

# International Day of Action

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## 2003 Actions

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

For descriptions of actions planned in 2003 and contact information, please select one of the following regions:

- [Africa](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Latin America](#)
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- [Southeast Asia](#)

If you had have something planned for and have not yet contacted us, please let us know how you plan to celebrate this year. We look forward to hearing from you!

International Rivers Network

[dayofaction@irn.org](mailto:dayofaction@irn.org)

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### Africa Events

#### Mozambique

##### **Pamphlet distribution in Mozambique**

Livaningo posted their Mpanda Uncua Dam campaign pamphlets at traffic intersections throughout the city of Maputo, Mozambique on March 14. The pamphlets will express their concerns about the Mphanda Nkuwa (also known as Mpanda Uncua) Dam proposed by the Mozambican government as well as the general environmental concerns of the group.

CONTACT: Livaningo, +258 1 314439, [Livaningo@tvcabo.co.mz](mailto:Livaningo@tvcabo.co.mz)

#### South Africa

##### **Parkwood Wetland Project**

River activists in South Africa celebrated the International Day of Action at Edith Stephens Wetlands Park. Recreality Holisticultural organization plans a full day of guest speakers, natural earth-music, poets, marimba bands and DJs.

CONTACT: Bernard Brown at Recreality Holisticultural Organization, 021.705.5705

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### Europe Events

#### England

#### **Protests against the extension of the Mangla Dam in Kashmir**

Anti Mangla Dam Extension Committee held, among other events, a hunger strike outside of the Pakistani Consulate in Manchester, England. The proposed extension of the Mangala dam would displace over 100,000 people in the Mirpur district of Pakistani occupied southern Kashmir.

CONTACT: Shams Rehman at Anti Mangla Dam Extension Committee, [shamakashmiri@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shamakashmiri@yahoo.co.uk)

#### France

#### **Pout Dam action**

The permit for the Poutes Dam on the Allier River in France is up for renewal. Despite protests from environmentalists concerned about the degradation of the habitat of the already dwindling Atlantic salmon the French government agreed on the renewal in 2000. Two years after, in January 2002, the impact study commissioned by the environmental group SOS Loire Vivante–EDF was given to the 26 town councils for agreement. On March 12th 2003, SOS Loire Vivante organized a meeting between environmental organizations and fisheries groups concerned

about the dam. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants wrote an open letter on March 14th, the International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life, to be signed by 17 organizations and sent to the 26 towns concerned by the decision and to the local newspapers and to the Prefect.

CONTACT: Fabien Clement at SOS LOIRE VIVANTE – ERN [fabien.clement@rivernet.org](mailto:fabien.clement@rivernet.org), Tel : (+33) 4 71 05 57 88

## **Russia**

### **Convention for school children**

ASVIK Trade Union hosted a convention for school children in honor of the Day of Action in Anzhero–Sudzhensk, West Siberia, Russia.

CONTACT: ASVIK Trade Union at [vasmy@kuzbass.net](mailto:vasmy@kuzbass.net)

## **Spain**

### **Protest against Spain's national water plan**

An action in Saragosse, Spain was held to protest the national water plan calling for the diversion of the Ebro River and multiple dams. The action was by the Aragon River Association Against the Raising of the Yesa Dam, an association of people affected by the raising of the Yesa dam in the Aragon Pyrenees, in the provinces of Zaragoza and Navarra, Spain. They belong to the Spanish coalition COAGRET, which fights against destructive dams. The planned action is to climb to the summit of Collarada peak, the highest peak in the Western Pyrenees, at an elevation of 2,868. The Western Pyrenees is the headwaters of the Aragon River (on which the Yesa Dam is located) and of its main tributaries. At the top of Collarada peak they will display a banner reading: S.O.S. PIRINEOS (S.O.S. Pyrenees), STOP EMBALSES (stop dams). Through the

action they want to stress that the integrity of rivers is vital, from a river's birth to the confluence.

CONTACT: Daniel Go? Mart•z at COAGRET – EBRO VIVO, [dani.larre@terra.es](mailto:dani.larre@terra.es)

**Asociacion Rio Aragon plans Pyrenees ascent in Spain**

Asociacion Rio Aragon (an affinity group of COAGRET–EBRO VIVO), climbed to the summit of Collarada Mountain in the Pyrenees to celebrate the International Day of Action.

Overlooking the meeting of the Zaragoza River and Ebro Rivers, they read a statement in honor of rivers, water and life. The activists were dressed as zebra mussels as they made a statement in defense of these threatened animals and for the rights of the river.

CONTACT: Victoria Trigo at COAGRET – EBRO VIVO, [v.trigo@able.es](mailto:v.trigo@able.es)

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### Latin America Events

#### Brazil

#### **Brazilians ask for solution to problems with dams**

13 actions are taking place in all regions of Brazil, bringing together dam-affected from 15 states, who ask for a solution to ongoing problems in dams already constructed or under construction. MAB denounces privatizations of the energy companies, most financed with public money through BNDES (national development bank), as responsible for increases in electric rates and for the crisis of the sector. They also demand changes in the national energy matrix and adequate rates, so that who uses more energy pays more, and who consumes less, pays less.

#### **Activities March 14, 2003 – Brazil:**

- Upper Rio Doce valley/Minas Gerais state: March 12: occupation of Candonga Dam
- Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais: March 13: camp in front of state Legislative Assembly, with dam-affected from Minas Gerais and Bahia states
- Nossa Senhora do Socorro, Sergipe state: March 13: camp by dam-affected at the work site of Rio Poxim A?? dam
- S?o Paulo: March 14: national action bringing together

dam-affected and support groups from the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo, and Mato Grosso states

- Minas Gerais and Cavalcante, Goiás state: March 14: camp of dam-affected at Cana Brava Dam. Over three hundred families who had taken over the powerhouse at Cana Brava dam on Saturday left the dam site when presented with a court order to do so, and are now camped out at the dam gates. Tractebel, the Belgian company which owns the dam (subsidiary of French water conglomerate Suez S.A.) has promised to bring officials to the dam site to hear the protesters' demands, and this meeting should take place either today or tomorrow (Mon or Tues).
- Uruçuca, Goiás: March 14: public demonstration by dam-affected of Serra da Mesa Dam
- Arroio das Arroeiras, Paraíba state; March 14: set up camp by dam-affected of Castanhão dam, Ceará state and Açu dam, Paraíba state
- Palmeiras, Tocantins state; March 14: set up camp by those affected by Peixe and São Salvador dams
- Imperatriz, Maranhão state: national act bringing together families threatened and affected by dams in the states of Goiás, Tocantins, Maranhão, and Pará
- Jataizinho, Paraná state: celebration against construction of dams on the Tibagi River
- Campos Novos, Santa Catarina state: demonstration bringing together dam-affected from Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná states
- Alto Floresta do Oeste, Rondônia state: March 17: camp against construction of dams in Rondônia state

- Catal?o, Goi?s state: public demonstration against construction of Serra do Fac?o dam

**Press Release:** [Dam–Affected Denounce National Energy Policy – Mobilizations Mark March 14th – International Day of Struggle against Dams](#)

### **Manso Dam affected celebrate victory**

The Mines and Energy and Agrarian Development Ministries have ordered the state electric company, Furnas, to review the situation with resettlements at Manso dam, Mato Grosso, Brazil. Thus, the protest by families camped out outside the Furnas offices in Cuiab? became a celebration of this fact on the D of A.

### **Dam–Affected occupy headquarters of AES/Eletropaulo**

In a demonstration part of national mobilizations for a new energy model, approximately 1,000 dam–affected or dam–threatened people from the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paran?, Mato Grosso and S?o Paulo are in the headquarters of AES/Eletropaulo in S?o Paulo, where they have been joined by labor unions and support groups as part of national activities for the 14th of March – Intl. Day of Action Against Dams, and with the objective of denouncing privatizations in the Brazilian electric sector as responsible for the energy crisis and rate hikes.

### **Protest against dams on the Xingu River**

Movimento de Mulheres Trabalhadoras de Altamira (Movement of Women Workers of Altamira) along with other river activists and concerned citizens demonstrated on March 14th against the Belo Monte dam which is currently under construction and four other dams planned by the state electricity company Electronorte for the Xingu River.

CONTACT: Movimento de Mulheres Trabalhadoras de Altamira /

Campo e Cidade, Fone/Fax: (93) 515–2406,  
[fvpp@amazoncoop.com.br](mailto:fvpp@amazoncoop.com.br)

## **Colombia**

### **Protest against the Urr? Dam**

Asprocig, a group of fishers, farmers and indigenous peoples affected by the Urr? Dam in Columbia, honored the Day of Action through a symbolic burial to the endangered bocachico fish that brought attention to the catastrophic and irreversible environmental and social damages in the Sinú River basin due to the construction of the Urr? Dam. In 1996 the Sinú River was diverted and the 73–meter height Urr? Dam was constructed by the multinational Skanska. Fish species like the bocachico, which thousands of families in the river basin have historically relied on for food and livelihood, have all but disappeared. For more information read [?Tres Razones Basicas para Desmantelar a Urr?.](#)? CONTACT: [asprocig@colnodo.org.apc.co](mailto:asprocig@colnodo.org.apc.co)

## **Guatemala**

### **Peten Front Against Dams**

Over 25 groups including indigenous peoples, churches and unions sponsored a day of direct action and educational protest in Peten, Guatemala on the Day of Action. They renamed Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) ?Pobreza Para el Pueblo? to voice their concern that the free trade agreement will only bring further poverty to the already impoverished region. They also expressed their concerns about the proposed hydroelectric dams on the Usumacinta River that are part of Plan Puebla Panama. To bring public attention to their disagreement to the plan, they posted large banners in over thirty locations and blockaded roads in four regions of Peten. The event was broadcast nationally by radio.

[Watch a slide show of this event](#)

CONTACT: Peten Front Against Dams, [cieppeten@inteln.net.gt](mailto:cieppeten@inteln.net.gt)

## **Mexico**

### **Dam protest on Rio Usumacinta**

On March 13th a team of activists, filmmakers, doctors, and nurses, began a six-day trip down the Usumacinta River, on the border separating the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, and Guatemala, in declared solidarity with the International Day Against Dams, and other anti-dam actions happening in Peten, Guatemala, and Chiapas. The Usumacinta, one of the last major free-flowing rivers in Central America, faces its third major dam threat in twenty years, part of Presidente Vicente Fox's proposed Plan Puebla Panama to develop southern Mexico and neighboring nations.

CONTACT: Rios Mayas, [dave@gomaya.com](mailto:dave@gomaya.com) or [cshaw@together.net](mailto:cshaw@together.net)

[www.GoMaya.com/dams](http://www.GoMaya.com/dams) or [www.GoMaya.com/riosmayas](http://www.GoMaya.com/riosmayas)

### **Public event about dams and resistance in Chiapas**

In San Cristóbal de las Casa, Chiapas, Saturday 15 of March at the main plaza of the city there was a public event with information about dams and screening of videos about dams and the resistance. NO MORE DAMS!

### **Anti-dam actions in Palenque**

Thirty-six communities of the Palenque region of Mexico organized actions for the Day of Action. Among the many actions planned were marches in the streets in which people chanted and held signs saying "no dams" to show their support for the Day of Action.

CONTACT: Gustavo at [guscastro@laneta.apc.org](mailto:guscastro@laneta.apc.org)

### **Community forum on Benito Juarez Dam**

In Jalapa del Marques, Oaxaca, Saturday March 15 a

community forum with information, updates and exchange of experiences on the impacts of the Benito Juarez Dam.

En Jalapa del Marqués, Oaxaca, México; el sábado 15  
asamblea comunitaria de información, denuncia y resistencia  
contra la represa "Benito Juárez".

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### North America Events

#### United States

#### **New Orleans–style funeral procession to celebrate rivers**

Friends of the River and International Rivers Network celebrated the demise of dams and rebirth of rivers, water and life with a New Orleans–style funeral procession through downtown Auburn on March 15th. The event was a celebration of the recent decision to close the dam diversion tunnel, the first nail into the coffin of Auburn dam. After the march there were inspirational speakers and music by Mumbo Gumbo. For more information, visit [www.irn.org/dayofaction](http://www.irn.org/dayofaction).

[See Photos of the Event](#)

[Additional Photos](#) of the event generously donated by [Sierra Digital Services](#).

[Read](#) the article about the event from the Auburn Journal.

CONTACT: International Rivers Network, 510-848-1155, [dayofaction@irn.org](mailto:dayofaction@irn.org); Friends of the River, 916.442.3155, [www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org)

### **Campaign to bring Mill Creek back to life**

Living Rivers kicked-off a new campaign to bring Mill Creek in Utah back to life on March 14. The festivities began with a noon rally and picnic on the lawn at the County Courthouse. Longtime environmental musician Peter Neils helped set a festive mood while a host of concerned citizens present information on how and why we need Mill Creek's flow. A set of recommendations for the County Council consideration was also presented, along with ways in which the community can become involved in promoting them. That evening Living Rivers will host the "Mill Creek Revival & Colorado River Fiesta" at the MARC (100 North and 100 East). This free party emphasized a revival spirit with dancing, costumes and games. Also at the MARC that evening, beginning at 7:00 P.M., was a free film "U.S. Foreign Policy: The War Against the Third World" sponsored by Moab Citizens for Peace and Global Justice.

CONTACT: Owen Lammers at Living Rivers, 435.259.1063, [info@livingrivers.org](mailto:info@livingrivers.org)

### **High school students? outreach effort in New York**

Students at Ossining High School in New York displayed educational posters and research projects about dams and related causes to honor the Day of Action.

CONTACT: Rich Sicignano at Ossining High School, NY, [rsicignano@Ossining.k12.ny.us](mailto:rsicignano@Ossining.k12.ny.us)

### **Alumysa Project action**

To honor the Day of Action, American Lands Alliance sent out an alert about the Alumysa Project. Canadian giant Noranda proposes to build a huge aluminum smelter in the heart of Chile's temperate evergreen rainforest of the eleventh region. A globalization nightmare, the Noranda smelter would use ore shipped in from Australia, Jamaica and Brazil, drown 10,200 hectares of pristine forest, rivers and lakes with six dams for electricity to run the plant, then ship the finished product to its markets in North America. The project cost is \$2.75 billion (USD) and Noranda hopes the Canadian government will finance it. In participation in the Day of Action, American Lands Alliance plans to send an alert around on a number of listserves to get people to write letters to the CEO of Noranda, the Canadian corporation that wants to build the aluminum plant.

CONTACT: Pat Rasmussen at American Lands Alliance, 509.548.7640, [patr@americanlands.org](mailto:patr@americanlands.org)

### **Water privatization teach-in**

Association for India's Development in Austin, Texas will hold an awareness day on March 29th at the University of Texas in Austin. Lectures and teach-in on water privatization issues are planned to commemorate the day.

CONTACT: Rajesh Rao at Association for India's Development, 512.933.7099, [Rajesh.Rao@motorola.com](mailto:Rajesh.Rao@motorola.com)

### **Delaware Riverkeeper Network publishes book**

Delaware Riverkeeper Network has released *In Defense of Watersheds; protecting your community from flooding without dams*, a new publication addressing flooding and how to protect communities and watersheds without dams and conventional detention basins. The publication, authored by Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum and Special

Projects Director Tracy Carluccio, addresses the causes of increased flood damages in our communities and how to reduce these damages effectively while also benefiting communities, the environment and water resources. The book is available from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network office or at [www.delawariverkeeper.org](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org).

CONTACT: Debby Colgan at Delaware Riverkeeper Network, [drkn@comcat.com](mailto:drkn@comcat.com) or 609-656-7797

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### South Asia Events

#### India

#### **Protest against the proposed Tipaimukh Dam**

Citizens Concern for Dams and Development staged an action for March 14th protesting the proposed mega dam at Tipaimukh to be built in Manipur. The issue of the long proposed dam has resurfaced recently due to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Manipur government and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) early in January. The MoU in effect paves the way for NEEPCO to get the necessary funds and go ahead with a number of concrete steps towards the implementation of the project. This has happened in the face of consistent opposition to this dam from different sections of the indigenous people of Manipur, particularly from the two districts where the proposed dam and its reservoir, the generation plant and other related establishments are going to result in the maximum effects. The theme of the action on March 14th was: "Water is Life: Development and the Voice of the People" and included a forum for public discussion, speakers and workshops.

CONTACT: Roy Laifungbam at Citizens Concern for Dams and Development, 91 361 222 87 09, 222 87,  
[CCDD\\_Manipur@hotmail.com](mailto:CCDD_Manipur@hotmail.com)

## **Pakistan**

### **Conference for dam affected communities**

A conference for dam-affected communities in Pakistan took place on March 14–15 2003, to honor the importance of the International Day of Action and to show solidarity with the international community affected by dams.

CONTACT: Zubiada Birwani at PNRDP Sindh Steering Committee,  
[zbirwani@yahoo.com](mailto:zbirwani@yahoo.com)

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### Southeast Asia Events

#### Australia

##### Water Matters campaign launch

AID/WATCH of Australia celebrated the Day of Action by the launching of a new campaign, ?Water Matters.?

CONTACT: [www.watermattersaustralia.org](http://www.watermattersaustralia.org)

#### Hong Kong

##### Mekong River Writing Project

On the Day of Action Hong Kong-based Mekong River Writing Group, sent a letter of concern to the Hong Kong office of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Central Government's Liaison Office, expressing concern on China's role in the development of Lancang-Mekong River, i.e. the dam projects and navigation improvement project.

CONTACT: Kevin Li [contact@chinariver.org](mailto:contact@chinariver.org), [www.chinariver.org](http://www.chinariver.org)

#### Indonesia

##### Meeting on the Indonesia Water Network

Serikat Petani Jawa Barat (West Java Peasant Movement) held an action and meeting on the Indonesia Water Network.

CONTACT: Wastuti Mia at Serikat Petani Jawa Barat (West Java Peasant Movement), [mwastuti@yahoo.com](mailto:mwastuti@yahoo.com)

### **Public debate and protest in Indonesia**

Yayasan Tanah Merdeka worked with Solidarity Committee for Lore Lindu Hydro Refusal to put on an event in Palu (Capital City of Central Sulawesi province) including a public debate in Local TV, and a protest. They expected the protest to be attended by at least 1.000 participants, which include NGOs, students, farmers, indigenous people, and labor organizations.

CONTACT: Anto Sangaji at Yayasan Tanah Merdeka, [hinoe@palu.wasantara.net.id](mailto:hinoe@palu.wasantara.net.id)

### **Malaysia**

#### **Bakun Dam action**

The Day of Action was celebrated in the Sarawak, Malaysia by an action for the communities affected by the Bakun Dam, which is currently under construction.

CONTACT: Ronald Bete at RWESA, [blahang@yahoo.com](mailto:blahang@yahoo.com)

### **Japan**

#### **Osaka citizens fight the Makio–River Dam**

Osaka–based Citizens Against the Makio–River Dam celebrated the Day of Action by giving out informational pamphlets about the impacts of the dam at Izumi city hall and at the Third World Water forum meeting in Osaka.

CONTACT: Masao Seki at Citizens against the Makio–River Dam, [m-seki@msg.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:m-seki@msg.biglobe.ne.jp)

## **JBIC action**

Friends of the Earth, Japan held an action in front of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation building, calling attention to JBIC involvement in dam projects around the world.

CONTACT: Hozue Hatae at Friends of the Earth Japan, Tel: 81-3-3951-1081, Fax: +81-3-3951-1084, [hatae@foejapan.org](mailto:hatae@foejapan.org), [www.foejapan.org](http://www.foejapan.org)

## **Thailand**

### **SEARIN plans ten days of seminars, workshops and dialogues on dams**

In honor of the Day of Action, Assembly of the Poor and Mae Moon Man Yuen villagers, and Southeast Asia Rivers Network (SEARIN) planned a plethora of events beginning March 8th and lasting until March 17th. The ten-day event consisted of a variety of workshops and seminars sponsored by different organizations including a seminar by Assembly of the Poor, Pak Mun Case on the lessons of large-scale development projects, a public panel on the people's movement in Thailand and a study tour on the human and ecological impacts in the area affected by Pak Mun Dam.

CONTACT: Mr. Hannarong at WFT: 09-9226706, Mr. Prasittiporn at Friend of the People, 09-9273556, or Chainarong "Fiat" Sretthachau at SEARIN, [searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th](mailto:searin@chmai.loxinfo.co.th)