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**Geographical perspectives on global change research
program: A cross-disciplinary research program in
Myanmar**

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The rivers that drain the Himalayas are responsible for transporting a significant proportion of the global annual mass of water, eroded sediment, dissolved material and carbon between the land and the ocean. Quantifying the magnitude of these fluxes is vital for understanding the impact that the uplift of the Himalayas has had on the evolution of global climate over the last 20 million years, and the impact that modern land-use changes are having on sediment transport and biogeochemical cycling between the land and the ocean. It is generally thought that the Ayerawady (Irrawaddy) and Thanlwin (Salween) Rivers of Myanmar rank approximately fourth in terms of global sediment transport, but re-analysis of the 19th century data on which this estimate is based, suggests that the significance of these rivers has been grossly under-estimated. This project will undertake an integrated program of geomorphic, geochemical and geological research with the aim of accurately constraining the modern fluxes (and sources) of water, dissolved and particulate material for two rivers of global significance, for the first time in 125 years.