

# WHY FREE-FLOWING RIVERS ARE IMPORTANT FOR MYANMAR

1/3

of the world's longest rivers remain free-flowing

MYANMAR IS HOME TO

2

of the only large (>1000 km) free-flowing rivers in Tropical Asia.

- The Ayeyarwady
- The Thanlwin



## HEALTHY FREE-FLOWING RIVERS ARE CENTRAL TO LIFE IN MYANMAR, PROVIDING MANY SERVICES INCLUDING:

Fish, irrigation, aquaculture, drinking water, ecotourism or inland water transport



### FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY

approximately 2/3 of animal protein for a typical Myanmar diet livelihoods, > 6% of the population directly employed in the fishery & aquaculture sectors.



### RIVERS DELIVER SEDIMENT

to deltas and coastal areas for coastal stability, fertile agriculture, and productive coastal fisheries.



### \$2-7 BILLION WORTH

of Ayeyarwady River's ecosystem services annually (representing 5 - 16% GDP per capita).



## THE PROBLEM

- Approximately every 4th medium-sized river (100 - 1000 km length) has been affected by dams.
- There are a number of large dams planned for hydropower production in Myanmar.
- If all the planned projects go ahead, all rivers longer than 500 km would cease to be free-flowing.



## WWF'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- Raise the profile of Myanmar's unique free-flowing rivers.
- Stop the planning and construction of large dams until effective mechanisms for management and protection of free-flowing rivers are implemented.
- Introduce a new energy vision for Myanmar and highlight renewable energy alternatives such as solar or wind that are lower priced, lower impact and can be implemented faster.