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# Once Upon A River

DOCUMENTARIES / FACTUAL

ENVIRONMENT

## Once Upon A River

In this three-part series, we discover historical ties between communities and with some of the most critical waterways in Asia. On this journey, we discover how rivers have influenced people's way of life and how their fate and fortunes are dependant on water.

But this relationship between riverine communities and water is rapidly changing. As populations grow, the World Health Organization estimates that 50% of global population will be forced to live in water stressed regions by 2050.

Climate change is hastening a potential water crisis that can spark conflict in the region, as governments seek to control water sources by constructing hydropower dams, forcing some to sign cross-border water pacts. Will communities succeed in utilising technology and innovation to confront this rising tide of threats to their survival.

**Narrator:** Dilly Barlow

在这三集中，我们将探讨社区之间与亚洲的一些最关键的水道和历史关系。在这旅途中，我们发现河流如何影响人们的生活方式和他们的命运如何取决于水。

但这河流社区和水之间的关系正快速变化。随着人口的增长，世界卫生组织预计到2050年至少50%的全球人口将会被迫住在缺水地区。

气候变化正在加速一场可能引发该地区冲突的潜在水危机，因为各国政府试图通过修建水电站大坝来控制水源，迫使一些国家签署跨境水协议。这些社区能否成功地利用技术和创新来应对这股威胁其生存的上升浪潮。

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### EP1: Bangladesh's Delta Disaster

Bangladesh is battling to stay above water. By 2050, one in every seven people in the country will be displaced by climate-related factors. We go on a journey across the south Asian nation to understand why three quarters of the country is inundated by its rivers bursting their banks every year. On this journey, we investigate how floods threatens the country's food security, how soil erosion is leaving thousands homeless and meet climate refugees migrating from their homes to survive. Along the way, we meet communities adapting to climate change by growing food on water in an effort to counter rising sea levels as rising sea-level threatens to overtake 11% of the country's land within the next 30 years. We visit the frontlines of the country's battle against climate change to meet activists raising awareness against man-made changes to the country's water resources which may leave a devastating impact on its economy.

### EP2: Saving Indonesia's Citarum

The Citarum River is dubbed as the dirtiest river in the world. Majalaya's factories have dumped roughly 280 tons of chemical waste into this critical waterbody every day. Despite its dilapidated condition, its waters irrigate farmlands which feed 30 million people across West Java. This is why the Indonesian government is trying to save the Citarum. We embed with the Indonesian military on Operation Citarum Harum, a multi-million dollar cleanup operation that aims to transform this 270 kilometer long river back to its former glory. On this journey, we film with environmental activists on the frontlines fighting against illegal chemical discharge in their bid to reverse damage to the region's ecology. In this battle to balance economic development and impending climate change, we discover factory owners investing in the future of sustainable waste disposal and individuals using artificial intelligence to save the Citarum.

### EP3: Trouble On The Mekong

The Mekong is known as the mother of all rivers. It feeds more than 80 million farmers and fishermen across its trans-national length. But tensions are rising with the construction of a series of Chinese funded dams upstream, with some suggest, are causing draughts and dwindling fishing catches for downstream communities. We traverse Cambodia to understand the needs of fast growing economy which expects an 80 percent in electric demand over the next 20 years. What impact will this development have on the environment and water security in the region? On this journey, we also meet communities displaced by these dams. As climate change forces people to choose between protecting nature or their own economic survival, what is the future Mekong's river communities? And will technological solutions be implemented quickly before it is too late for riverine communities.

### 第一集: Bangladesh's Delta Disaster

孟加拉国正努力保持水面。到了2050年,该国七分之一的人口将会被跟气候有关的因素而流离失所。我们走遍这南亚国家来了解为什么该国的四分之三每年都会被河水淹没。在这趟旅程中,我们探讨了洪水如何威胁国家的粮食安全,水土流失如何让数千人无家可归还有遇到为了生存而从他们的家中迁移的气候难民。旅途中,我们遇到在适应气候变化的社区,他们通过在水上种植食物来应对海平面上升,而海平面上升威胁到在30年内将会占据全国土地的11%。我们探访了该国应对气候变化的前线并见到在提高人们对该国水资源的人为改变并可能对经济造成破坏性的认识的维权人士。

### 第二集: Saving Indonesia's Citarum

西塔伦河被称为世界上最肮脏的河流。玛加拉亚邦的工厂每天像该关键水体倾倒约280吨化学废物。尽管情况残旧,其水域灌溉农田,为西瓜哇岛的3000万人提供食物。这也是印度尼西亚政府试图拯救西塔伦的原因。我们与印尼军方一起进行了西塔鲁姆·哈鲁姆行动,一项耗资数百万美元的清理行动,旨在将这条270公里长的河变回昔日的辉煌。在这趟旅程中,我们与一线环保人士在前线拍摄电影,以打击非法化学物质排放并扭转对该地区生态的破坏。在平衡经济发展和即将到来的气候变化的斗争中,我们发现工厂老板投资于可持续废物处理的未来和个人使用人工智能来挽救西塔伦。

### 第三集: Trouble On The Mekong

湄公河被称为所有河流的母亲。它在整个跨国范围内养活了超过8000万农民和渔民。但随着在上游建造一系列由中国资助的水坝,加剧了紧张局势,一些人认为这导致了下游居民的吃水和捕鱼量的减少。我们遍历柬埔寨以了解快速增长的经济的需求,预计在未来20年内,电力需求将达到80%。这种发展将对该地区的环境和水源安全会产生什么影响呢?在这趟旅程中,我们也遇到了因这些水坝而流离失所的社区。随着气候变化迫使人们在保护大自然或自己的经济生存之间做出选择,湄公河河流社区未来将会变成怎样?还有在对河流社区为时已晚之前,是否会迅速地实施技术解决方案?