Which path to take?:
A political economy analysis of Salween River pathways in Myanmar
The Salween Basin is central to the peace process.

Ceasefire agreements have led to new social and environmental pressures.
Salween Pathways

1. Large dams before Peace

2. Peace then deliberate Dams

3. Energy Reform

3. Peace and Local development
The Transboundary Salween Basin
Centralised Governance

Fragmented Sovereignty
Large dams pathway
Large Dams Pathway

Pursuing hydropower dams before a political agreement for peace between the central government and ethnic groups is complete.
Political Dialogue Pathway

They took advantage of the ceasefire and told the whole world that everything is now fine.
Political Dialogue and Peace Pathway

This pathway is linked to the peace process and prioritises the establishment of political dialogue and genuine peace, followed by deliberation on resource governance which may (or may not) include hydropower dams
Energy Reform Pathway
Energy Reform Pathway

The **Energy reform pathway**, includes the promotion and development of decentralized energy alternatives to large scale projects like hydropower dams, but often within the limitations of current political framework such as the constitution.
Local Development Pathway

A vision for an indigenous Karen landscape of human-nature harmony in southeast Myanmar

“All living things sharing peace”
Local Development Pathway

Integration of:
Community based water governance processes
Ethnic customary natural resource management
Local administrative systems into decision making processes
Local right to conserve the environment and secure livelihoods at the centre of development
Conclusion

- The future of the Salween River is uncertain
- Considering different pathways and alternative visions for development in the Salween Basin remains possible
Thank you for listening!

We look forward to hearing your questions!