

Free download The mekong fish network expanding the capacity of the people and institutions of the mekong river basin to share information and conduct standardized fisheries monitoring Full PDF

The confluence of the Mekong and the Nam Ou rivers in Laos divides the Mekong basin into two parts: the upper Mekong basin, comprising those parts of the basin in Tibet, Yunnan, and eastern Myanmar, and the lower Mekong basin, from Yunnan downstream from China to the South China Sea. The physical features of the Mekong River Delta in southern Vietnam are significant. The Mekong River drains more than 313,000 square miles (810,000 square km) of land stretching from the plateau of Tibet to the South China Sea. Among Asian rivers, only the Yangtze and Ganges have larger minimum flows. The Mekong basin is one of the world's great rivers, covering a distance of nearly 5,000 km from its source on the Tibetan Plateau in China to the Mekong Delta. The river flows through six countries: China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The Mekong basin is home to about 65 million people, of which 80% live in the lower basin. The river is also rich in diversity, hosting about 800 fish species and over 20,000 plants. The river course, geography, drainage basin, and natural resources are diverse. The river basin drains a total land area of 795,000 km² and has a mean annual discharge of 475 km³, the tenth largest in the world. The Mekong River basin includes seven broad regions with diverse topography, drainage patterns, and geomorphology. The Mekong River Basin (MRB) is a transboundary basin that supports livelihoods of over 70 million inhabitants and diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. This critical lifeline for people and ecosystems in Southeast Asia is under threat. Preserving the lifeline of Southeast Asia is an urgent call to protect the Mekong River Basin amidst growing concerns about the conservation of freshwater resources. The Mekong Forgotten Fishes report sheds light on innovative approaches to preserve and invest in the health of this vital waterway. The lower Mekong River basin is functionally subdivided into four geographic regions with a total catchment area of about 571,000 km². The basin covers a large part of northeastern Thailand, almost the entire countries of Laos, PDR, and Cambodia, and the southern tip of Viet Nam. Northern highlands are also part of the basin. The Mekong River basin is a sanctuary for an extraordinary array of wildlife, particularly its dazzlingly diverse fish species. With a staggering 1,148 fish species officially recognized, the Mekong is a global hotspot for freshwater biodiversity. The Mekong River Monsoon Delta basin's flow comes chiefly from rainfall in its lower basin, which fluctuates seasonally with the monsoon winds. In April, the flow is ordinarily at its lowest.

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