

MEKONG RIVER

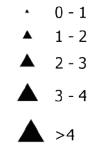
Mekong River flows over 4,800 km through six countries. Due to its seasonal variation in water level and the range of wetland habitats, the river is rich in biodiversity and productivity. The ecosystems supported by the river are fundamental to the viability of natural resource-based rural livelihoods of a population of 60mn people living in the Lower Mekong Basin.

To achieve optimal basin development, the six riparian countries are cooperating through various stakeholder groups such as the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation & the Mekong River Commission. Together, they are working to expand beyond transboundary water management to include improving connectivity, production capacity, economic cooperation, agriculture, water resource management and poverty alleviation. Hydropower clearly dominates the power generation capacity in this river basin.

THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN

Length	4,800 km
Basin Area	0.81-0.90 million km ²
Annual flow	390-492 billion m ³
Flow through	China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam
Share of ice & snow melt in upper reach	22-33% of runoff
Average surface water resources	588 billion m ³
Basin Population	57 million
Basin GDP in 2015	US\$160 billion (constant 2010 price)

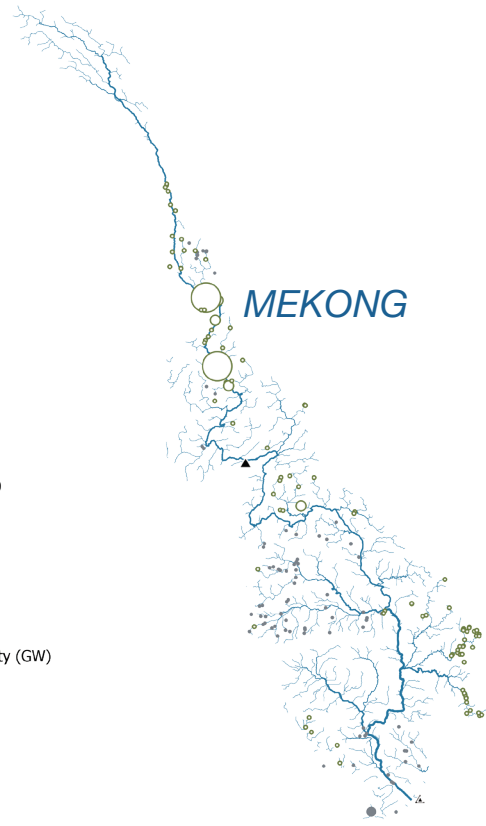
Coal capacity (GW)



Hydro capacity (GW)



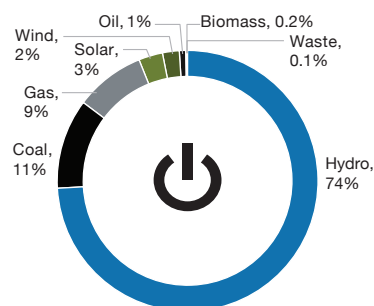
Other power capacity (GW)



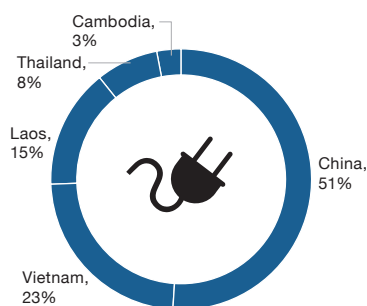
Note: Other power types include gas, solar, wind, oil, nuclear, biomass, geothermal and waste

34 GW OF INSTALLED POWER CAPACITY ON THE MEKONG

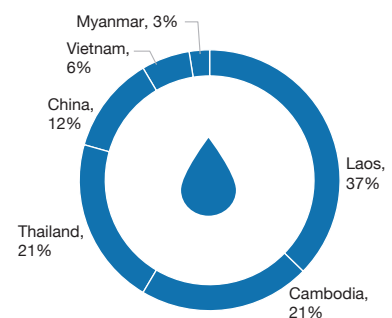
Installed capacity by power type



Installed capacity by country



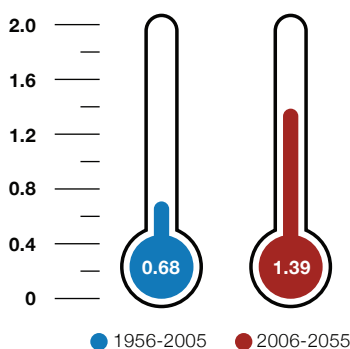
Surface water resources by country



CLIMATE CHANGE: PAST & FUTURE TREND

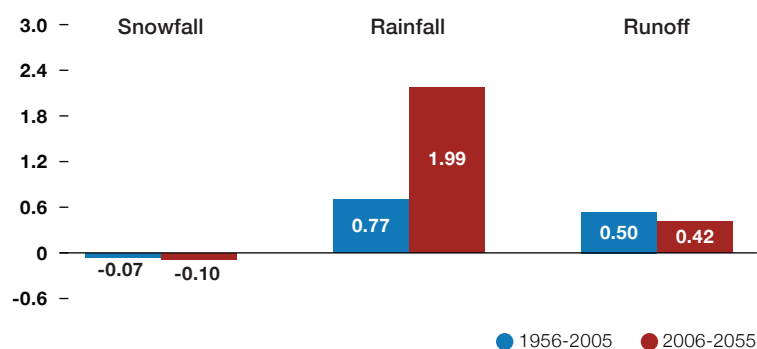
Temperature Change (°C)

(RCP4.5)



Hydrological Changes (mm/year)

(RCP4.5)



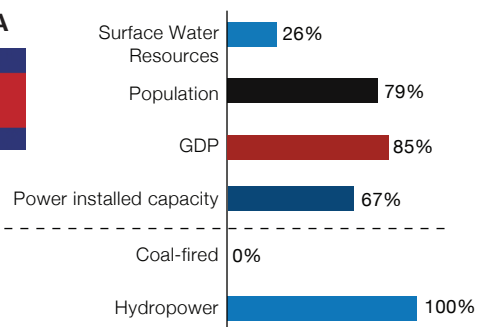
Source: CWR, CWR's Report "No Water, No Growth – Does Asia have enough water to develop?", 2018, Center for Water Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Global Power Plant Database.

This factsheet is part of CWR's Report "No River, No Power – Can Asia's rivers power growth in a changing climate?" 2023 and should be read in conjunction with this report.

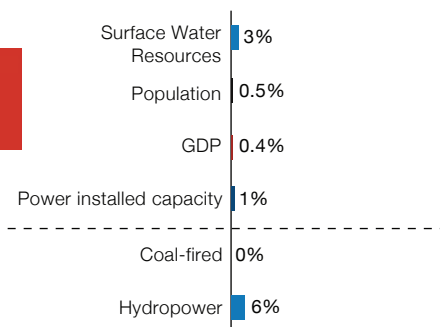
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KEY COUNTRY EXPOSURE

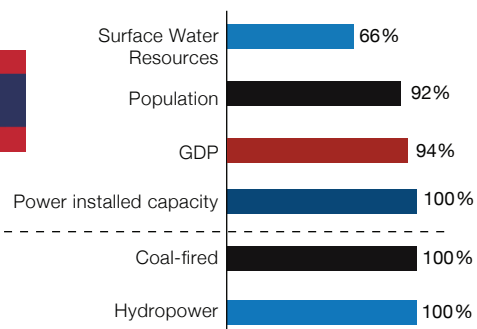
CAMBODIA



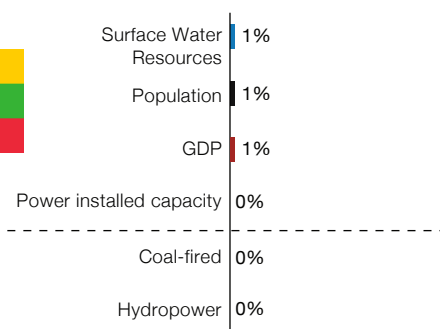
CHINA



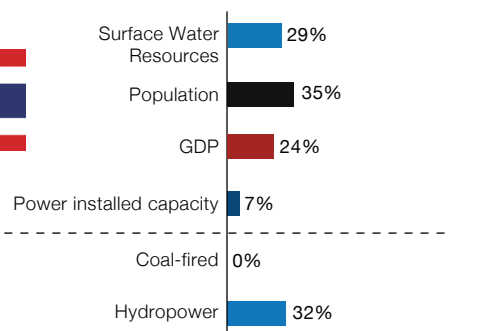
LAOS



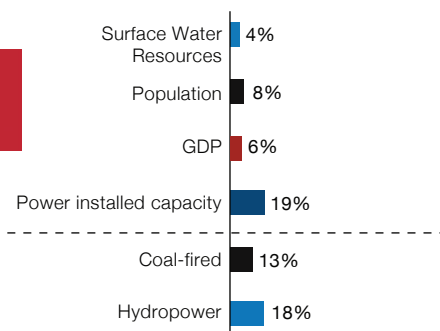
MYANMAR



THAILAND



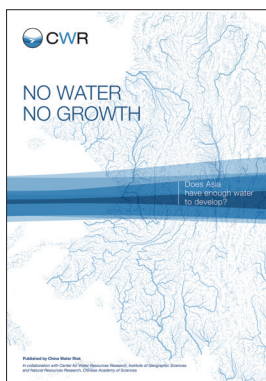
VIETNAM



Note: For consistency and comparability purposes, all power plant installed capacity data used in this factsheet including national power installed capacity are obtained from the Global Power Plant Database managed by the World Resources Institute. This database however, does not reflect the entire national power installed capacity and differs from actual government statistics – discrepancies can range from 2% in Vietnam to 59% in Afghanistan. The analysis in this factsheet while not 100% accurate will suffice in providing insights into the tight water-energy-climate nexus of the HKH 16 countries. For more please see "Global Power Plant Database vs. HKH 16 country statistics" in the CWR's Report "No River, No Power – Can Asia's rivers power growth in a changing climate?" 2023.

Source: CWR, CWR's report "No Water, No Growth – Does Asia have enough water to develop?" 2018, Global Power Plant Database.

Read more on this topic from CWR's 2018 Report
"No Water, No Growth – Does Asia have enough water to develop?"



This factsheet is part of CWR's 2023 Report, please
read this with **"No River, No Power – Can Asia's rivers power growth in a changing climate?"**



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