

Five billion threatened by rivers at risk

Human activities including urbanization, industrialisation and intensive agriculture, combined with invasive species, are affecting rivers that serve 80% of the world's population – threatening supplies of clean water to almost 5bn people and the survival of thousands of aquatic species

RIVERS *Principal source of fresh water for humans and aquatic animals*

North America, Europe: Water management technology in high income countries benefits water security of 850 million people, but typically at cost of biodiversity

Siberia, Canada, Alaska:
Low threat owing to low population density

Amazon:
Isolated region shows low risk, but high-density populations upstream, e.g. in Peru, pose greater threat

Developing world: Lack of infrastructure leaves 3.4bn people in areas of highest threat, where biodiversity also underpins livelihoods

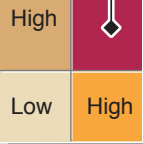
China, India: High population density and industrialisation increase risk despite high rainfall

Dams, reservoirs and irrigation schemes often detrimental to fisheries, flood-plain agriculture and water quality

THREAT LEVELS

In most areas where water security is at risk, biodiversity is also threatened

Water security



Biodiversity