

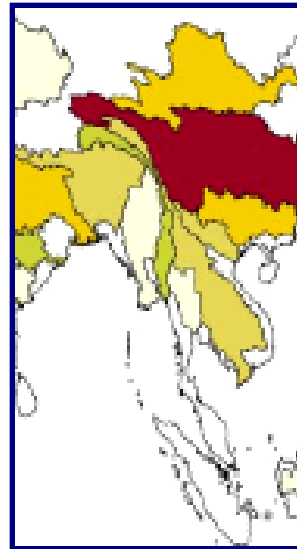
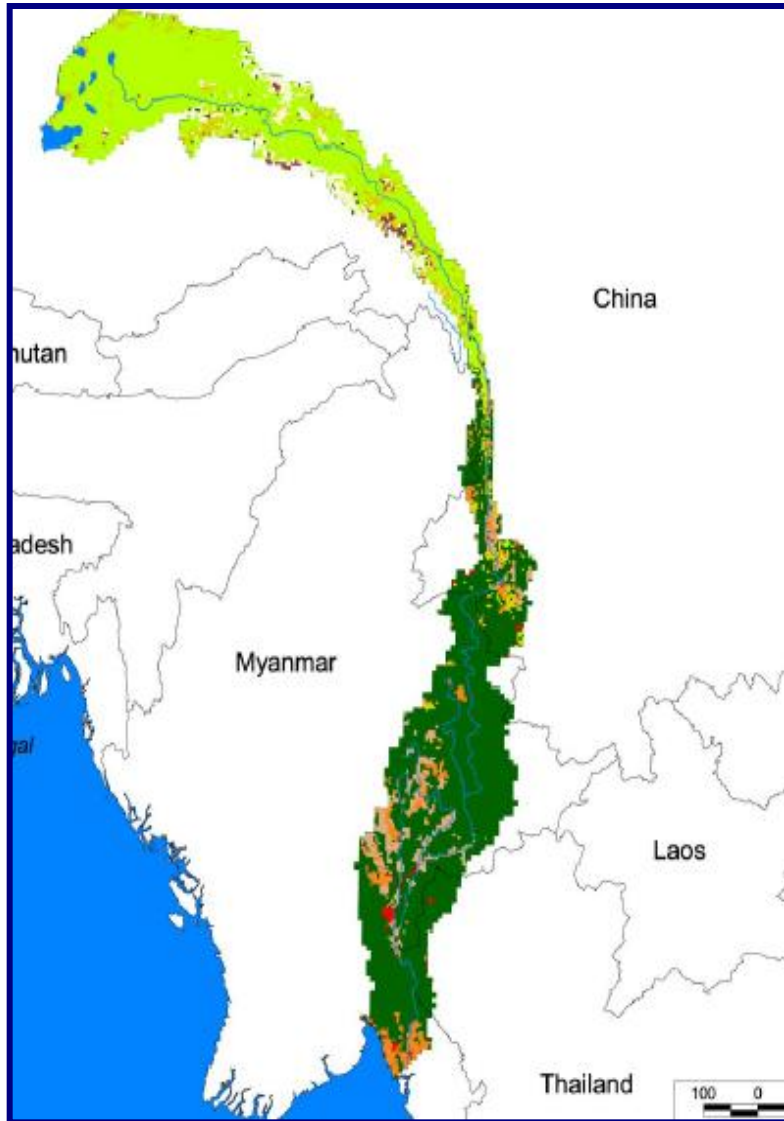
**Environmental and Human Rights Impacts of
Hydropower on Mainland Southeast Asia'
Transboundary Rivers :
The Mekong and Salween**



**Pianporn Deetes
International Rivers, May 2014**

Mainland Southeast Asia

The Salween



The Mekong



The Mekong

- 4,909 km
- 60 millions in downstream depends on freshwater resources
- 1,300 native fish species
- wild fish catch in the Lower Basin—the most productive freshwater fishery in the world
- Mekong River Commission-4 countries

Photo: Suthep K





Hydropower on the Upper Mekong in China

River Canalizing and Navigation



Lancang-Upper Mekong cascade

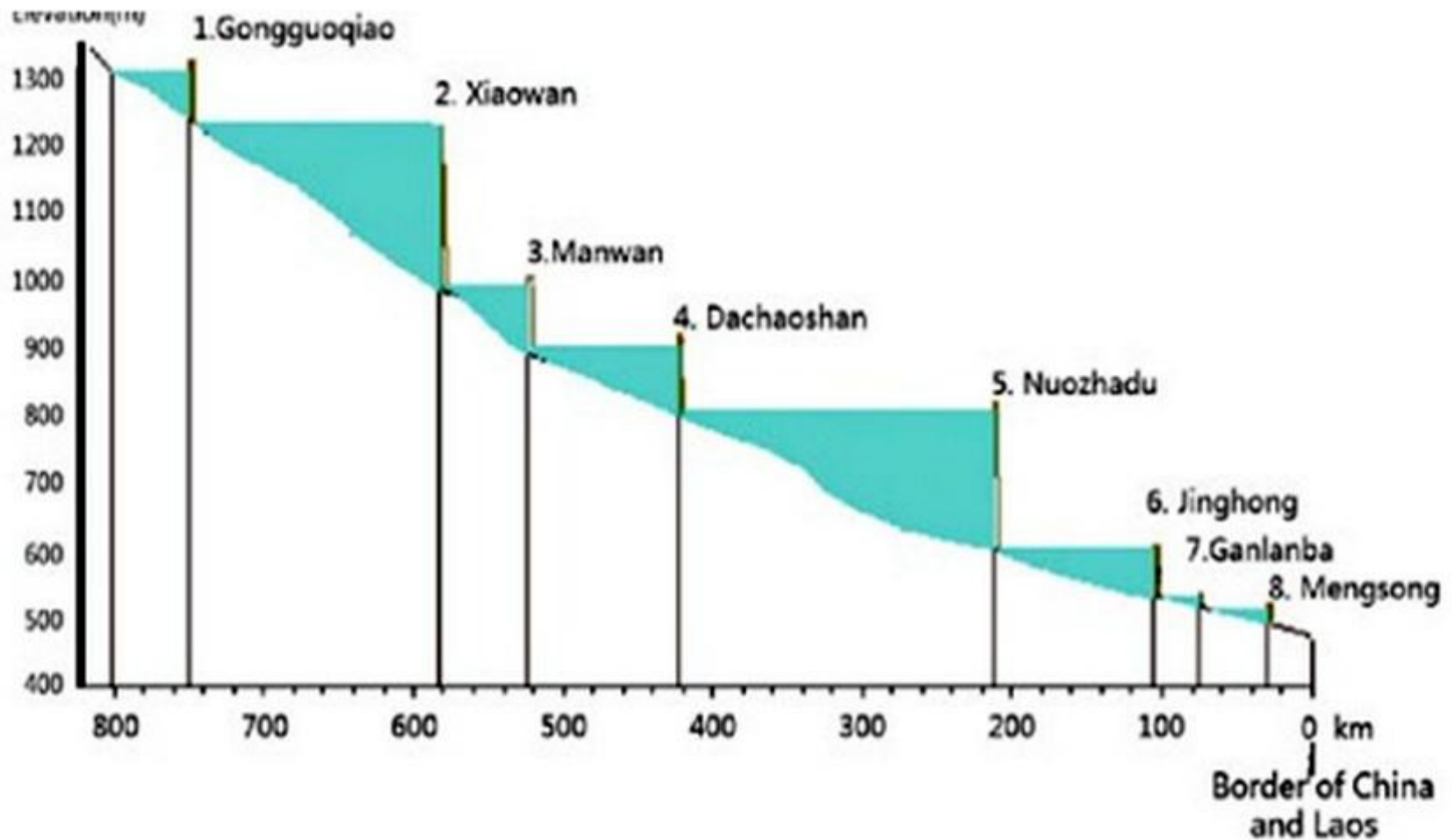


Fig. 2.3 Vertical profile of the Lancang River after dam construction (Synthesized from data on Magee 2006)

Nuozhadu Dam on the Upper Mekong River in China



Changes of Downstream Ecosystems

Destruction of Fisheries and Livelihoods

Impacts on Hydrology, Flow and Fish Migration

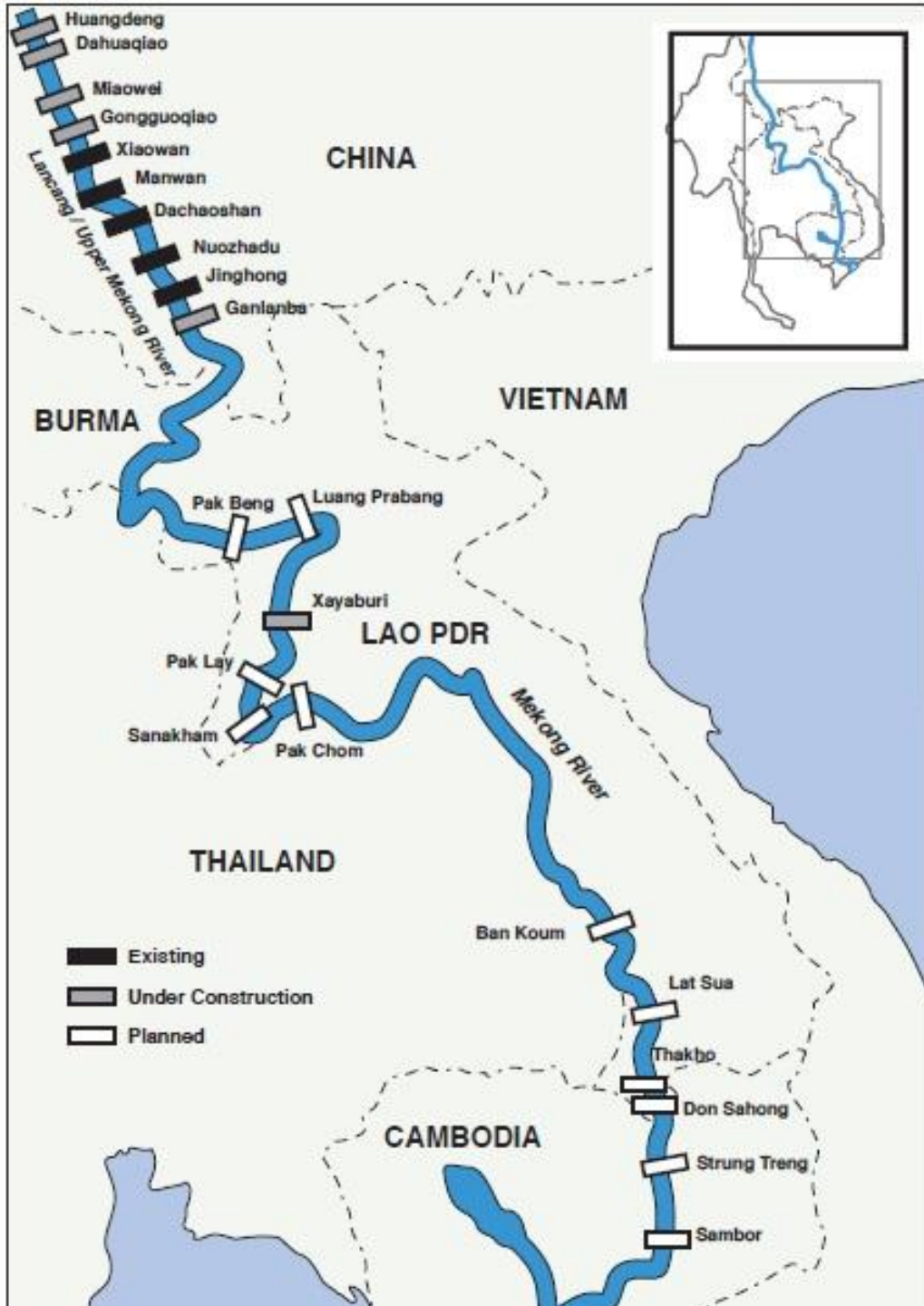


Dry-season Riverbank garden is our food security



Unusual water fluctuation damages riverbank agriculture



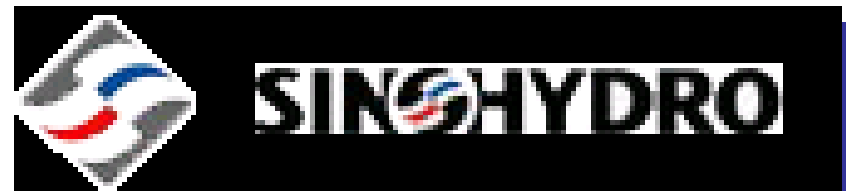
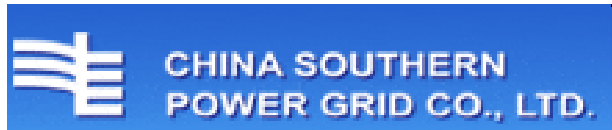


Mekong Mainstream Hydropower Plans in the Lower Basin

(Laos, Thai-Lao
border, Cambodia)

CHANGING ACTORS BRING NEW CHALLENGES

Regional private-sector developers and financiers



- Project developers and financiers now largely from Thailand, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Russia – with no commitment to International Standards



Public Participation and Information Disclosure

- Villagers in the affected areas have not been informed/ able to participate



เขื่อนไซยะบุรี
ไซยะบุรี

NO DAM
The Mekong

หยุดเขื่อนไซยะบุรี

NO
Kayaburi
Dam

หยุดสร้าง
แม่ น้ำโขง

แม่ น้ำโขง

สภาประชาชนภาคเหนือ

Work with Senate and Parliament



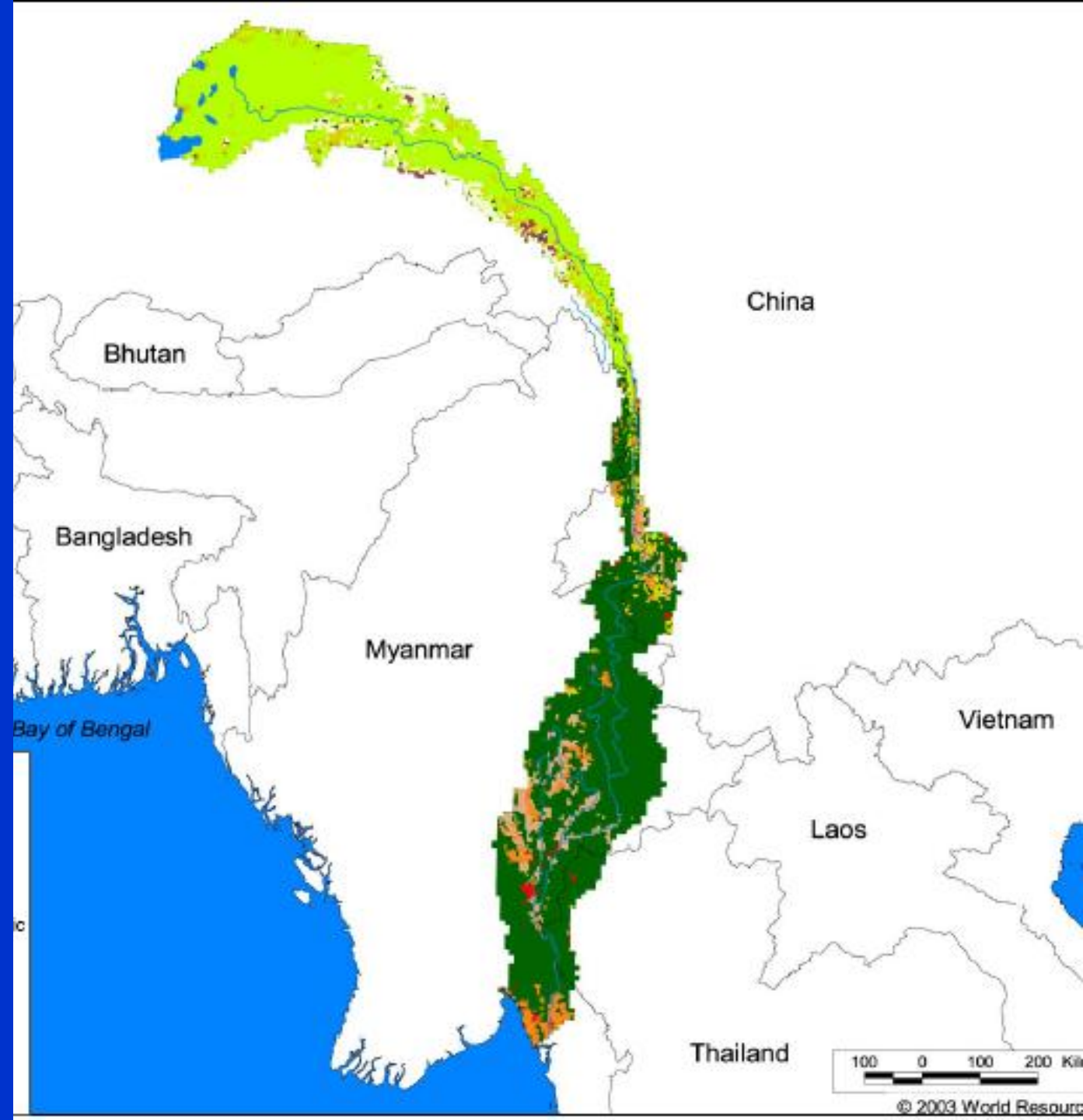
Xayaburi Dam: The first legal case on transboundary impacts accepted by Thai Administrative Court June 2014





**The
Salween
flows freely
for 2,800 KM
through
China,
Burma, and
Thailand**

**--absence of
basin
agreement**





**Rich natural
resources
and complex
biodiversity**

The Salween, one of the most marginalized basins in Thailand and region, geographically and politically



13 more in China

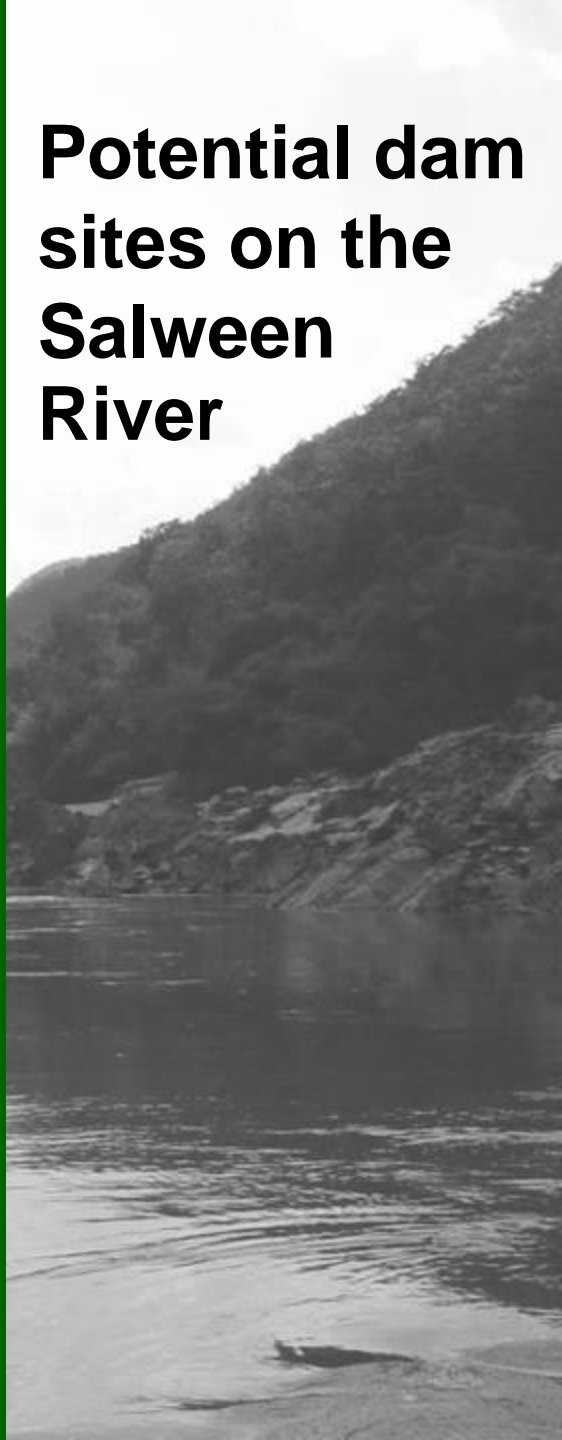


Ta Sang/Mong Ton
7100 MW

Wei Gyi/
Dagwin

Hut Gyi
1360 MW

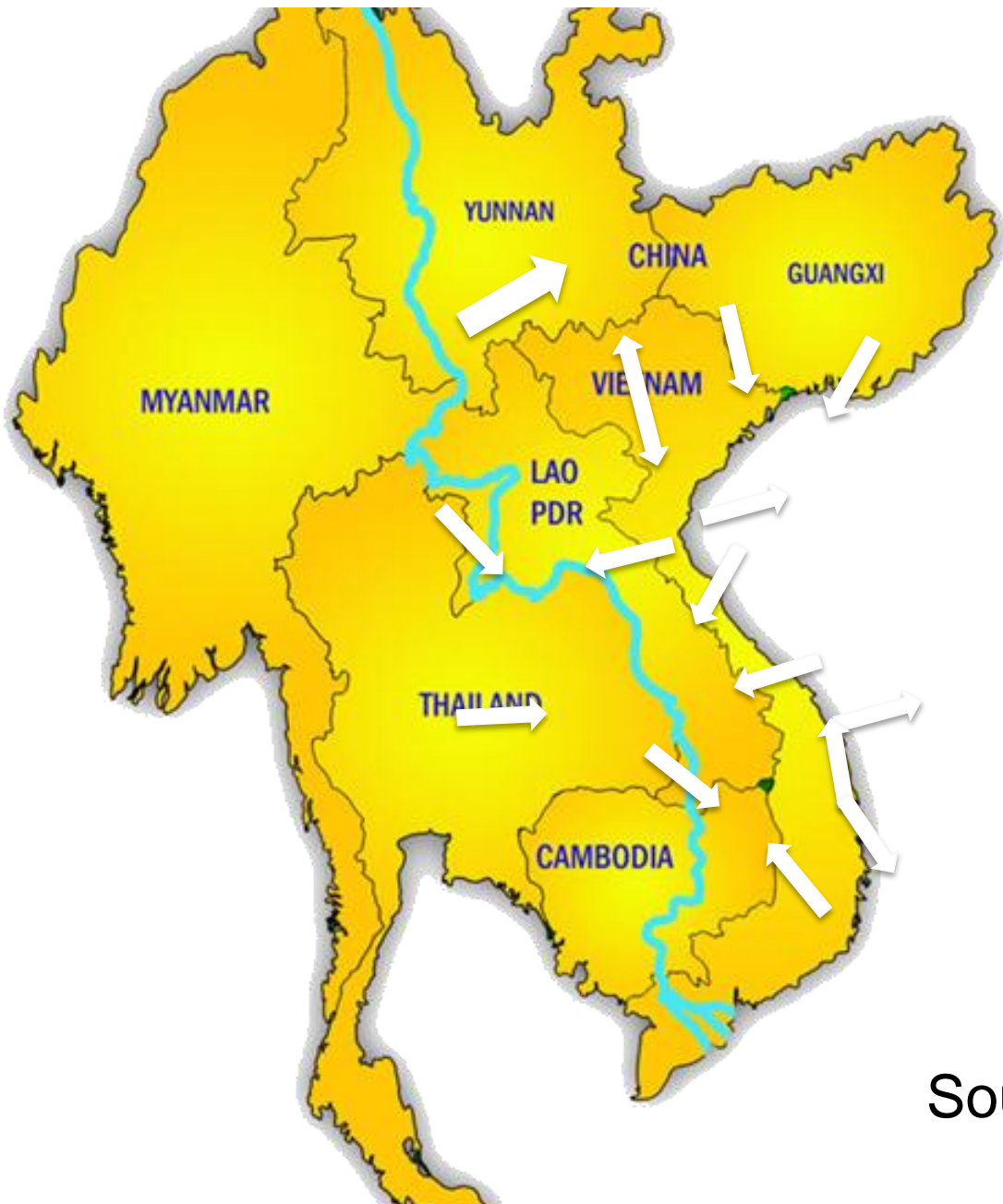
Potential dam sites on the Salween River



EGAT, "Thailand needs energy"

- Hydro power = clean energy**
- Hydro from neighbor's country
= no impact on Thailand**

Region interconnection projections – up to 2025

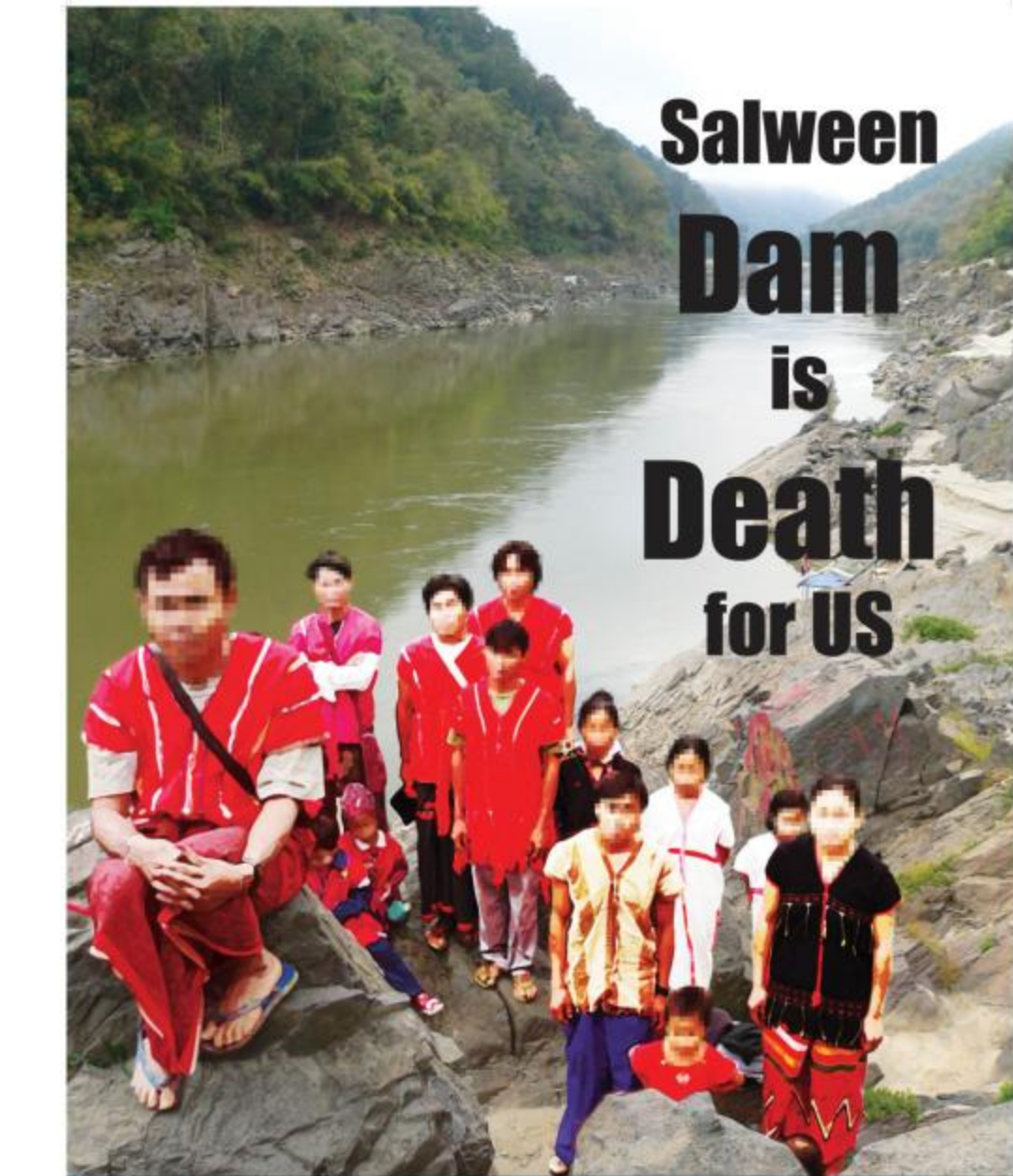


Source: ICEM 2012



Decision-making Process

- Decisions and negotiations made by governments, business, and hydro industry without participation from affected communities, civil society, and consumers



**Salween
Dam
is
Death
for US**

**Social and human
costs ignored**

หยุดเขื่อนสาละวิน ปกป้องสายน้ำแห่งชาติพันธุ์
Stop Salween Dam in Burma

www.salweenwatch.org
www.searin.org



Tasang Dam

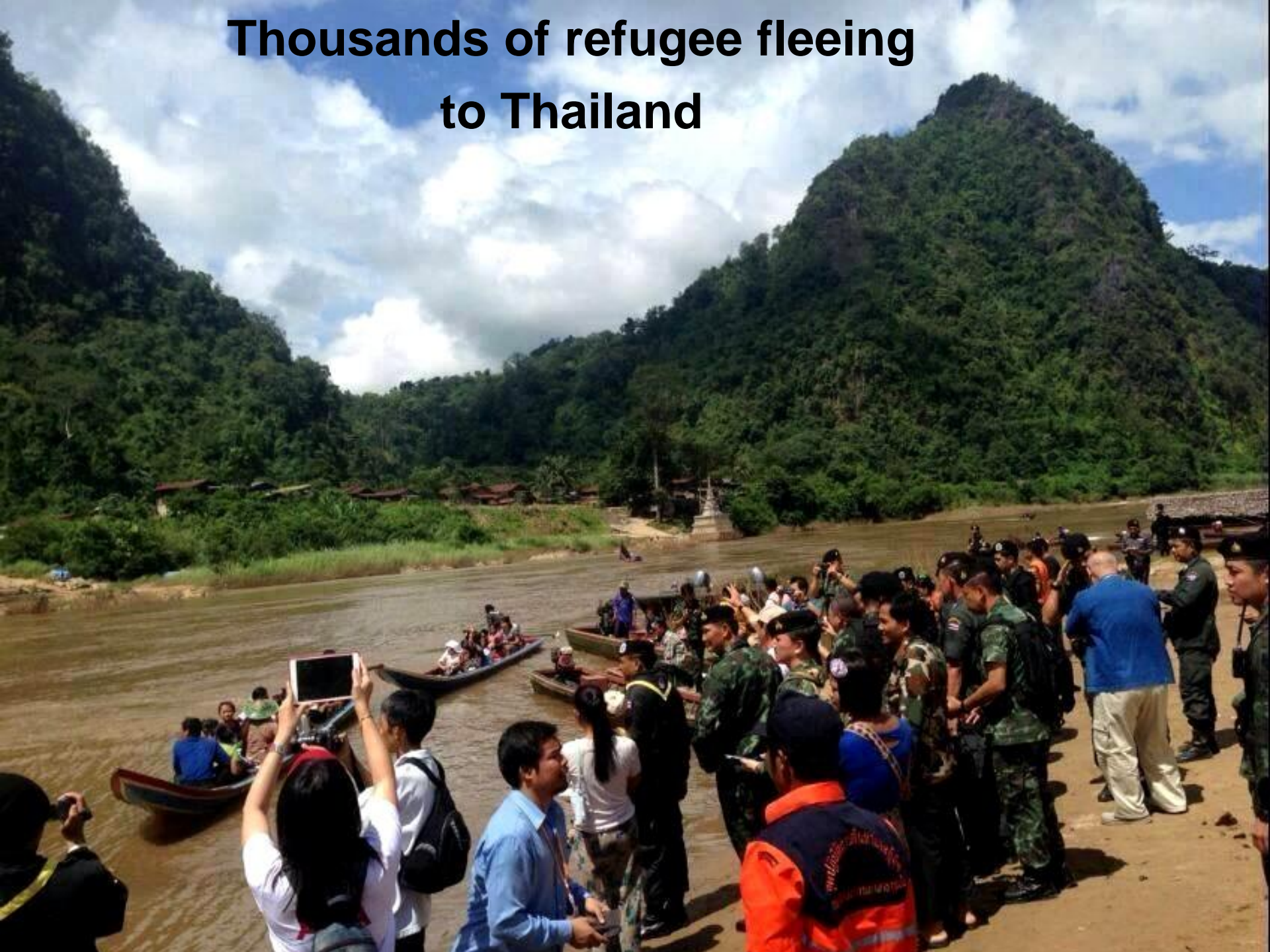
EXPORT

Shan State

Thailand

By Harnlay

Thousands of refugee fleeing to Thailand



Thousands more displaced persons along Burma's Salween



Limited information provided for communities/public



New Actors from China



WCD RECOMMENDATION

Gaining Public Acceptance

No dam should be built without "demonstrable acceptance" of affected people, and without free, prior and informed consent of affected indigenous and tribal peoples.



Photo: Assembly of the Poor

WCD RECOMMENDATION

Comprehensive Options Assessment

- Balanced assessment of supply and demand side electricity options urgently needed using “Integrated Resources Planning”
- New renewable and decentralized technologies now viable



Need for Regional Environmental Standard

- ASEAN Environmental Law?
- Transboundary EIA, HIA, SIA





Thank you for
your attention

^^

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