approximately 20,000 plant species, 430 mammals, 1,200 birds, 800 reptiles and amphibians, and 840 fish species.
- One-quarter of its fish species are endemic to the Mekong, including the Giant Mekong Catfish, the largest freshwater fish in the world.
- The river is home to the world's largest inland fishery, and supports the livelihoods and food security of 40-60 million people. Dams could reduce the productivity of this fishery by 60%.
- Mekong fisheries produce about 22% of the world's freshwater capture fish. The total economic value of Mekong fisheries has been estimated at US\$5-\$9 billion per year.



## CURRENT THREATS

### DAMS

Rapid advancement of hydropower projects in the region, with more than 100 dams planned for the Mekong basin, including:

- » 11 dams on the Lower Mekong mainstem
- » 14 dams on the Upper Mekong/Lancang River
- » 94 Dams on tributaries of the Mekong River in Laos



### BIODIVERSITY

Dams (especially on the mainstem) could severely disrupt animal migration and natural flow patterns, and have harmful impacts on a wide variety of species. The Mekong River basin is one of the richest areas of biodiversity in the world.



### WATER QUALITY

High population densities and intensive agriculture, coupled



with weak water quality regulation, has reduced water quality in the Mekong basin.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is increasing droughts and floods in the region, and is raising sea levels. A 1m sea-level rise could displace more than seven million people in the delta and swamp 80% of the Mekong delta, according to climate studies.





#### MAP LEGEND

- Existing Dams
- Under Construction
- Planned Dams



## WHAT WE ARE DOING

We work with local partners in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam through the Save the Mekong Coalition and other national networks to advocate against mainstem dams (which will significantly impact the rivers' fisheries and sediment flows) and for improved participation in decision-making processes. We monitor dam developments, document the impacts of existing projects, and build technical capacity among local communities and NGOs in the region. We conduct legal and scientific research to assess project impacts and evaluate regional decision-making processes.





# Nile River Basin

## QUICK FACTS

- At more than 6,500km in length, the Nile River is the longest river in the world.
- The Nile has two main branches: the White Nile (which begins in the great lakes region of Rwanda), and the Blue Nile (which begins at Lake Tana in Ethiopia).
- The river traverses the largest number of countries of any African river – it flows through 11 countries. About 40% of Africa's population depends on its waters.
- About 97% of Egypt's water supply comes from the Nile.
- River flooding historically brought rich soils to Egypt. Aswan Dam and dams upstream in Sudan capture much of the Nile's fertile sediment, and Egyptian farmers must now depend on chemical fertilizers.
- The river supports many animal species, including the Nile Crocodile (which can be up to 20 feet long), hippos, various fish (including Nile Perch, which can weigh up to 175 pounds), and more than 300 bird species.
- The river's most famous waterfall, Blue Nile Falls in Ethiopia, has nearly disappeared due to water diversions for Tis Abay Dam.



## CURRENT THREATS

### EXCESSIVE WATER WITHDRAWALS



Current water withdrawal for irrigation is so high that some years the river does not reach the sea. Reservoirs on the Nile compound the problem, by evaporating huge amounts of water. Water losses from Aswan, for example, equal about

12-14% of the annual inflow into the reservoir. Climate change will compound water insecurity in the region.

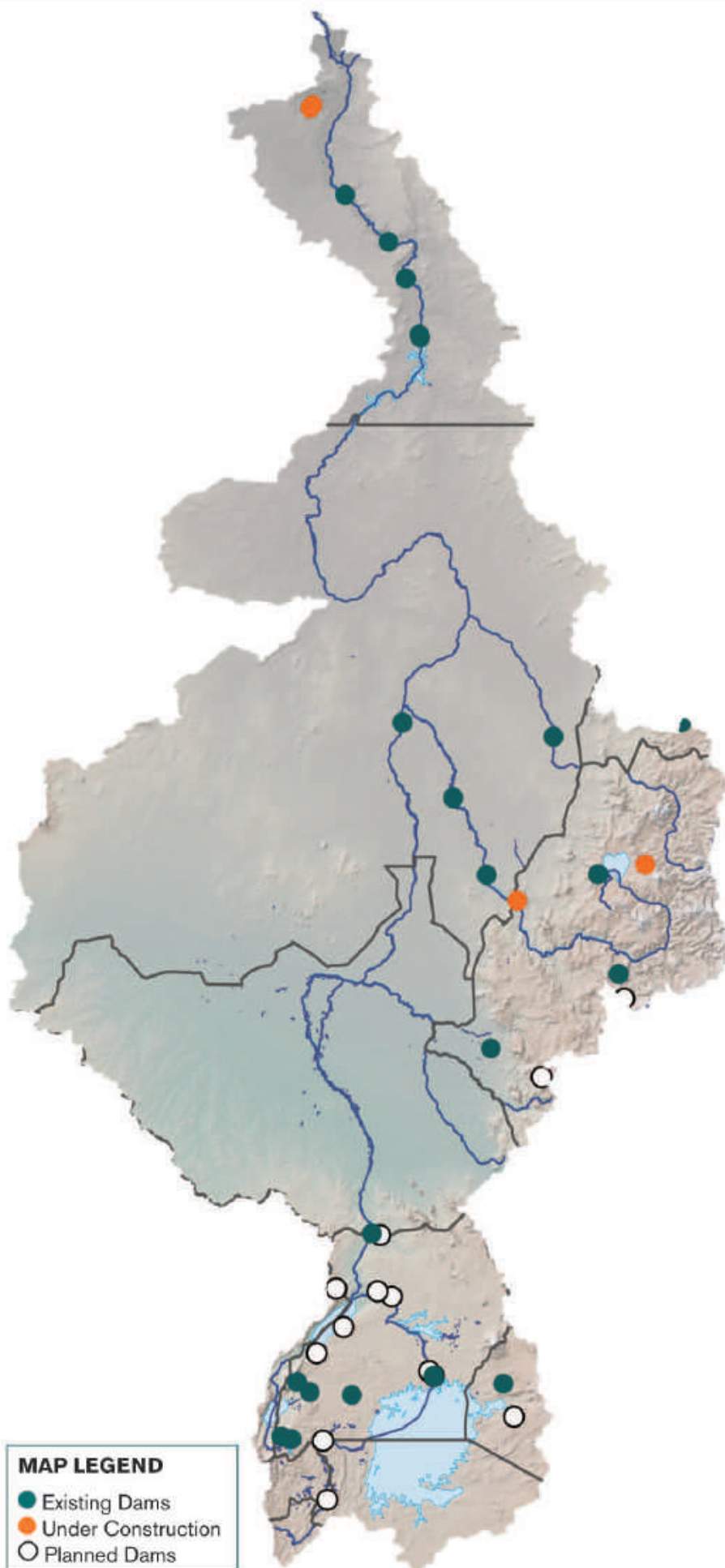
### LARGE DAMS

Ethiopia is building Africa's largest hydropower project, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, near the Sudan



border. The project, begun under a cloud of secrecy, has increased conflict with Egypt over its impact on water supply. Existing dams on the White Nile in Uganda endanger the long-term water levels of Lake Victoria. Uganda has plans for more dams as well. Sudan's large dams capture much of the river's sediment, and have resulted in forced resettlement.





## WHAT WE ARE DOING

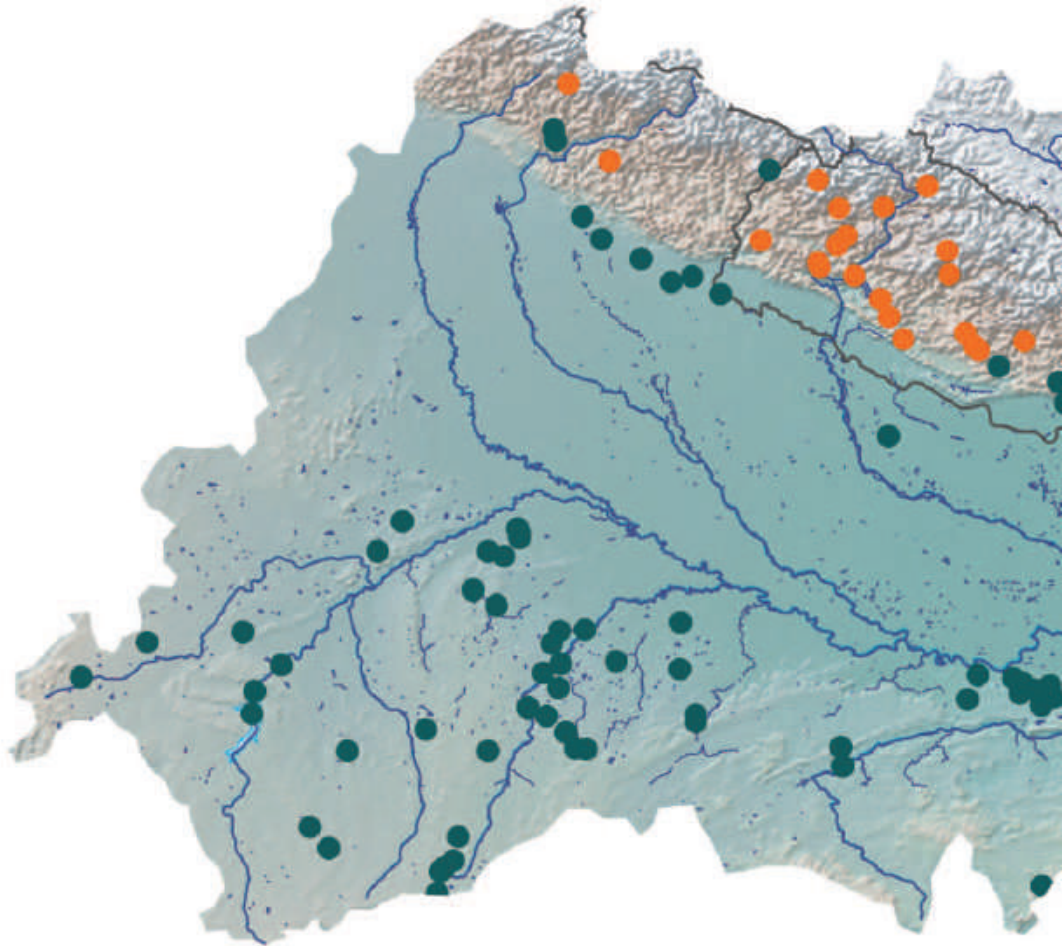
Information about Nile dam projects has often been hard to get, making it quite difficult to evaluate their impacts. International Rivers conducts research and field visits to pinpoint the key issues arising from these large dam projects; we share our findings with local groups, donor governments, financial institutions and the media. We research and advocate for better alternatives to large hydropower projects. We work to support dam-affected communities in Uganda, Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia. Key partner groups include Friends of Lake Turkana, Uganda's National Association of Professional Environmentalists, and communities affected by dams in Sudan.



# Ganges River Basin

## QUICK FACTS

- The Ganges begins at the Gangotri glacier 14,000 feet above sea level.
- It flows 1,557 miles, and its basin is 200-400 miles wide.
- Its headwaters start with the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers, which join each other at Devprayag to form the river's mainstem.
- The Ganges has the largest delta in the world.
- The Ganges flows through many of India's ancient pilgrimage towns and cities (Rishikesh, Haridwar, Prayag and Varanasi).
- Approximately 400 million people live in the basin.
- Sewage generated along the mainstem is 2723.3 million liters each day, but only 1208.8 million liters are treated each day
- The river is lined with more than 1,500 polluting industries whose combined wastewater generation is about 500 million liters a day.



## CURRENT THREATS

### BIODIVERSITY



Endangered species in the basin: Gharial (crocodile), Ganga dolphin, vultures, Bengal florican, Bengal tiger. The flagship riverine species, the Gangetic Dolphin (1,200-1,800 individuals), still survives in the waters of the Ganges river, although it is greatly stressed and endangered.

### WATER QUALITY



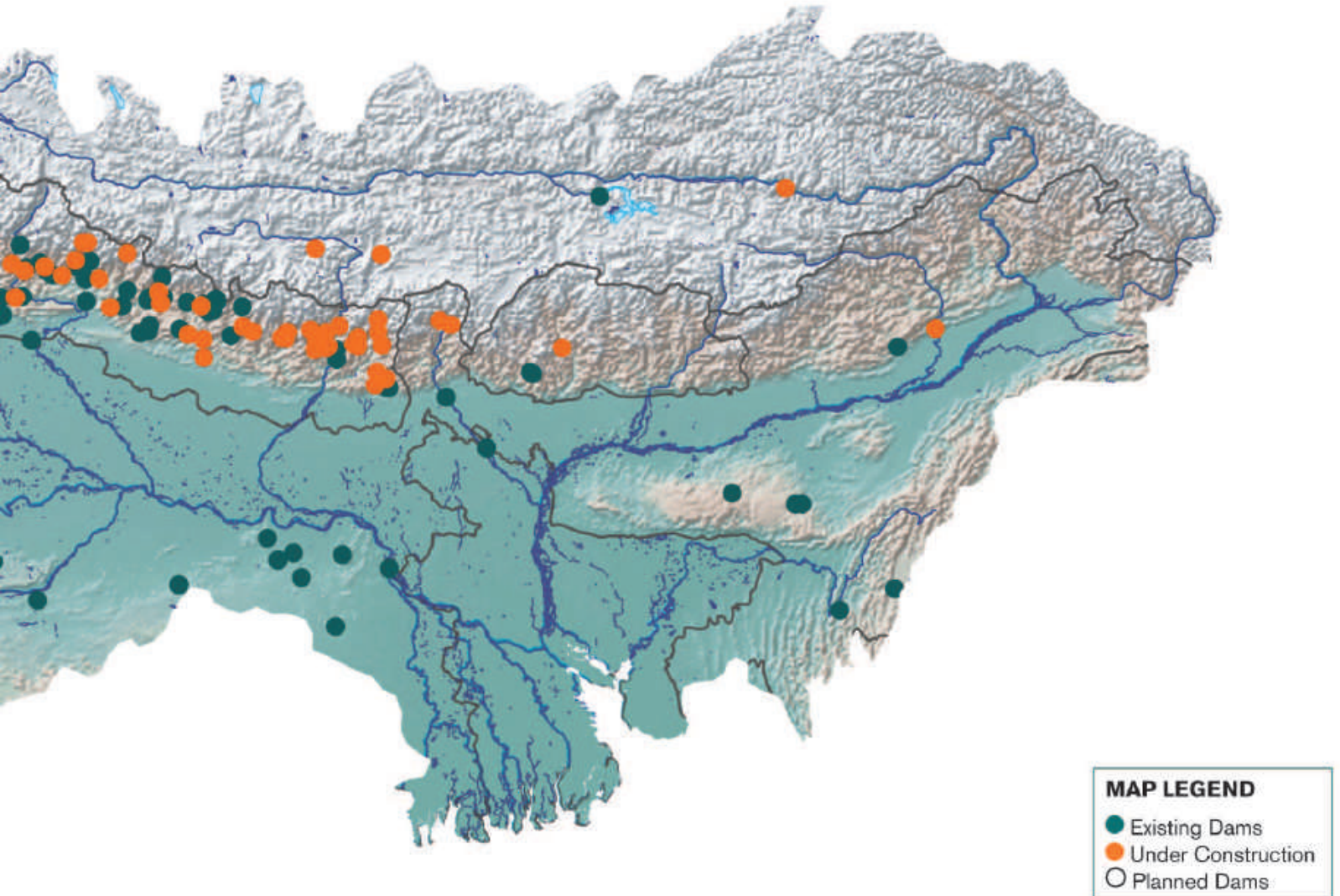
In the entire basin, 276 wastewater drains carry a mix of treated and untreated domestic sewage and industrial effluents, with a flow exceeding 10,000 million liters each day.

### DAMS



More than 100 large hydropower projects are built, under construction or planned in the Ganges headwaters (Alaknanda and Bhagirathi). This will alter water flow and quality and destroy people's livelihoods.



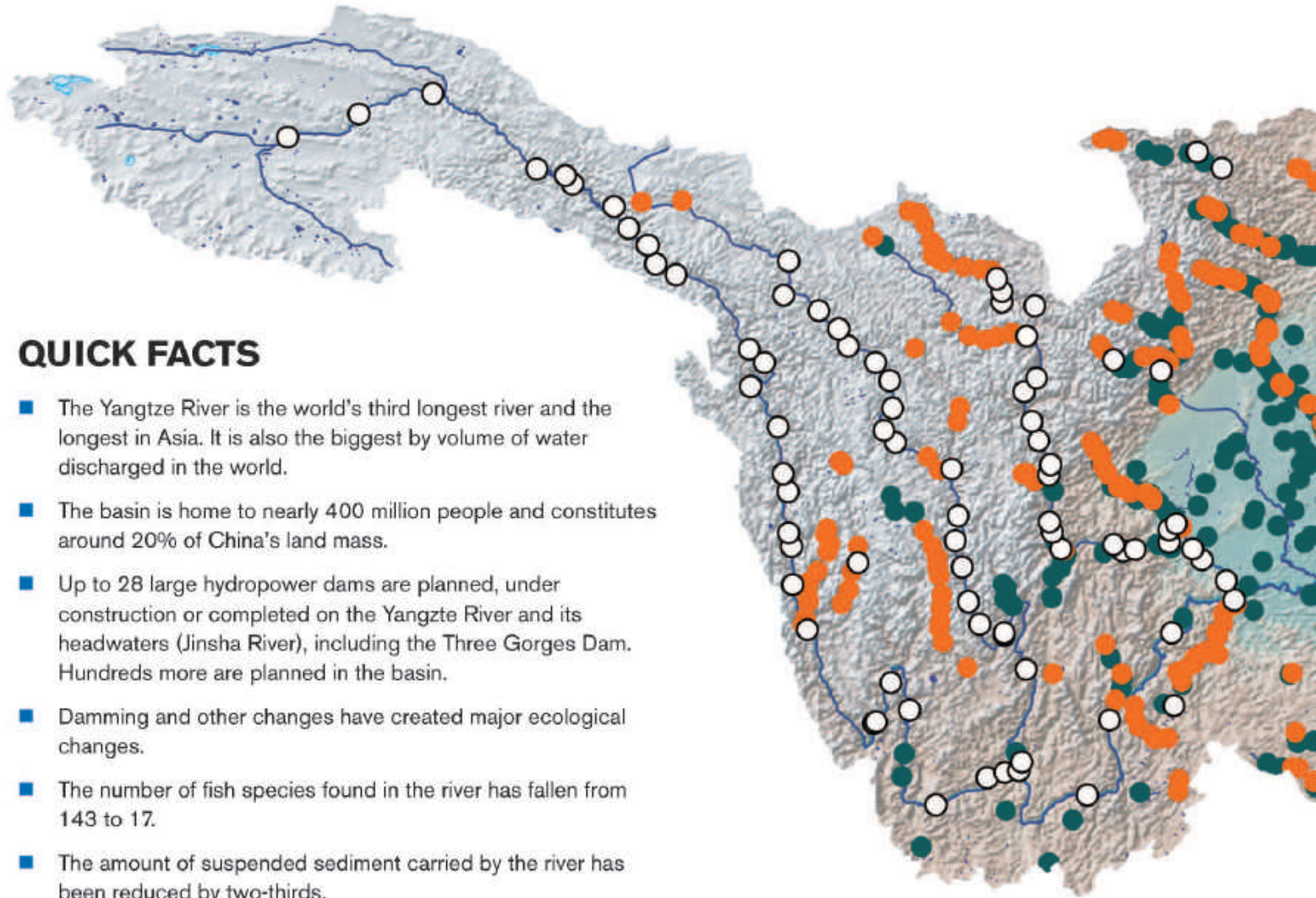


## WHAT WE ARE DOING

International Rivers' South Asia program focuses on policy reform in the dam sanctioning process. By organizing dam-threatened communities and coordinating with a range of legal, advocacy and ecological organizations, and through direct engagement with government agencies, we are improving environmental governance in calling for and ensuring credible environmental impact assessment and management plans, and a fair public hearing process to take on board the concerns of dam-affected people. Our efforts have borne fruit in improved minimum flows, with an aim to call for more scientific rigor in establishing ecological flows downstream of dams. Some key partner groups include Matu Jan Sangathan, Peoples Science Institute and the South Asia Network for Dams, Rivers and People.



# Yangtze River Basin



## QUICK FACTS

- The Yangtze River is the world's third longest river and the longest in Asia. It is also the biggest by volume of water discharged in the world.
- The basin is home to nearly 400 million people and constitutes around 20% of China's land mass.
- Up to 28 large hydropower dams are planned, under construction or completed on the Yangtze River and its headwaters (Jinsha River), including the Three Gorges Dam. Hundreds more are planned in the basin.
- Damming and other changes have created major ecological changes.
- The number of fish species found in the river has fallen from 143 to 17.
- The amount of suspended sediment carried by the river has been reduced by two-thirds.

## CURRENT THREATS

### DAMS

Up to 28 large hydropower dams are planned, under construction or completed. Hundreds more are planned in the basin.



### BIODIVERSITY

The river is an immense center of biodiversity, including many critically

endangered animal species.

Damming has already reduced biodiversity in the region. In 2014, a scientific study by the WWF and Yangtze River Fishery Resources Management Commission Office found that the fish species within the river dropped from 143 to 17 in one year. Reasons cited for the ecological collapse were over-fishing and construction of dams.

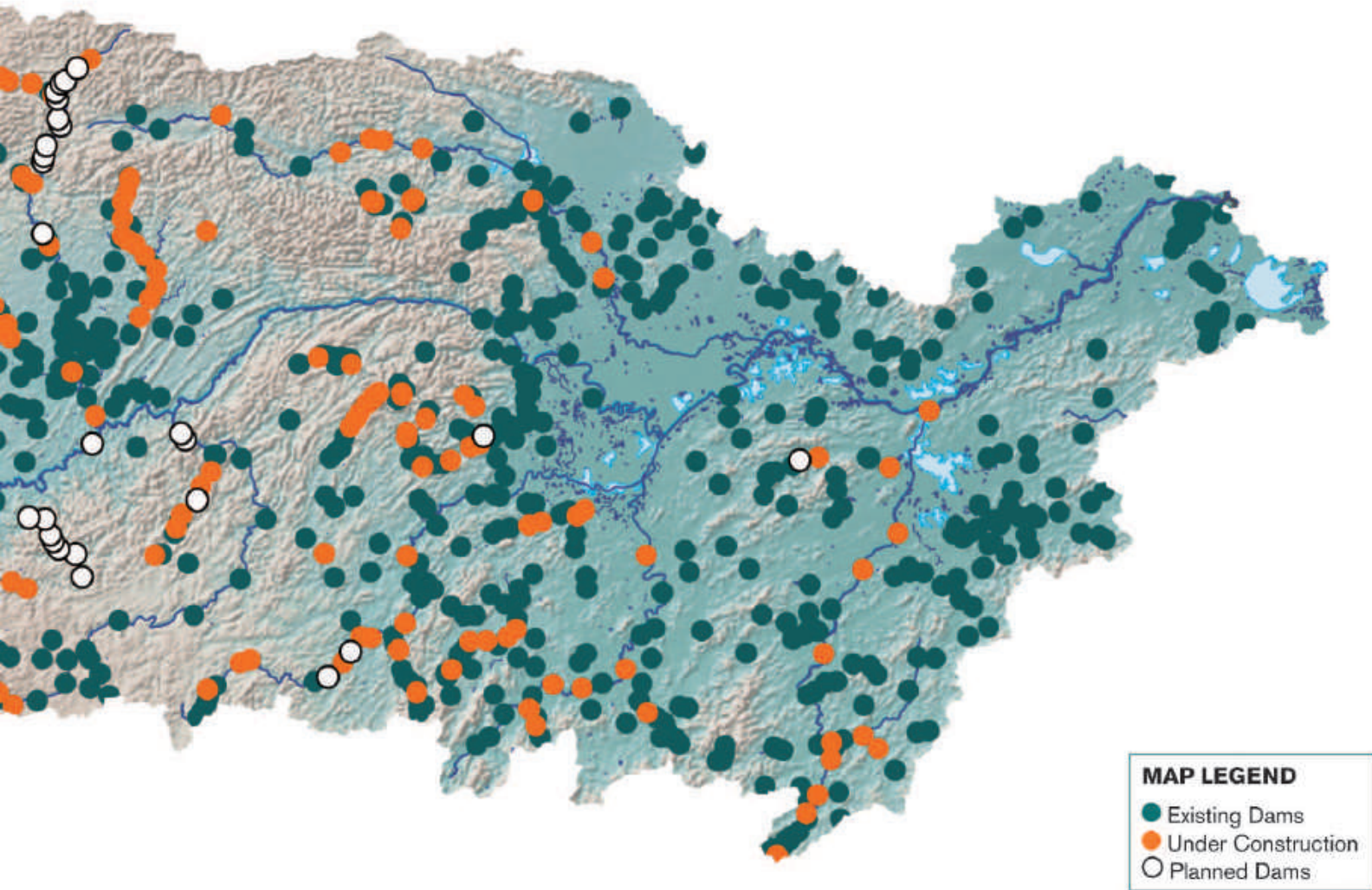


### WATER QUALITY

Billions of tons of sewage and industrial waste are dumped into the river every year. Although the Chinese government has spent billions to treat water pollution, experts believe that effects on the animal populations within the basin have already occurred.







## WHAT WE ARE DOING

The Yangtze River ecosystem is on the verge of ecological collapse – a direct result of years of over-development, unsustainable water extraction and water pollution. Our China Program is working to ensure that the lessons learned from unchecked dam development are not repeated on other key river systems in China.

In addition to research and monitoring the Chinese government's environmental protection policies and their implementation, we raise awareness about destructive dam projects in China and being built by Chinese dam builders in the world. We are working to promote better policies and practices by Chinese dam builders working abroad.

We help communities affected by Chinese dam building abroad understand and navigate the landscape of Chinese overseas investment, with the aim of helping them participate in decision-making processes that impact their environments and livelihoods.



## Program Highlights

In 2013, the World Bank announced that they were back in the business of building big dams. To counter this initiative, International Rivers launched the **Power 4 People** campaign. We brought a diverse coalition of civil society to the doors of the **World Bank** to call for a shift in global financing away from destructive dams and toward renewable energy solutions that increase access for the people who need it most.

We published two important resources for river defenders. The **Civil Society Guide to Healthy Rivers and Climate Resilience** describes how climate change is affecting rivers and dams, and addresses issues of ensuring resilience in dammed basins. **An Introduction to Integrated Resources Planning** helps explain this improved energy planning process for a civil society audience.

In collaboration with local partners in Southeast Asia, we continued campaigns to stop destructive dams which would devastate the rich **Mekong fisheries**. Despite ongoing opposition from Cambodia and Vietnam to Xayaburi Dam, Laos is proceeding with construction. Our work to raise awareness of this project's many flaws continues as we seek to make the dam's final design public and call for a halt to construction. In 2013, the Lao government announced its intention to build Don Sahong Dam – the second Mekong mainstream dam – while bypassing its responsibilities to undergo prior consultation as mandated under the 1995 Mekong Agreement. As a result, the governments of Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam have made official requests to Laos to have the project undergo the prior consultation process. As the mainstream dams are expected to have devastating impacts on food security and the livelihoods of millions of people, the campaign focuses on pressuring Laos to stop further construction and respect regional decision-making over the shared river.



The Xiaowan Dam on the upper Lancang/Mekong River in China.



Activists gathered at the World Bank to call for Power for People rather than destructive megaprojects.

**China** is home to over half of the world's dams, and Chinese companies and banks are the biggest builders and financiers of dams in the world. Our China Program is a strong and respected voice when it comes to standing up for the protection of China's rivers and the international responsibilities of Chinese companies operating abroad. We were invited by the Chinese government to a consultation on the protection of the Yangtze River. In 2013, we continued our dialogue with Sinohydro – the world's biggest hydropower company – to encourage them to implement their environmental policies. This work also resulted in commitments from other Chinese dam-building companies to adopt strong biodiversity protection measures and to address the concerns of the local communities they impact. The threats to China's rivers from its planned dams received **strong coverage in Chinese media** as result of our behind-the-scenes work, including features in major media in China and globally. We also expanded our work in the energy policy, releasing a report on solutions for renewable energy development and energy efficiency in China to reduce environmental pressure on China's rivers.

Our work on **China's role** as a global dam builder resulted in increased efforts by Chinese dam building companies to avoid destructive dam projects in important global freshwater ecosystems, with some dam companies even abandoning or suspending projects due to the scale of environmental and social impacts. For example, in 2013, Sinohydro withdrew from the Agua Zarca project in Honduras due to concerns about human rights abuses by the local government, and walked away from a sensitive transboundary project on the Nile River in Ethiopia. In Colombia we hosted several successful workshops with our partners on Chinese dam-building plans on the **Magdalena River** and brought community members to the Senate to give testimony. As a result, a wide movement to protect the Magdalena has been created and remains vigilant.



In Brazil, the Mundurucu people are leading a fight to protect the Xingu and Tapajos rivers. In 2013 they occupied the **Belo Monte** dam site. Belo Monte would be the world's third largest dam and would devastate an extensive area of the rainforest, displace over 20,000 people and threaten the survival of indigenous tribes. We are working side by side with the indigenous peoples whose very survival is under threat by supporting the ongoing protests, legal challenges, and by bringing their story to international audiences. Elsewhere in Brazil, several of our lawsuits challenging the Teles Pires and São Manoel dams on the **Teles Pires River** have received **positive decisions in court**. We also worked to expose poor practices at the publicly held Brazilian bank BNDES, which has a history of funding many of Brazil's most destructive dams; a successful court case will bring greater transparency to this secretive bank.

In Chile, we supported the **Vota Sin Represas (Vote Without Dams)**, a campaign with our partners to push all political candidates in the 2013 presidential election to cancel plans for dams in Patagonia if elected. A special Chilean ministerial committee of the new administration of Michelle Bachelet canceled the massive HidroAysen hydropower project's permit in Patagonia.

In **Colombia**, we visited dam-affected regions along the Maraón River, a critical river that runs through Peru along the Andes and eventually joins the Amazon. We met with riverine communities to discuss Peru's plans to build 22 dams, which would displace close to 1,000 people and alter weather patterns in the region.

We sent a team to **Sarawak, Malaysia** to demonstrate outside the International Hydropower's Association 2013 World Congress on Advancing Sustainable Hydropower. Our local partner SAVE-Rivers mobilized over 300 affected indigenous people to protest at the Congress in opposition to 12 dams planned for traditional lands in Sarawak. We also helped coordinate international support for the Penan indigenous people displaced by the Murum Dam.

In **South Asia**, we expanded our Protect Himalaya Rivers program and built support for reforming the dam sanctioning and river management policies in India. As Bhutan opens its rivers for electricity export to India, we've organized the nascent NGO community and advised the highest levels of government on the risks associated with large dams in the Himalaya. In the biologically and culturally rich region of Northeast India, we're campaigning with dam-threatened communities and indigenous groups to shelve government plans for a cascade of dams proposed and under construction on the **Teesta River**, and building capacity for groups to advocate for community-scaled energy solutions. Through workshops and garnering regional media attention,



International Rivers' Kate Ross celebrates the protection of Chile's rivers from large dams.

International Rivers and our partners have proposed policy reforms for new "environmental flows" criteria for dam operators and inclusion of basin-scale assessments of cumulative impacts for the roughly 500 dams proposed in the Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins.

Our Africa team continued efforts to reveal shortcomings of the huge **Inga 3 Dam planned for the Congo River**, and to strengthen the capacity of Congolese communities and NGOs to defend their rights in light of the project. A field visit to the DRC in 2013 helped bring together a network of concerned groups, and revealed that there has been very little sharing of information about the project with potentially affected communities. We began working to document solutions for addressing DRC's massive energy access problem that would better meet the needs of the country's poor majority.

International Rivers has become the major public source of information on **Ethiopia's secretive dam building**. In 2013, we published a field report on impacts of the massive Grand Renaissance Dam, whose sudden construction on the Nile has raised concerns on water flow in Egypt. We published information revealing that the project will not likely produce as much power as promised. We also maintained pressure on donor governments to Ethiopia on the problems with the Gibe III Dam on the Omo River, and used new research to increase their awareness about the dam's cross-border impacts, human rights abuses and other problems. Our efforts paid off with strong language in a US Appropriations Bill that both restricts US support for large dams, as well as opposes financing for any activities that directly or indirectly involve forced evictions in Ethiopia – the Lower Omo in particular was named.

On March 14 we celebrated **International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water and Life**, joining thousands of people around the world who lifted their voices to celebrate the world's rivers. In 2013, there were 139 actions in 38 countries that were creative, informative and inspiring.

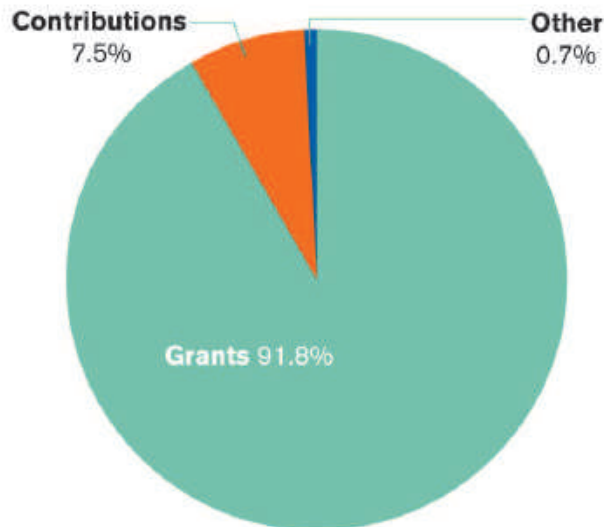


# Financial Report

## International Rivers Statement of Financial Activities *Year Ended December 31, 2013*

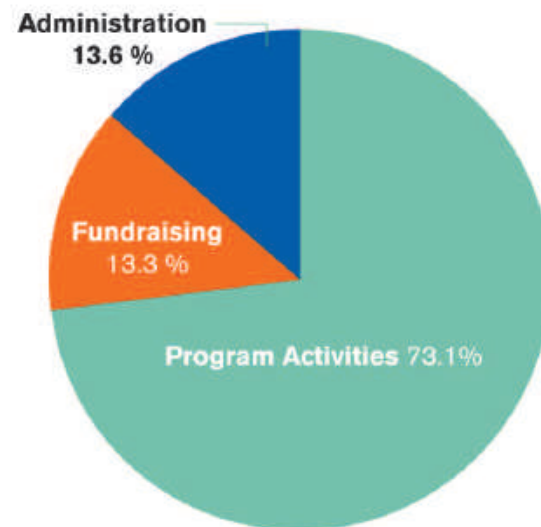
### 2013 SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants \$2,719,859  
Contributions and Membership \$221,198  
Other \$22,398  
Total Income \$2,962,455



### 2013 EXPENSES

Program Activities \$1,688,240  
Administration \$315,160  
Fundraising \$307,671  
Total Expenses \$2,311,071



### 2013 NET ASSETS

Net Assets at Beginning of Year \$1,963,507  
Net Assets at End of Year \$2,615,891

## International Rivers Honored with MacArthur Award

International Rivers was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions (MACEI) – one of 13 nonprofit organizations around the world to be honored with this award in 2013. The award recognizes exceptional grantees that have demonstrated creativity and impact.

The MacArthur Award comes at a pivotal time for the organization. The crises facing the world's rivers and the people who depend on them are urgent and the key targets are ever-shifting. The MacArthur Award has allowed us to strengthen our regional offices in Asia, Africa and South America, build an operating reserve, and upgrade our communications and technology infrastructure.

"Such awards never belong to one organization alone," said Peter Bosshard, International Rivers' policy director. "This prize recognizes our global network of partners

without whom our work would be meaningless, and all the members, donors, volunteers and former staff members who have helped us build this uniquely effective and creative organization."

The MacArthur Foundation sees the award as not only recognition for past leadership and success, but also as an investment in the future. To qualify, organizations must demonstrate exceptional creativity and effectiveness; have reached a critical or strategic point in their development; show strong leadership and stable financial management; have previously received MacArthur support, and engage in work central to one of MacArthur's core programs.

Learn more: [www.macfound.org/programs/macei/](http://www.macfound.org/programs/macei/)

Watch a short video about our work at: [www.internationalrivers.org/node/7840](http://www.internationalrivers.org/node/7840)



## Donors

International Rivers thanks our committed members who have supported us over the last year – and beyond. You are a critical part of the movement to protect endangered rivers.

### \$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

### ONGOING SUPPORT

C. S. Mott Foundation  
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund/  
Conservation International  
JMG Foundation  
Klorfine Foundation  
Patagonia Environmental Grants Program  
Margaret Cargill Foundation  
TAUPO Fund  
The Kendeda Fund  
Tikva Grassroots Fund  
Wallace Global Fund  
Waterloo Foundation  
McKnight Foundation

### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

American Jewish World Service (AJWS)  
blue moon fund

### \$10,000 - \$99,999

Jane and Gerald Baldwin  
CREDO Mobile  
Annette and Fred Gellert  
Iara Lee  
George Martin  
Milan and Letitia Momirov  
Mary E. Weinmann

### \$1,000 - \$9,999

Andrew Sabin  
Anonymous (5)  
Ayudar Foundation  
Charles R. and Mary Gibbs  
Chelsea Congdon and James Brundige  
Clif Bar Foundation  
Deborah Moore and Adam Dawson  
Edith Borie  
Eli Noyes and Augusta Talbot  
Gail and Gerrish Milliken  
Gary Held  
Heather Henson  
Johanna Hill  
John Lyddon

Ken Greenstein  
Leonard Sklar and Amy Luers  
Leslie and Jacques Leslie  
Marcia D. Miller  
Marianne Asher  
Marvin and Tamara Greenstein  
Noel Kirshenbaum  
Ralph Luken  
Rosalind Seysses  
Steve J. Miller Foundation  
Steven and Martina Chapman  
Theodore A. Von Der Ahe Jr.

### \$250 - \$999

Anonymous  
John Arthur and Joni Sutherland  
Marilyn Bancel and Rik Myslewski  
Paul Beach\*  
Stephen Berger  
Carrie and Jim Burroughs  
Hal Candee  
Atessa Chehrazi  
Lisa Danzig  
Monica and Barry Davis  
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## In Memoriam

Robert Goodland – the first ecologist hired by the World Bank, who advocated for 30 years for stronger environmental and human rights practices – passed away at the end of 2013.

Known as the "conscience" of the World Bank, Robert regularly sought the views of environmental leaders around the world – and after retirement, worked closely with many of them. He was a longtime friend of International Rivers. The environmental and social destruction brought about by dams was one of the topics Robert felt strongly about. He was incensed by the World Bank's recent decision to move back into funding mega-dams, and advocated against it with his network of friends and colleagues.

Robert is survived by his wife Jonmin, and their son Arthur. Robert had just completed his favorite mountain trek in Nepal, with Jonmin and Arthur, when he died. His passing leaves a huge gap in the global network for environmental justice.





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## Interns & Volunteers

International Rivers hosted 18 interns and volunteers in our Berkeley and regional offices in 2013. By synthesizing hydrology research, translating key documents and providing high-level GIS analysis for our State of the World's Rivers report, our interns and volunteers play a critical role in this organization. Thank you for all of your hard work!

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