

International linkages for effective advocacy for rivers.



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International Rivers Strategic Goals



Goal 1

Strengthen movements for healthy rivers

By 2022, river movements around the globe will be connected, informed and working in solidarity; made up of diverse civil society partners rooted in communities, they will be effective in protecting rivers and community rights in each major riverbasin.



Goal 2

Ensure corporations are accountable in policy and practice

By 2022, private sector, government and financiers involved in developing and managing water infrastructure will be accountable – respecting human rights of communities and preserving riverbasin ecosystems in their policy frameworks and in their practice.



Goal 3

Promote clean and fair finance for energy and water solutions

By 2022, financing for renewables will have substantially increased as a percentage of energy investments, with a consequent significant reduction in funding for large hydropower – meaning that new energy investments increasingly do no harm to rivers, delivering sustainable water and energy solutions which make significant contribution to addressing climate change.



Goal 4

Secure human rights for river communities and water protectors

By 2022, more communities whose livelihoods are affected by water infrastructure will have meaningful avenues for advocacy, redress for harm and options for renewing their livelihoods, and water protectors who fight destructive projects, speak out about abuse and expose impacts do so without fear of threat or repercussions.



Goal 5

Support equitable and effective governance that sustains rivers

By 2022, the governance of rivers, including transboundary rivers, is effective, transparent, and accountable; processes are participatory, rights and responsibilities are identified and protected in law, and improved governance leads to management outcomes that support ecosystem functions.



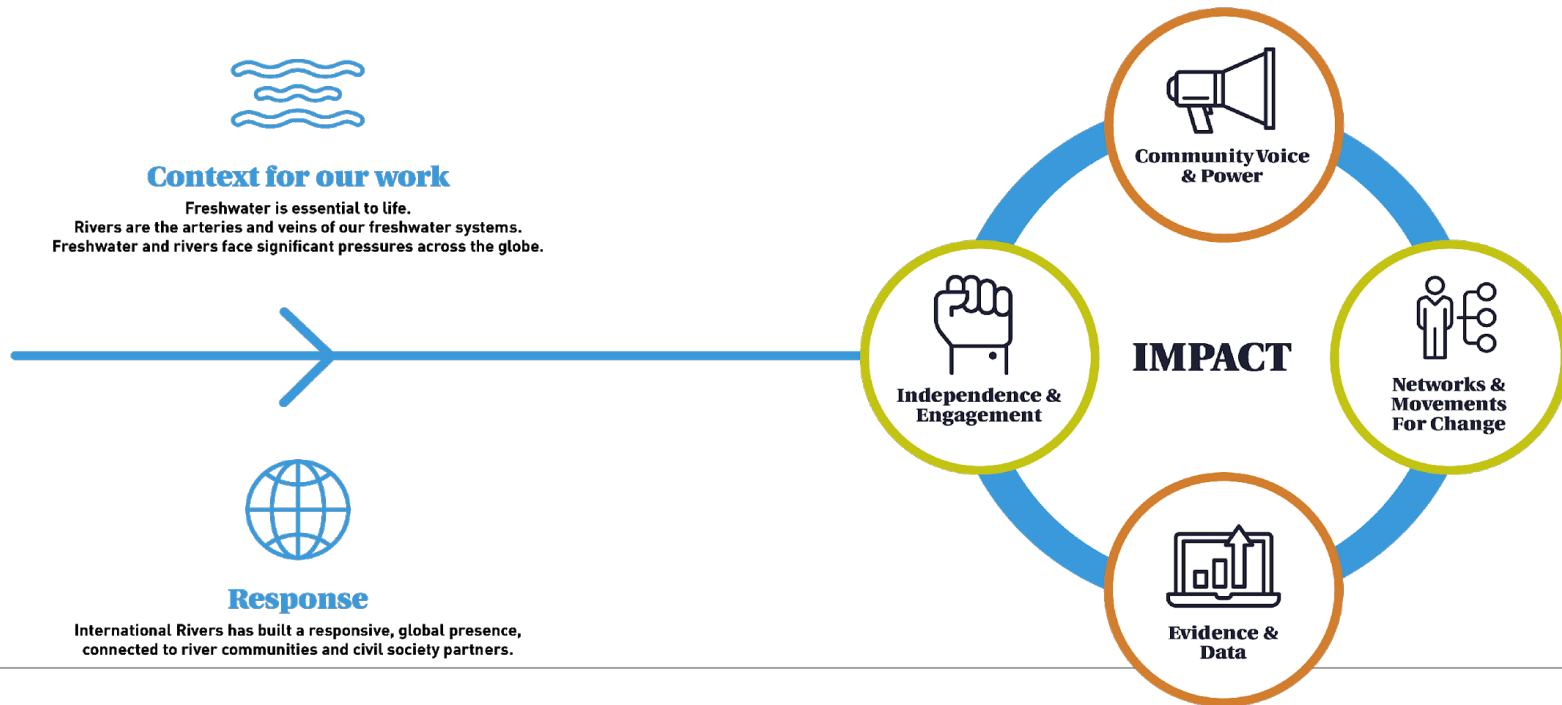
Goal 6

Gain permanent legal protections for the world's iconic rivers

By 2022, transboundary rivers in Asia and Latin America will have achieved permanent legal protections that recognise traditional river uses and community access to freshwater and its resources; and protects the waterway from future large scale impoundments, extractions or diversions. In other riverbasins communal rights to water and river resources are recognized and realized.

Theory of change

How we achieve impact.



Regional context for change

Global

ENERGY SHIFT | Solar and wind power become cost-competitive and scalable, driving a radical shift in energy systems.

INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM | A global boom in infrastructure spending takes off, led by China, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the BRICS Bank and the G20 among others.

DECOMMISSIONED DAMS | The United States, once the driver of the global dam boom, begins a series of high-profile dam removals.

RIGHTS OF RIVERS RECOGNIZED | A wave of recognition of the rights of rivers and indigenous peoples sweeps around the world, from New Zealand to India and Australia.

WATER AS GLOBAL PRIORITY | The UN's Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, mandate protection and restoration of "water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes."

Africa

DROUGHT CRIPPLES DAMS, BOOSTS SOLAR AND WIND | Significant climate change-related drought reduces hydropower generation across the continent, even as investors and dam builders eye scaling up hydropower in Africa. World Bank cancels its involvement in Inga 3 Dam, and solar and wind power make inroads, reducing prices and increasing energy access. Community movements to protect rivers grow.

China

A RETURN TO ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN MIDST OF EXPANSION

| China works to reduce its carbon footprint while simultaneously driving global infrastructure expansion. It opens new legal avenues for public participation in environmental protection and designates "river chiefs" to resurrect the country's ailing rivers. The free-flowing Nu River is protected from development through 2020 in latest Five Year Plan.

Latin America

REPRESSION AND RIVER PROTECTION | Growing repression leads to the murder of indigenous activist and river defender Berta Cáceres; violence and intimidation against environmental defenders on the rise. Chile, Peru, Brazil and Guatemala take one step towards protecting their rivers by cancelling hydropower projects. Brazil's Lava Jato investigation uncovers widespread corruption in hydropower sector.

South Asia

GROWING IMPULSE TO PROTECT RIVERS | India and Bhutan begin to require river basin planning, as strong community movements and dodgy economics help stall or cancel new dam projects. Narmada Valley villages threatened by more inundation from dams. Drought imperils South Asia's iconic rivers, raising awareness of freshwater issues. Indian courts grant living entity status to the Ganges, Yamuna and Narmada rivers. River restoration in Bangladesh revives the iconic and threatened "hilsa" fish.

South East Asia

FOOD SECURITY CRISIS LOOMS | Despite a recommended ten-year moratorium on new dams, Laos moves forward with hydropower projects on the Mekong, weakening regional cooperation, including the Mekong River Commission. River communities step up to protect the Mekong and Salween, with mixed success. A food security crisis looms for 65 million people dependent on the Mekong fisheries threatened by dam construction.

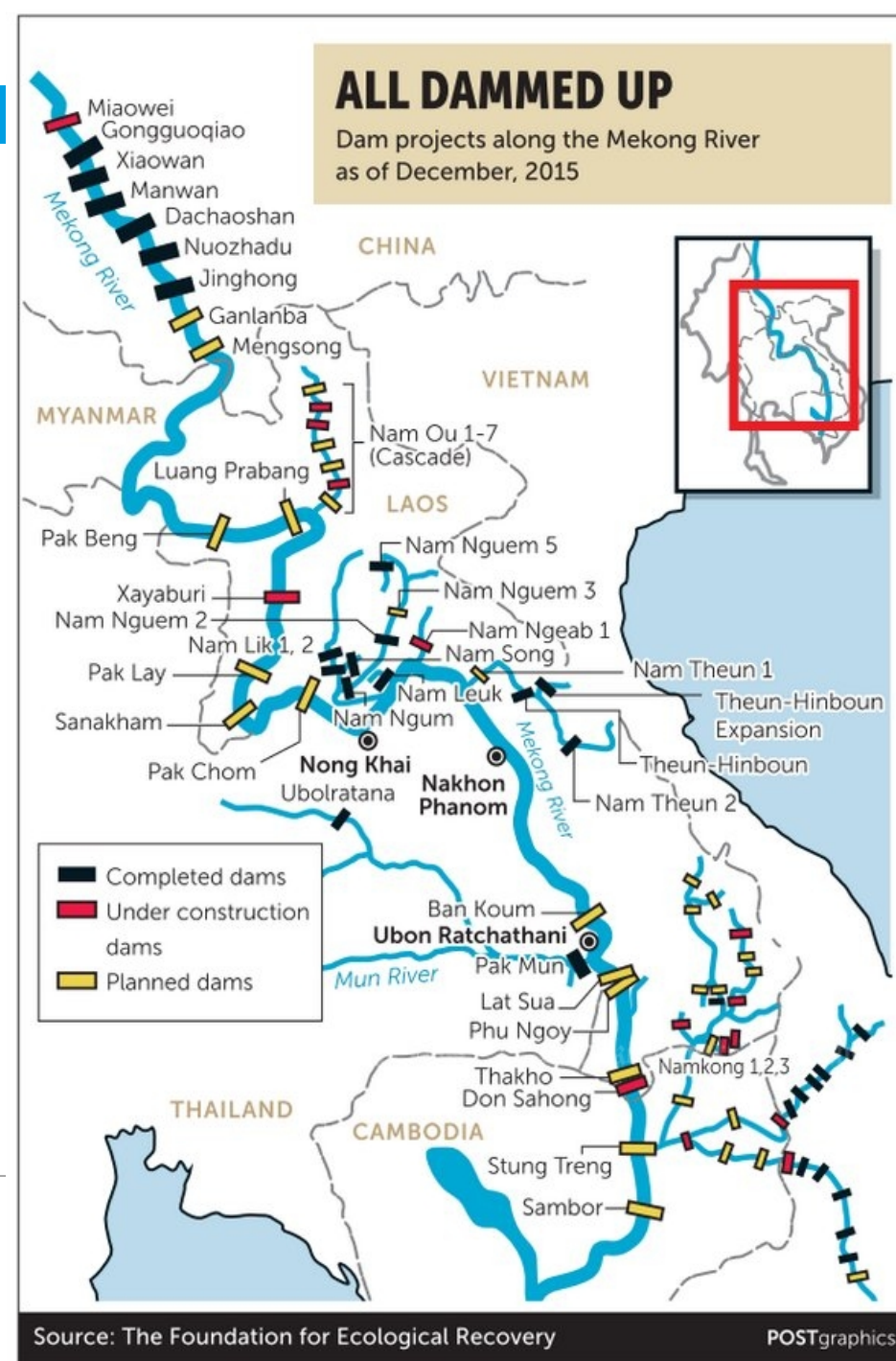
International advocacy for Rivers webinar

Regional networking – the Greater Mekong region



Mekong under pressure

- Mainstream being dammed stopping fish migration, impacting world's largest inland fishery
- But key biodiversity areas intact (under extreme pressure).
Sambor, Stung Treng and the Tonle Sap
- Alternatives for energy cost efficient, deployable, and more environmentally friendly
- Economies/ food security still reliant on Mekong ecosystems
- Energy for remote and poor possible (solar not large hydro)



Influencing water actors

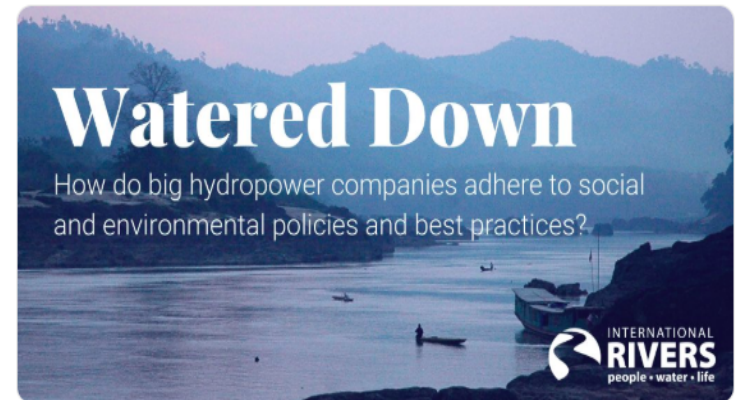
Inside strategies:

- Benchmarking and influencing sector leaders
- Promoting dialogue with companies and banks on standards
- Facilitating engagement with community on impacts
- Collaborative research
- Site visits

Outside:

- Strengthening networks
- Exchanges
- Community meetings
- Media
- Protests

BREAKING: A new report from @intrivers finds the world's largest dam developers are failing to meet basic environmental and social standards. [#hydropower](#) [#energy](#) [#environment](#) [#humanrights](#)
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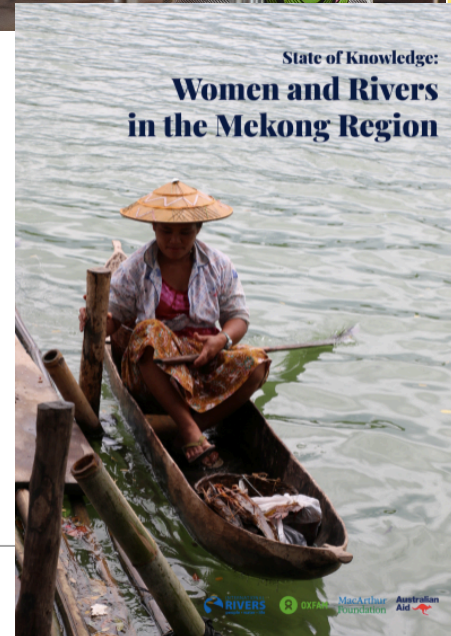


Mundurucu leaders in Paris protesting at the 2019 World Hydropower Congress.
Photo courtesy of Todd Southgate

Women's and Rivers Network



Hosting Women and Rivers Congress



What can you do?

Join the global movement
International Day of Action
for Rivers March 14
Support our actions
Join our campaigns

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