

March 14th International Day of Action against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life

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Call to Action
Press Release
Take Action!
2007 Actions and
Events
2007 Slideshow
Contact Day of
Action Organizers
Background
Materials

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KENYA

Community Concerns and Priorities in the Sondu-Miriu Dam Project

A petition was released on March 18th to the Japanese Foreign Minister, on behalf of community members affected by the Sondu-Miriu dam construction in Kenya. Japan has extensive financing and construction interests in the project. Concerns were expressed regarding Phase II funding for the construction of a power plant in the river Miriu. Key among the issues are the project's negative impact on the environment, local economy, peace and security, corruption and human rights abuse (see annex 2) during the project implementation. Lastly, the petition urges the exercise of care and wisdom in your decisions. Most importantly, they would like your government to ensure that financing for this project is not used to trample on our rights and our environment, but used to alleviate our poverty as was originally intended. View the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/Argwings/petition.html>

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CONTACT: Argwings Odera, Project Coordinator • Sondu-Miriu Advocacy Campaign ;
dams@africamail.com

Mozambique

More than 40 NGO representatives and students participated in a seminar on Mozambique's Dams and Rivers that was organized by Livaningo and held in Maputo. Participants made presentations on a number of different dams in the country and discussed their impacts on rivers and the communities that depend on them. They focused specifically on the proposed Mepanda Uncua Dam and strategized on ways that the World Commission on Dams might assist civil society's involvement in decision-making processes related to the dam. A declaration drawn up at the meeting calls for the Mozambican government to adopt WCD guidelines as policy and to halt plans for proposed dams until it does so. The meeting concluded with songs and a river blessing at the mouth of the Incomati River.

NIGERIA

Communique Issued At The Public Lecture Organised By Society For Water & Public Health Protection (Swaphep) On March 14th, 2002 At Ken Saro-Wiwa Gallery, 214, Uselu • Lagos Road, Benin City, Nigeria.

Benin City, the capital of Edo State, Nigeria, was the center of a public lecture on Thursday, March 14th 2002 courtesy of Society for Water & Public Health Protection (SWAPHEP). The lecture was organized to mark this year's Day of Action against Dams, & for Water & Life.

The lecture which theme was •Dams & Development in Nigeria• drew participants from the academic society, NGOs, the civil society and the government. The participants did extensive discussions on the impact of dams on the process of development in Nigeria.

A number of questions were raised as to the rationale behind the continued construction of dams across the Nigerian watersheds despite the obvious devastating effects dams have had on the lives of Nigerians and their environment.

The participants were also particularly worried at the spate of dam failure in the country in the past two years, with mention made of the failure of Kainji dam in Niger State in 1999 and the failure of Tiga and Challawa dams in Kano and Jigawa states in August 2001 among others, and wondered at what government was doing to resettle the several thousands of the flood victims, payment of compensation to the relatives whose persons lost their lives to the flood and reparations to the

environment.

Participants also queried the reason why the management of the river basin authorities such as the Hadeja– Jama•are River Basin Authority would allow such a colossal loss of lives and property to preventable flood occasioned by dam failure and whether the country lacked the warning devices to forestall this gross waste of human and ecological resources.

Also of major worry to the participants was why Nigeria•s development partners such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank continue to sponsor dams in Nigeria even when it is obvious that such huge amount of money don•t lead to the sustainable development of the country.

They also wondered as to the reason why the financial institutions don•t provide equivalent support and subsidies to alternative, clean and sustainable sources of energy and water supply.

The participants observed that, although, the use of dams as means of water supply, hydroelectricity generation, irrigation purposes, fisheries and so on, could not be completely ruled out, the immediate needs of the people for whom the dams are constructed must drive the process of dam construction and commissioning, a situation which is not the case in Nigeria. Before embarking on dams project, which are capital intensive and impact very negatively on the environment and the people, adequate expert studies and Impact Assessment Studies (EIA) reports, due consultations with and enlightenment of the communities that may be affected by the project must be done. These, the participants, noted were virtually absent in the case of Nigeria.

The participants were also agreed on the fact that political and economic benefits on the part of the government and the dam sponsors are the driving forces behind the continued construction of dams across our rivers and watersheds as the benefits derivable from the dams continue to elude the Nigerian people. Instead, epileptic power supply, inadequate water supply, destruction of farm lands, loss of fishes and other aquatic organisms and extreme poverty continue to plague the Nigerian people.

ORGANIZATION: Society for Water and Public Health Protection (SWAPHEP)

CONTACT: Hope E. Ogbeide

ADDRESS: 214 Uselu Lagos Road, P.O. Box 10577

CITY: Benin City

TEL: 234 52 600165
FAX 234 52 600165
EMAIL: swaphep@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Anti-Privatization, Anti-Eviction Campaign March, March 28th

The march will be held on March 28th to mobilize campaigners. The mass march is being organized by SAMWU, the anti-privatization forum and the anti-eviction campaign. It is pertinent that the mobilization is a big showing to bolster objectives. The march will be to protest the rising cost of basic services. The cost of water, electricity and housing is increasing; such that people have less money to spend on food and other basic commodities. The privatization of basic services by Multinational corporations is a growing concern; as cost-recovery and profits are the bottom line; with ill-regard to public services as a life-source. Basic services are being ring-fenced to "maximize efficiency and accountability" and the integration of complementary services is being ignored with the result that imperative issues such as health are being ignored, with the danger of compounding health-related issues e. g. Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cholera (250 deaths in Kwa-Zulu Natal owing to water-cut-offs).

The argument put forward is to re-evaluate the present public-services system, prior to the forced introduction of commercialization and privatization of services. Increased public participation and consultation is core to our argument, whereby we find solutions together; solutions that maximize the accountability, provision and capacity of both the service-users and the providers.

CONTACT: Julie Smith, Environmental Monitoring Group, 021 488 2881, 072 417 6749

Ismail Petersen or Faizel Brown, Anti-Eviction Campaign, 021 397 6386/6851565 , 082 545 7883

Earthlife Africa eThekwini (Durban)

Earthlife Africa eThekwini and Roots and Shoots in conjunction participated in the 5th Annual International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life. They organized visual displays at the following venues: Shepstone Concourse, E.G. Malherbe Library, Umhlanga Rocks Public Library, City Library. They also put

together video displays, on March 14th, at: Shepstone Concourse, Auditorium, Natural History Museum. The purpose of these activities was to encourage the support of local communities working to protect their rivers and watershed; to halt destructive river development projects; and to encourage equitable and sustainable methods of meeting needs for water, energy, and flood management.

Public address: Speaker: Mr Innocent Nojiyeza

ORGANIZATION: Earthlife Africa eThekweni (Durban)

DATE: 14 March 2002, Time: 12h30 • 13h30

LOCATION: Seminar Room, School of Life and Environmental Science, UND

CONTACT: <http://www.earthlife.org.za> , Harald Witt, Witth@nu.ac.za

Pumalanga event, HEALing Rivers

SAWaC (South African Water Crisis network) took part in the International Day of Action. SAWaC and HEAL (Houtbosloop Environment Action Link) a new local conservancy and community group, jointly hosted an event entitled '**HEALing Rivers**'. Several teams gathered at the lodge below the famous Sudwala Caves, in the Houtbosloop Valley of Mpumalanga Province on 14 March at 11 am. Each team, equipped with inflated tubes and rubbish bags, was allocated a section of the Houtbosloop down which they road in tubes, stopping to bag any rubbish they found on the way. The river has the highest drop over the shortest distance of any in the country, from its source in the pass above Lydenburg until it flows into the Crocodile.

In the afternoon there was a mini-workshop on river ecology and problems posed by dams. Among the speakers were Dr. Johan Engelbrecht of Mpumalanga Parks Board, on Integrated River Ecology, and Naomi Fourie of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry on the Impact of Small Dams. Day of Action posters, stickers and flyers – both local ones by SAWaC and HEAL, and from the International Rivers Network in California, were distributed to help promote the worldwide event.

ORGANIZATION: SAWaC (South African Water Crisis Network) and HEAL (Houtbosloop Environment Action Link)

LOCATION: Sudwala, Houtbosloop Valley, Mpumalanga, South Africa.

DATE: March 14, Time: 11am

CONTACT: Philip Owen, owen@soft.co.za ; <http://www.sawac.co.za/>

International Water Day, Henly Dam ([View the Entire Program](#))

GREEN Network executed an event to link climate change, flooding, and dam decommissioning. Concerns have been raised over the operation of the Henly Dam,

which locals regard as unnecessary. Contact Pumulani Hadebe at Georgetownhub@freemail.absa.co.za for more information.

ORGANIZATION: GREEN Network

LOCATION: Tembelethus Education Centre, Pietermaritzburg

DATE: March 14, 2002

CONTACT: Pumulani Hadebe ; Georgetownhub@freemail.absa.co.za

WISA Western Cape Division Water Forum

The WISA Western Cape Division held an open discussion forum on the 19th of March 2002 at 3pm in Cape Town. The aim of the forum was to create a platform for water conservation groups and related organizations to be heard on specific issues affecting the Western Cape in particular. Environmental groups and stakeholders such as the Cape Town City, The Skuifraam Action Group, The Sustainable Waters Forum, Cape Town Tourism, Watersavers Research, WESSA, Hermanus Municipality, Watercourse cc, and others were invited to attend and present papers.

The following topics were discussed at the conference:

- Dry sanitation vs. Conventional Sewerage for Cape Town.
- Free Water.
- Leak detection and eradication as a water supply option. An economic perspective.
- The Franschoek Community: How do they feel about the proposed Dam?
- Hermanus: How do they cope with a water-stressed catchment?
- Tourism and water. • Alternative ground cover for open spaces in the City.
- Dry ice blasting. An industrial cleaning perspective.

DATE: 19th of March 2002 at 3pm

LOCATION: Cape Town

CONTACT: Hugh Hodge, Tel 021 413 7404 , hugh@watersavers.co.za ; <http://www.watersavers.co.za/>

Also, please keep checking our website as we will continue to add photographs and other materials on actions around the world. And, if you organized an action that we don't know about, or you do not see your action listed, please contact us as soon as

possible. Don't forget to include photos and press releases – and send [us](#) video if you can!

Randy Flay

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Additional Information

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2007 Actions and
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2007 Slideshow
Contact Day of
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BOSNIA–Herzegovina

Protect rivers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FONDEKO)

The meeting consisted of 600 pupils and 400 citizens to mark the occasion of the World Day of Water (held 21.03.2002). In Stari Grad (Old Town) Municipality, attendants expressed their concern against individuals and firms polluting the rivers Moscanica, Zeljeznica, Miljacka and Bosna; along with wells. Citizens and pupils called for the prohibition of the use of drinking water for washing cars and pavement. They further requested access for all inhabitants of Sarajevo to safe drinking water and sanitation. Participants understand that all members of international organizations living in Bosnia–Herzegovina are supplied with bottled water from other European countries and therefore questioned the authorities to inform the citizens of potential threats to water supplies and drinking water quality.

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Additionally, participants expressed full support of the citizens of town of Konjic and others for their request to halt the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the upper reaches of the River Neretva.

Lastly a declaration was issued that called for the protection of all the rivers, flows, and lakes of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ORGANIZING GROUP: FONDEKO Sarajevo

CONTACT: Vehib Cengic ; fondeko@smartnet.ba ; <http://www.fondeko.co.ba>

GERMANY

Restore the Salzach River Dam Decommissioning Bicycle Tour

A bicycle tour was held along the banks of the Salzach River to visit a place where the side dams of the Salzach have been removed as an experiment to let the river flow into the riparian forest, a frequent occurrence before the dam. The Salzach River is a tributary of the Inn River which is a tributary of the Danube. The lower Salzach is one of the last few undammed rivers on the north side of the Alps. Although it is undammed it has been channeled with side-dams, which have stopped the frequent flooding of the riparian forests of the Salzach valley which is important for the survival of this eco-system. Organizers urged government agencies in Germany and Austria to restore the Salzach river in order to protect the riparian forest with its rich variety of species.

DATE: March 17, time: 10a.m., meeting point: new Salzach bridge in Burghausen

ORGANIZING GROUP: Bund Naturschutz Burghausen, Germany

CONTACT: Holger Lundt , phone: + +49-8677-64316 , e-mail: hlundt@gmx.de ,
website: <http://www.bn-altoetting.iivs.de>

ITALY

Defense of the Valsesia River

On June 1, the Kayak World Championships will be held on Valsesia (North Italy). The Sesia River is threatened by 22 micro-dams. Organizers will hold an important action on that day. They are planning to have participants (paddlers clubs and environment associations) each hold a flag with those words: "Save the Sesia". During the races, thousands of people will their flags in front of the media. If you would like to participate, please contact: Fr•d•ric GILARDONE at fredgil@tin.it

CONTACT: Fr•d•ric GILARDONE; fredgil@tin.it ; <http://www.laproxima.it/comitatosesia/> , <http://www.superspazio.com>

DATE: June 1, 2002

POLAND

Ecological and Cultural Association Klub Gaja

The Ecological and Cultural Association Klub "Gaja" submitted a petition with 60,000 signatures to the Polish Prime Minister in opposition to the construction of dams on the Vistula River. A press conference to mark the event was also held.

CONTACT: Jacek Bozek; klub@gaja.most.org.pl ; <http://www.klubgaja.pl>

DATE: March 14, 2002

PORTUGAL

Talk on "Impacto e alternativas 'as grandes barragens: o exemplo do rio Sabor"

Talk on "The Impact of and Alternatives to Large Dams: The Example of the River Sabor"

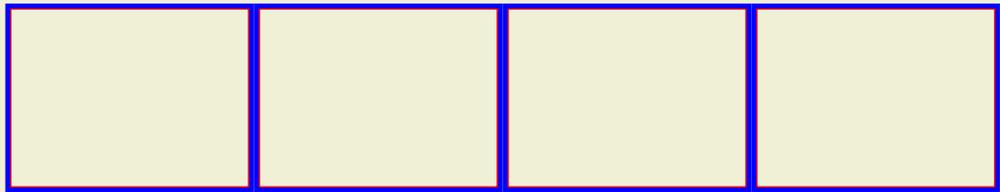
LOCATION: Famalicao

CONTACT: Jose' Teixeira; jteixeira@mail.icav.up.pt

SPAIN

Barcelona: 400–500'000 Against the Spanish National Hydrological Plan (from <http://www.rivernet.org/>)

On Sunday March 10, 2002, members of " La Plataforma en defensa de l'Elbre"; academics ; political parties and unions demonstrated in Barcelona against the NHP (Watertransfer, 118 dams). Between 400.000 and 500.000 participants and Delegations from different areas of Spain were in Barcelona to voice their disagreement. This demonstration was planned right before the 14th of March, the worldwide day against dams and the 15th and 16th of March, the European Summit of the 15 EU environmental ministers in Barcelona. A delegation of ERN (European Rivers Network) visited with green Euro-Deputys and the Leaders of the "Plataforma" (Organizers) the Ebro Delta, participated at the demonstration and was very warmly welcomed.

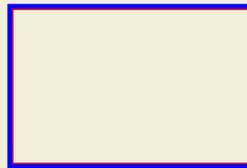


More information, News, Documents, Links, Photos and more on the [Spanish National Hydrological Plan](#)

See Also: **Ecologistas en Acci•n** <http://www.ecologistasenaccion.org>

[Ebro Vivo \(Alive Ebro\)](#)

A new association under the COAGRET umbrella has been set up in Zaragoza. The organization is called EBRO VIVO ("Alive Ebro"). Ebro Vivo is planning an event to link the Aragon region with the New Water Culture in an effort to shed light on the new National Hydrological Plan. To draw attention to the new hydrologic plan, they arranged a mock "wedding" between Mr. ARAG•N and Miss New Water Culture. (The dam of YESA was built in 1959 and which meant that three villages became unpopulated, resettling 1000 people).



ORGANIZING GROUP: COAGRET – EBRO VIVO

LOCATION: Zaragoza

CONTACT: Victoria Trigo, v.trigo@able.es

Plataforma Jarama Vivo (Campaign for the saving of water and for an ecological volume of water in the Jarama Basin)

Despite the extensive water reserves in the Madrid region recently, irresponsible and wasteful management of water by the regional administration has given rise to a critical situation for the future water supply and for the rivers of Madrid. At present, owing to the regulation of the dams of the Jarama Basin, the water level of all the rivers is alarmingly low, running the risk that in the coming months many of them will dry out. *Plataforma Jarama Vivo* has published various materials about the situation for public information, and a motion was put forward by different councils demanding a change in the policies regarding water in Madrid. The motion also called for a system of ecological volumes of water for the rivers to be put into effect with regards to the dams of the region.

CONTACT: Ra•I Urquiaga, biodiversidad@tierra.org , http://www.elsoto.org/jarama_vivo.htm

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day of action

- Call to Action
- Press Release
- Take Action!
- 2007 Actions and Events
- 2007 Slideshow
- Contact Day of Action Organizers
- Background Materials

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ARGENTINA

[Foundation "Proteger" \(Fundacion PROTEGER\)](#)

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To mark March 14, civil society announced its opposition to the social and environmental impacts of large dams in Argentina. The foundation "Proteger" produced posters and materials on the International Day of Action to help promote the day through radio and television outlets.

In the Arist•bulo del Valle, the Ecological Group "Pir• Wedge", a member of the Network of Ecological Associations of Missions (IT ABRADES), organized a march of bicycles through the main avenues, ending in the Municipality, where a statement was given to the authorities. The supervisor of the city is against the Hydroelectric Project Corpus Christi, adding itself to 90% of the missionaries.*

"The river is much more than water that runs and does not have of being considered to only generate energy," Raul Bregagnolo said, leader of Cu•• Pir•. "the builders of great dams have led to the collapse of many rivers of the world and are doing the same in the Silver River basin, with hydroelectric works like Yacyret•, that demonstrate their unsustainability due to the tremendous social impacts, environmental, sanitary and economic. These damages were not considered, nor mattered to think about the development of the populations. The energy production was solely examined, . . . hiding that these great works always have caused poverty where they settle," emphasized Bregagnolo.*

"This 14 of March, more people will understand the importance of our rivers for a truly sustainable human development". On the other hand, the ecological group "Green Thought", of Resistance, Chaco, in a press note recalled "the national and provincial authorities that have responsibility for the life and the health of the town are unfinished with their mandate and they are guilty to future generations for the damages that undergo the communities by their actions or omissions". "the rivers have been and are life source. Their destruction and contamination have only as a consequence the death in the long-term and, with certainty, the present poverty ", expressed Baigorri Basoue, in March 14 declarations.*

Proteger has helped organize other activities.

*This is an UNOFFICIAL Translation. Please view the full press release of activities ([Spanish](#)) for the original version.

CONTACT: Julieta Pete•n, rios.proteger@arnet.com.ar , <http://www.proteger.org.ar>

[BRAZIL](#)

Brazilian Movement of Dam–Affected People (MAB)

Marking the International Day of Action, events and marches were carried out throughout Brazil.

On March 12th, four anti–dam activists of the Brazilian Movement of Dam–Affected People (MAB) were hospitalized in Esmeralda, Rio Grande do Sul state after being shot with rubber bullets by a shock troop of the military police during a protest against Barra Grande dam (Uruguay River). Injured were two MAB leaders, Geni Andriolli and Lico da Costa, along with two Franciscan brothers, Frei Zanatta e Frei S•rgio G•rgen, who were among the 500 marching to the dam worksite.

MAB led a march of several hundred people, many of them affected by the Castanh•o dam, in Fortaleza, site of the Inter–American Development Bank's (IDB) annual meeting. A crucial issue is the IDB's financing of the Cana Brava dam (Tocantins River). According to MAB, 2,000 people affected by the dam, constructed by a Brazilian consortium in partnership with Alcoa, have not received compensation from Tractebel, a subsidiary of Suez (France). According to H•lio Meca of the MAB National Coordination, "Many families who lived in the area for 30 years or more received the miserable indemnification of R\$ 36.00 (equivalent of USD\$22) and small businessmen, who lost their business as their customers were expelled by the artificial lakes were not compensated".

On March 13th, MAB occupied the headquarters of the State Environmental Foundation of Minas Gerais state in the city of Belo Horizonte. 300 dam–affected people say they plan to remain in the office until they are granted an audience with the governor of the state to discuss problems caused by dam construction.

MAB's activities for the Day of Action are concentrated in Brazilian state capitals, including Porto Alegre, S•o Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Cuiab•, Palmas, Fortaleza, and Florian•polis, and to the nation's capital Bras•lia where MAB plans to meet with government officials. Other actions are planned for Chapec•, Santa Catarina, and at Barra Grande dam, as well as in Altamira, Par•, a region which is threatened by Belo Monte dam (Xingu River).

On March 13th in Porto Alegre, a shock troop of military police advanced on 400 dam–affected people who attempted to participate in a public consultation on energy rates being held by the National Electrical Energy Agency (ANEEL). Various protesters were beaten, and five were hospitalized.

In Bahia state, 450 farmers threatened by Sacos, Gatos, and Cocos dams in Bahia set up a camp and plan a march through the streets of Salvador tomorrow.

600 farmers affected by Manso dam in Mato Grosso state are camped out in front of the palace of the governor. They are protesting inadequate resettlement conditions, and the fact that at least 600 families have still not received compensation. Besides, they say that more than 2,000 fishermen have lost their livelihood as a result of the dam. They expect to meet today with the state governor.

In Rio de Janeiro state, 300 people threatened by the Itaocara dam arrived today at

the state capital, where they will march to the governor's palace to meet with the state governor. Following this, they plan to march to the offices of several dam companies. In S•o Paulo state, 600 "quilombolas", or members of communities of descendents of escaped African slaves, will gather tomorrow in front of the state Justice secretariat to demand the cancellation of dam projects in the region of the Ribeira valley, and the titling of their lands. They plan to meet with the Vice–governor of the state.

400 dam–affected people marched through the streets of Chapec•, Santa Catarina state, and met with the company building the Foz de Chapec• dam on the Uruguay River. Another meeting has been scheduled for Friday.

In Bras•lia, leaders of MAB will meet with federal government officials, including the Minister of National Integration, the officials of the Mines and Energy Ministry, the President's Civil Cabinet, the National Agency of Electrical Energy, and the Agrarian Development Ministry.



See Also:



CHILE

Denunciation of ENDESA–SPAIN

Protesters gathered in front of the Spanish Embassy to protest the activities of Endesa in Chile's water and power sectors.

LOCATION: Santiago, Chile

DATE: March 14, 2002

COLOMBIA

Near Bogotá, several groups conducted three actions for March 14th in support of rivers and life. These events took place in the following locations:

- First, in Guatavita, sacred lagoon and site of much indigenous music;
- Second, in Cato in an indigenous reservation near the river Bogotá, one of most contaminated rivers in the world;
- Third, near the deep gorge of the river Teusaca, that terminates at the Bogotá as well at river Bogotá.

In the three cases rituals carried out, recalling the sacred value of water and the rivers. These ceremonies involved people from several communities. The goal was to bring an end to acts of violence and aggression that contaminate the water and the rivers and to promote the ideas of water as community property.

CONTACT: Isndardo Gomez Reyes; isnardo.gomez@ecopetrol.com.co

COSTA RICA

Friends of the Earth Costa Rica

A meeting was held at the Costa Rican Federation for the Conservation of the Environment to discuss the implications of the new proposed law on hydrologic resources. This law aims to open the way to a continued expansion of private hydroelectric plants (recently halted by a Constitutional Court decision). Also a meeting called "*Encuentro para la definición y unificación de criterios indígenas, ante las acciones del ICE en la potencial construcción del PH Boruca*", aimed at unifying indigenous groups in front of the Boruca Hydroelectric Project took place.

CONTACT: Gabriel Rivas-Ducca, casogari@racsa.co.cr

EL SALVADOR

In coordination with the people of Carolina in San Miguel, a vigil took place to bring attention to the proposed damming of El Chaparral.

Contact: Juan, cebes@netcomsa.com

HONDURAS

Indigenous Hondurans Mark The International Day of Action With A Cultural Exchange Between Dam–Affected Communities

On March 14, 2002, members of indigenous Lenca communities of eastern Honduras who are being threatened by a dam project celebrated the International Day of Action Against Dams by holding a cultural and informational exchange with visiting members of the Maya Achi people of Guatemala, whose own community of Rio Negro was devastated by a dam built in their region during the 1980s. The event will take place in the Lenca village of San Antonio, a traditional settlement that will disappear entirely under water if the proposed mega–dam El Tigre is built on the nearby Lempa River.

The goal of the event is to provide a forum for exchange between two indigenous communities facing similar problems. The visiting delegation of 7 Maya Achi people will have a chance to share their horrific experience of displacement and massacres due to the building of the Chixul dam, beginning in 1980 — experiences they have recently begun to share with the world in order to prevent similar events elsewhere. Meanwhile, their presence will help strengthen the on–going opposition of members of the Lenca population of the Lempa Valley to the El Tigre dam project, which would see them displaced and traditional lands flooded.

Event organizers COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras) hope the exchange sends a strong message internationally that indigenous people are informed and opposed to dam projects which displace and damage without consultation with indigenous land owners.

ORGANIZING GROUP: COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras)

CONTACT: Marguerite Pigeon; copinh@hondutel.hn

PANAMA

Fundacion para la Promocion del Conocimiento Indigena (Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge)

The Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge held an event against the repression of indigenous peoples. They organized an event about the situation of

the local communities in the face of the expansion of river basin canals.

ORGANIZING GROUP: Fundacion para la Promocion del Conocimiento Indigena
(Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge)

CONTACT: Marcial Arias, ariasmarcial@hotmail.com

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general

About IRN
About Rivers &
Dams
Books,
Publications, Videos
Careers and
Internships
Get Involved!
Membership
Information

International Day of Action

North America

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02-11-
2002

day of action

Call to Action
Press Release
Take Action!
2007 Actions and
Events
2007 Slideshow
Contact Day of
Action Organizers
Background
Materials

Events will be posted as soon as they are received. Please check back as the day approaches for more information or contact us with questions at dayofaction@irn.org.

CANADA

La F•d•ration qu•b•coise du canot et du kayak (FQCK) *

FQCK held a press release adoption of several rivers. 32 artists and the 91 groups signed a petition for free rivers, requiring that the government put an end to the program "durable destruction". They asked the Minister of Energy to take the route of the energy saving to help reduce the energy requirement, rather than construct new power facilities..

Press releases are available below (in French):

- [Centrales hydro•lectriques priv•es: Florent Vollant adopte la rivi•re Manitou](#)
- [Journ•e internationale contre les barrages: L•opposition aux centrales priv•es prend de l•ampleur](#)

Contact: <http://www.canot-kayak.qc.ca/>

MEXICO

mailing list

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Halt the construction of a dam. Halt the contamination of water bodies.

A press conference was held in the state capital of Tabasco. The municipalities of Cardenas, Centla, and Centro are heavily affected by contaminated rivers and a nearby hydroelectric dam. Modifications in fresh water reserves and temperature regimes are affecting species and biodiversity in two biosphere preserves, •Montes Azules Chiapas• and •Pantanos de Centla Tabasco. •

DATE: March 14, 2002

LOCATION: Villahermosa Tabasco, Mexico

CONTACT: Hugo Ireta Guzman, Consejo Ciudadano del Agua del Estado de Tabasco A.C., ccatabasco@hotmail.com

UNITED STATES

An Open Forum: The Proposal To Drain Lake Powell reservoir, Utah

Hosted by the College of Eastern Utah–Moab Center, this major public event featured the exchange of viewpoints by representatives of groups arguing for and against decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam and restoring a free–flowing Colorado River. Other groups with a stake in the issue were also given opportunity to provide input. Invited experts from a variety of backgrounds helped to assure the factual integrity of information presented.

DATE: Saturday, March 9, 10:30–Noon

LOCATION: Senior Citizens Center Moab, Utah

CONTACT: C.Chad Runyon, info@glencanyon.org , <http://www.glencanyon.org/>

Rally for Utah's Rivers: State of Utah's Rivers Report Released at State Capital on Day of Action Against Dams

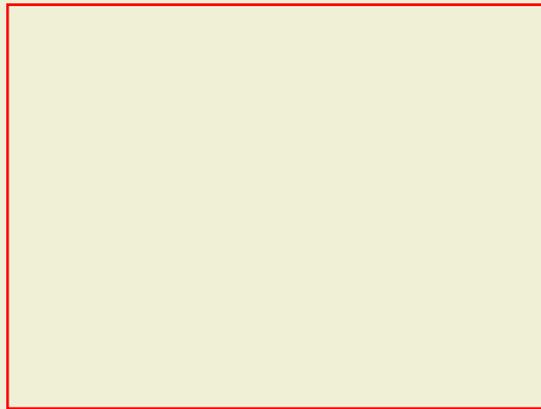
Living Rivers held a rally and press conference in the Utah State Capitol building. Activists from across the state came. A report we prepared was released on the "State of Utah's Rivers." The theme was "Adopting our consumption to rivers, not rivers to our consumption." Awards were given out, one for "River Stewardship" and one "Rivers by Dammed." All info & report posted at <http://www.livingrivers.net>. They received excellent media coverage from throughout the state, all the major newspapers, TV and radio.

As river advocates from around the world gathered for the 5th Annual International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water & Life, Utah environmental leaders from across the state joined Living Rivers in the release of a report on the State of Utah's Rivers. With the theme of adapting lifestyles to rivers, not rivers to lifestyles, the report laid out the good and the bad happening to the rivers in Utah.

"We're quite pleased that efforts are underway to kill two dams proposed for the Bear River Valley, and that water conservation is now on the tongues of elected officials," said Living Rivers executive director Owen Lammers. "But Utah's quest to continue consuming water at a per capita rate higher than 48 other states, will soon cause our rivers to run dry.

ORGANIZING GROUP: Living Rivers

CONTACT: Owen Lammers ; 435-259-1063 ; owen@livingrivers.net ; <http://www.livingrivers.net>



Matilija Dam Field Trip—Sediment and Matilija Dam, California

Engineers discussed core sampling and geotechnical investigations relating to the Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. After an examination and discussion of the sediment core samples, there was a trip to the dam site.

DATE: March 23, 2002 9:30am-12:00 PM

LOCATION: Meet at the County Public Works Yard on Hwy 33 near Ojai, CA 0.8 miles west of the Hwy33/Hwy150 •Y•, on the right just past El Roblar Dr.

CONTACT: <http://www.matilija-coalition.org>

Navarasa Dance Theater Presents "Agua Thanneer Water (water water water)", Massachusetts

'Agua Thanneer Water' (water water water), written and co-directed by Boston-based writer, Raju Sivasankaran. The challenging interplay of solo dance, music, and theater brings alive two stories about common people's struggle to get water: one set in Madurai, India and another in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Sindhoor's performance, both powerful and exquisite, portrays the struggles faced by the common woman in a piece that blends Indian classical and folk dance, modern western style theatre, and world music.

DATE: Fri. Mar. 22 and Sat. Mar. 23, 2002

LOCATION: Tower Auditorium Massachusetts College of Art 621 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115 (Green 'E' Line (track 1 or 2) Longwood/Hospitals stop)

TIME: 8:00pm Tickets: \$15 for general admission, \$10 for students and artists To reserve: call 617-776-7939 or e-mail: navarasa@navarasa.org For driving directions check www.massart.edu

CONTACT: <http://www.asindhoor.net>

Restore Hetch Hetchy, California

RESTORE HETCH HETCHY held a reception at Galen Rowell's Mountain Light Studio in Emeryville on Saturday, March 9, 2002, 5 pm. A silent auction of beautiful photography accompanied the reception. All proceeds benefited the effort to restore Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley, the place John Muir called "a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples."

LOCATION: 1466 66th Street (between Hollis and Shellmound) in Emeryville, California

DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2002, 5 pm

CONTACT: <http://www.hetchhetchy.org/>

Restoring Glen Canyon: A Paradise Lost, Utah

- Dams are from Mars, Rivers are from Venus
Jeri Ledbetter, Executive Director of Glen Canyon Institute, presented an informative slide show on the impacts of Glen Canyon Dam and the potential for restoration of Glen Canyon.
- Love Stories from a Lost Canyon
Katie Lee, Western singer and environmentalist, presented a slide show featuring photographs of Glen Canyon before it was flooded by Lake Powell reservoir, accompanied by essay and song.

ORGANIZING GROUP: Glen Canyon Institute, Canyonlands Natural History Association

DATE: March 27, 2002 at 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Star Hall 159 E. Center Street, Moab, Utah

CONTACT: C. Chad Runyon, info@glencanyon.org , <http://www.glencanyon.org/>

RiverWords Poetry Reading

In conjunction with the International Rivers Network Day of Action for Rivers, a poetry reading featuring mostly local poets was held in celebration and honor of the Carmel River and all Earth's rivers.

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Thunderbird Bookshop, Carmel, California

CONTACT: RisingLeaf Watershed Arts, (831) 624-9467

SPONSORED BY: RisingLeaf Watershed Arts and Upwellings Ministry of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Save Our Rivers! Save Our Shad! Rally for the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers, Virginia

Only the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers remain as healthy, productive shad fisheries in Virginia. But the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has granted permits to Newport News to divert water from the Mattaponi for drinking water to fuel sprawl development on the Peninsula and to Hanover County to dump into the Pamunkey River sewage that would come from the sprawl development the county is encouraging. A rally was held to demonstrate to Governor Mark Warner and Secretary Tayloe Murphy the folly of the DEQ decisions during the Gilmore Administration and the determination of Virginians to defeat these unwise projects. Master of Ceremony & Special Musical Guest: Page Wilson host of WCVE's Out O' the Blue Radio Revue and William Perritt the Rodeo Clown

DATE: Monday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Bell Tower on the Capital Grounds, 9th St. & Franklin St., Richmond, VA

CONTACT: Call 804-225-9113 or visit: <http://www.savethemattaponi.org> or <http://www.saveourriver.org>

SPONSORED BY: The Alliance to Save the Mattaponi, Save Our River, and Sierra Club-Virginia Chapter

World Bank Petition Asking for the Adoption of World Commission on Dams Guidelines

Environmental Defense launched a petition asking the World Bank to adopt the guidelines of the World Commission on Dams report. Let the World Bank know that you, as a taxpayer, do not want your public funds to support dam projects that are not environmentally sustainable or that compromise international human rights standards. Call on the World Bank to implement the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams to prevent the use of your funds for the financing of environmentally and socially destructive dam projects.

CONTACT: Environmental Defense, <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/>

Also, please keep checking our website as we will continue to add photographs and other materials on actions around the world. And, if you organized an action that we don't know about, or you do not see your action listed, please contact us as soon as possible. Don't forget to include photos and press releases – and send [us](#) video if you can!

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South Asia	Updated 03-4- 2002
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PAKISTAN

Pakistan Network of Rivers, Dams and People

Pakistan Network of Rivers, Dams and People will be holding a press conference and a public seminar on the Tarbela dam, a case study of World Commission on Dams.

Location: Islamabad, Pakistan Contact: Naeem Iqbal, Naeemasu@hotmail.com

Rally Against Thal Canal Suppressed

Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Mirpurkhas, organized a rally to protest against construction of Greater Thal Canal in Punjab. A large number of party workers and sympathizers, affected farmers and people from all walks of life participated in the protest rally. Originally, the Mirpurkhas rally was planned to joint the rally from Karachi to Sukkur, however, law-enforcing agencies stopped the rally at Jamrao Canal check post and did not allow the participants to proceed further. PPP leaders decided to stage protest demonstration in front of press club Mirpurkhas. Later a press conference was held and action of law enforcing authorities was condemned

general

- About IRN
- About Rivers & Dams
- Books, Publications, Videos
- Careers and Internships
- Get Involved!
- Membership Information

day of action

- Call to Action
- Press Release
- Take Action!
- 2007 Actions and Events
- 2007 Slideshow
- Contact Day of Action Organizers
- Background Materials

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and protest against construction of greater Thal Canal was registered. Reports reaching Mirpurkhas indicated that protest marches were also stopped elsewhere and government did not allow protestors to march on National Highway. Detailed reports are still awaited from elsewhere. Statement of Mir Atta Muhammad Talpur—
Mirpurkhas, Sindh.

CONTACT: Atta Muhammad Talpur, <http://geocities.com/indusfarming>

LOCATION: Mirpurkhas, Sindh

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general

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About Rivers &
Dams
Books,
Publications, Videos
Careers and
Internships
Get Involved!
Membership
Information

International Day of Action

Southeast Asia

Updated
01-11-
2002

day of action

Call to Action
Press Release
Take Action!
2007 Actions and
Events
2007 Slideshow
Contact Day of
Action Organizers
Background
Materials

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INDONESIA

Serikat Petani Jawa Barat (West Java Peasant Movement)

To celebrate the International Day of Action and the 11th Anniversary of the West Java Peasant Movement, SPJB members all around participated in events. Several actions were undertaken, including large meetings, mass actions, speakers, and other activities.

CONTACT: Wastuti Mia, mwastuti@yahoo.com

Pancur Kasih Concorcium of Empowerment of The Dayak People

Details forthcoming.

JAPAN

Friends of the Earth Japan Plans Demonstrations

mailing list

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Organizations working on dam problems inside and outside of Japan gathered for a demonstration to mark this year's International Day of Action. Demonstrators brought their own flags, handed out flyers, and made speeches on the street.

LOCATION: In front of the House of Councilors, 11:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

ORGANIZING GROUP: FoE Japan

CONTACT: Naomi Kanzaki, Tel +81-3-3951-1081, E-mail: kankan@foejapan.org,

Web site: <http://www.FoEJapan.org>

Struggle Committee Against TOKUYAMA DAM

The Struggle Committee Against TOKUYAMA DAM held a rally and a protest march on March 10, 2002 in Ogaki city, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. The law suit to stop the compulsory land purchase on this dam will soon be concluded; meanwhile the government is trying to take the same measure at two other dams which have been strongly opposed for decades: the Tomada and the Kawabegawa dams. We speak out in solidarity against such wasteful public works and their despotic ways of promotion.

The Sagami River Camp-in Symposium are supporting this event together with the National Dam Opposition Network- Japan (Suigen-ren).

ORGANIZING GROUP: The Struggle Committee Against TOKUYAMA DAM; under the auspices of The National Dam Opposition Network- Japan (Suigen-ren) and The Sagami River Camp-in Symposium

CONTACT: Masahito Ujiie (The National Dam Opposition Network- Japan (Suigen-ren)), Ken-ichi Kanao (The Sagami River Camp-in Symposium) BXI04376@nifty.ne.jp (Ujiie), ken-ichi.kanao@nifty.ne.jp (Kanao)

WEBSITE: <http://www3.justnet.ne.jp/~kanaoken/oozeki/OOZEKI.htm>

Photos from the Tokuyama Dam Demonstration (click to zoom).



MALAYSIA

A meeting and workshop were held on March 14th about the Bakun Dam on the Balui river, about 37 km upstream of Belaga in Sarawak. Leaders of the five affected communities of Batu Kalo, Sang Anau, Long Jawe, Long Ayak, and Long Lawen attended. The leaders and the people were united among themselves as victims together with the others all over the world.

DATE: March 14th, 2002

PHILLIPINES

Cordillera People's Alliance Petition Against the San Roque Multi-purpose Dam Project

In contribution to the March 14 5th Annual International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life, Cordillera People's Alliance is launched the second phase of their petition campaign. Compared to the first phase, this second phase targeted the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo through personal e-mailed petitions from as many individuals as possible. View the [full petition](#).

CONTACT:

Cordillera People's Alliance

53D First Road, Palma

Baguio City, 2600

Philippines

Tel: +6374-445-7306 , Fax: +6374-443-7159

E-mail: cpa11@skyinet.net

Forum on Ambuklao and Binga Dams

On March 14, the inaction regarding the displacement of indigenous peoples in the construction of the Ambuklao and Binga dams in 1950 and now was discussed. The displacement of some 200 families over the nearly completed San Roque dam was the topic of a forum regarding the negative effects and impacts of large dams. This forum was organized by the project PINE TREE headed by founder and director MICHAEL A. BENGWAYAN.

LOCATION: Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines

CONTACT: pinetreemab@hotmail.com

THAILAND

Feb 26, 2002: Worshipping the Yom River for Against Kaeng Sua Ten (KST) dam Project, Phrae North Thailand.

1,000 villagers who will be affected by KST held a ceremony for worshipping the goddess of the Yom river and Golden teak forest in the area which will be inundate by KST. Senator Tuenjai Deetes, Chief of Ministry of Sciences Technology and Environment Mr. Suppavit Piampongsant, Provincial Governor and NGOs spoke to the villagers and to support them in their struggles.

ORGANIZING GROUP: Villager Organization for Against KST Wildlife Fund Thailand
Friends of the People SEARIN Thailand

CONTACT: Mr. Hannarong Yoayalers Wildlife Fund Thailand Tel: 66-2-5522111
Mr. Prasitiporn Karn-onsri Friends of the People-Thailand Tel: 66-2-2811916 Email:
fopthai@asiaaccess.net.th

Mr. Chainarong Sretthachau Southeast Asia Rivers Network-Thailand Chapter
(SEARIN-Thailand) 78 Moo 10 Suthep Road Muang Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand Tel:
(66) 53-278334, 280712 Fax: (66) 53-283609 www.searin.org Email:
searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th

March 10-15: Campaign and Workshop on Dams and Development and WCD

LOCATION: in front of Srisaket City Hall and Ketsiri Hotel, Srisaket Province, NE
Thailand Detail activities:

- March 10-15; exhibition on dam rivers and people March 11; public panel on the impact of dam on communities and livelihood present by people affected by dams from various area (in front of Srisaket City Hall) Workshop on state policies on water management and impacts (Ketsiri Hotel) March 12; Workshop on WCD (Ketsiri Hotel)
- March 13; Workshop for comment on the Project for Social and Environment Reparation at Rasi Salai Dam.
- March 14; Walk rally for public campaign in Srisaket City

ORGANIZING GROUP: Assembly of the Poor (People affected by dams) SEARIN-
Thailand Save Tam Mun Project

CONTACT: Mr.Chainarong Sretthachau Southeast Asia Rivers Network–Thailand Chapter (SEARIN–Thailand) 78 Moo 10 Suthep Road Muang Chiang Mai 50200 Thailand Tel: (66) 53–278334, 280712 Fax: (66) 53–283609 <http://www.searin.org> Email: searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th

March 14 Day of Action Against Dams in Bangkok.

- Morning 8–11 am walk rally for against dams Avenue: start from Rattanakosin Hotel and end at Democratic Monument.
- Afternoon 1–5 pm: Public panel on "Dams: Profit for Whom? Keynote speaker: Mr.Detcharat Sukkamnoed (academics), Mr.Hannarong Yoewalers, Mr. Chainarong Sretthachau, Dr.Krirkkiat Pipatseritham and a representative from Assembly of the Poor. Avenue: 14th October Monument, Ratchadamnern Road.
- Evening 5–8.45 pm Cultural event on rivers and water Avenue: 14th October Monument, Ratchadamnern Road.

ORGANIZING GROUP: Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, Institutes Student Federation of Thailand Watchapuet Student Group–Thammasat University Lawa Student Group–Ratchapat Institute Suan Sunanta and Suan Dusit Youth Training Programme Club for Suksa Panha Lang Suem Som–Ramkhamhaeng University Wildlife Fund Thailand Friends of the People

CONTACT: Ms. Patcharee Jullahiran, Coordinator, 121 Soi Chalermkla, Phayathai, Ratchathevi Bangkok 10400 Tel: 66–2–2511025

The last week of March

SEARIN and Assembly of the Poor organized a field trip for the media and academics to visit the Mun river and Pak Mun dam. The villagers affected by Pak Mun dam released a progress report of villager research on fish. They traveled along the Mouth of the Mun river by boat and camped at the rapid.

CONTACT: Mr. Chainarong Sretthachau Southeast Asia Rivers Network–Thailand Chapter (SEARIN–Thailand) Tel: (66) 53–278334, 280712 Fax: (66) 53–283609 <http://www.searin.org> Email: searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th

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