

Most of world's rivers damaged by humans

A new study shows that 86 per cent of the world's rivers have been damaged by human . The study was conducted by researchers from a university in Toulouse, France. They examined on over 2,500 rivers around the world. They did not look at rivers in the polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctica or in deserts. The scientists looked into changes to over the past 200 years. They discovered that biodiversity in over half of rivers has been damaged by humans. The researchers said there were many reasons for this damage. A big reason is the introduction of new of fish into rivers. Other include pollution, dams, , farming and climate change.

The researchers say the worst-hit rivers are in Europe and North America. This is because these have large and rich towns and cities. The researcher said: "Rivers which have the most economic development around them, like the Mississippi River, are the most impacted." The River Thames in London was one of the worst affected rivers in the . The least-impacted rivers are in Africa and Australia. The researcher said: "This is probably to a slower rate of industrialization in Africa and low population around rivers in Australia." He added that rivers in many rich nations are unrecognizable with how they were 200 years ago.

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