

# **Mekong River Basin hydropower carbon emissions can exceed those of fossil fuel energy sources**

March 5 2018

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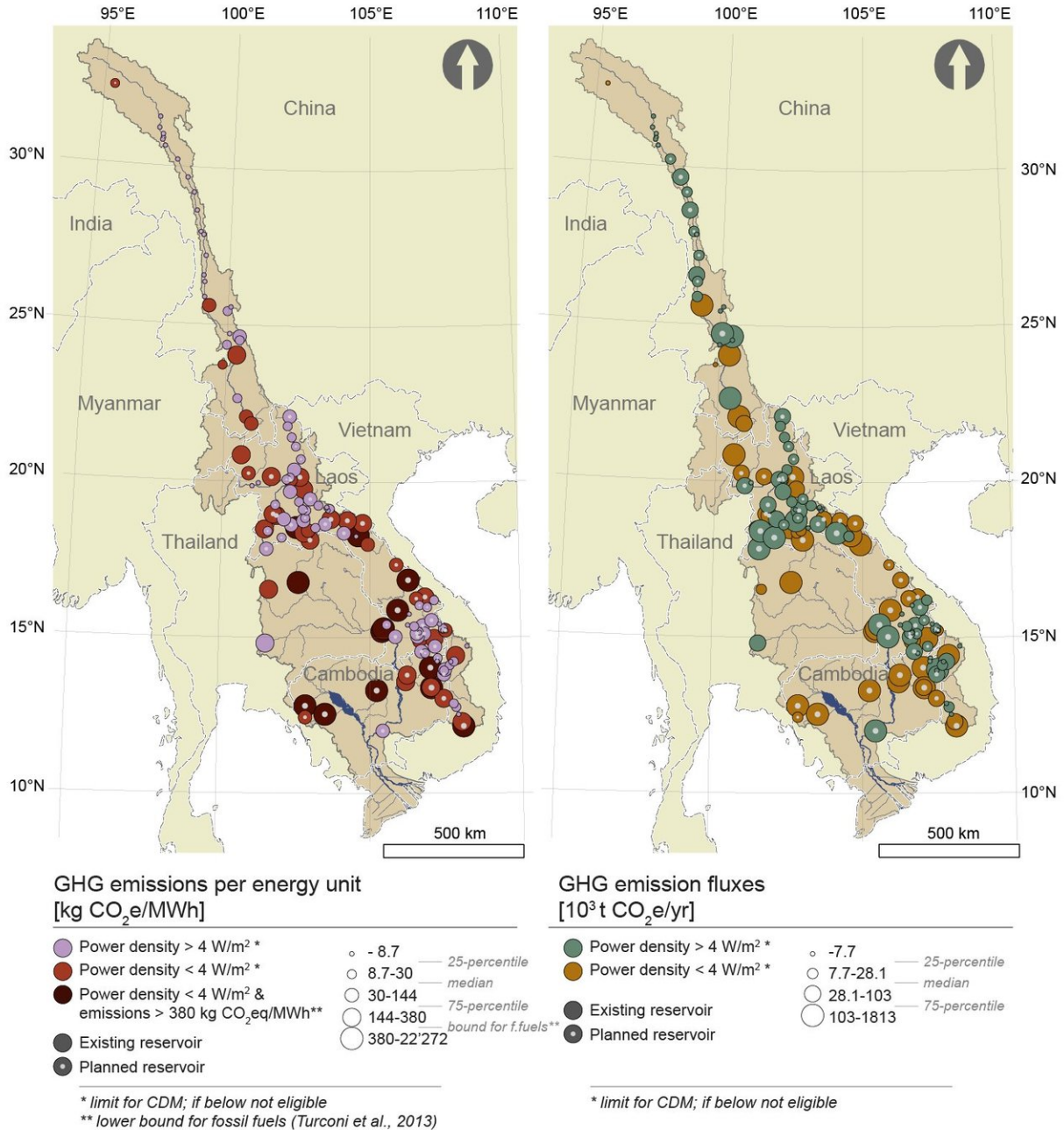


Fig. 1: Estimated greenhouse gas emissions and power densities of 141 existing and planned reservoirs in the Mekong River Basin. CDM stands for Clean Development Mechanism of United Nation's Kyoto Protocol for implementing emission-reduction projects. Projects with power densities above 4W/m<sup>2</sup> are eligible for CDM. Credit: Aalto University

Hydropower is commonly considered as a clean energy source to fuel Southeast Asian economic growth. A recent study published in *Environmental Research Letters* finds that hydropower in the Mekong River Basin, the largest river in Southeast Asia, might not always be climate friendly. The median greenhouse gas (GHG) emission of hydropower was estimated to be 26 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/MWh over 100-year lifetime, which is within the range of other renewable energy sources (

Citation: Mekong River Basin hydropower carbon emissions can exceed those of fossil fuel energy sources (2018, March 5) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-03-mekong-river-basin-hydropower-carbon.html>

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