

# International Day of Action

2005 actions

## March 14th International Day of Action for Rivers

[See a Slideshow of Actions Around the World!](#)

For descriptions of 2005 actions and contact information, please select one of the following regions:



Click your region to find out what events are happening in your area!

[Africa](#) | [Central Asia](#) | [East Asia](#) | [Europe](#) | [Latin America](#) | [Mesoamerica](#) | [North America](#) |  
[Oceania](#) | [South Asia](#) | [Southeast Asia](#)

If you held an action and have not yet contacted us, please do so as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you!

International Rivers Network

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

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- Read the [press release](#) for the 2005 International Day of Action

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### central asia

#### **Kazakhstan:**

#### **Establish the Balkash-Alakol River Basin Council**

The Kazakhstan Water Partnership established the Balkash-Alakol River Basin Council in Kazakhstan ([www.caresd.net](http://www.caresd.net)) for a National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan. The Pribalkhash region's unique biodiversity has been degraded from flow regulation and pollution, and the local peoples suffer from poverty and unemployment. The new Council takes into consideration ecological, economic and social conditions in order to improve water management in the basin.

#### **Contact:**

Evgeny Tyrtyszny  
The Kazakhstan Water Partnership  
Almaty, Kazakhstan  
E-mail: [etyrtyszny@atasu.org](mailto:etyrtyszny@atasu.org)  
Web: [www.atasu.org](http://www.atasu.org)

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#### **Turkey:**

## **Istanbul: Munzur is Life!**

Actions in Istanbul and Dersim included over 300 people marching and flowing like a river with signs reading "Munzur is Life!" and "The stream of life can not be stopped!" to protest dam projects and cyanide gold mining in the Munzur Valley. Actions also included a march to where the Harçik and Munzur rivers meet.

### **Contact:**

Munzur Hayattir

E-mail: [bilgi@munzurhayattir.org](mailto:bilgi@munzurhayattir.org)

## **Dersim: Against Dams and Mining**

People from Dersim, met in the Market Square and marched to Gole Çetu where Harçik and Munzur rivers meet and read a press release. Actions against dams and mining corporations also took place in Eskisehir, Van and Ankara.

### **Contact:**

Munzur Hayattir

E-mail: [bilgi@munzurhayattir.org](mailto:bilgi@munzurhayattir.org)

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### oceania

[Australia](#) | [Indonesia](#) | [Tasmania](#)

### Australia:

#### Melbourne: Yarra River Yabber (talk) Tour

Environment Victoria's Healthy Rivers Campaign and Waterkeepers Australia held a "Yarra Yabber Tour" of the Yarra River. The tour of the Yarra, which flows through the centre of downtown Melbourne, focused on environmental issues associated with the river system, its ecology, fish and hydrology. Leaders highlighted the problems with using the Yarra as one of the main water supplies for metropolitan Melbourne.

#### Contact:

Sue Phillips  
Healthy Rivers Campaigner  
Environment Victoria  
Melbourne, Australia  
E-mail: [sue.phillips@envict.org.au](mailto:sue.phillips@envict.org.au)  
Web: [www.environmentvictoria.org.au](http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au)

**Nepean River: Children's Day at the Beach**

Children in Australia commemorated the Nepean River with a day on the beach. The celebrations included a river fairy, women drummers, singing and cake. The children wore shirts that read "We Love Our Rivers" and threw flowers into the river to bless and protect it.

**Contact:**

Caroline Graham

E-mail: [cgraham@telpacific.com.au](mailto:cgraham@telpacific.com.au)

**Sydney: River Paddle on the Nepean**

The Nepean Action Group held a successful "Paddle for the Nepean" day in which 78 canoeists paddled down the river. People came from all over Sydney, including environmental and recreational groups, local government officials, environmental scientists and academics. The Nepean Action Group is fighting the world's biggest mining company, BHP Billiton, which plans to put several coal mines on the upper Nepean river.

**Contact:**

Caroline Graham

E-mail: [cgraham@telpacific.com.au](mailto:cgraham@telpacific.com.au)

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**Indonesia:**

**Kids Painting Competition**

Konservasi Alam dan Lingkungan Hidup (KALi)/Nature Conservation and Environment in the capital city of the North

Sumatra province, Medan, held an artistic painting competition involving over 800 students ages 9 - 11. The event focused build awareness about rivers and the meaning of water for life. The Deli River, which flows through Medan, has become polluted by domestic & industrial waste, and has impacted local peoples with its annual flood.

**Contact:**

Jimmy Panjaitan

Konservasi Alam dan Lingkungan Hidup (KALi)

Medan, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

E-mail: [kalisu@lycos.com](mailto:kalisu@lycos.com)

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**Tasmania:**

**Water Forum**

The Tasmanian Greens will hold events to inform and involve local community concerns about their water supply. The events include a Water Forum, public celebration and march in the streets, and a community meeting. Recent contamination across the state along with the increase in plantation forestry have put severe pressures on the state's once pristine waterways.

**Contact:**

Kristin Love

Tasmanian Greens

Launceston, Tasmania

E-mail: [party@tas.greens.org.au](mailto:party@tas.greens.org.au)

Web: [www.tas.greens.org.au](http://www.tas.greens.org.au)

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### mesoamerica

[Belize](#) | [Costa Rica](#) | [Guatemala](#) | [Mexico](#) | [Panama](#)

### Belize:

#### Celebrate Rivers, Water & Life

BACONGO (Belize Alliance of Conservation NGO's) stands in solidarity to celebrate Rivers, Water & Life. BACONGO calls peoples to consider the importance of healthy rivers to the people of Belize. From the Rio Hondo to the Sarstoon, the peoples are fortunate for the wealth of rivers flowing through the country.

#### Contact:

Candy Gonzalez  
E-mail: [belpobz@starband.net](mailto:belpobz@starband.net)

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### Costa Rica:

#### Protesting Dams

The Costa Rican Federation for Environmental Conservation

(FECON) and a group of concerned area residents celebrated the Day of Action by distributing information to the public. Participants came together to oppose the proposed Pocosol hydroelectric project and distributed information about the damaging effects of dams in north-central Costa Rica.

**Contact:**

Web: [www.virilla.net](http://www.virilla.net)

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**Guatemala:**

**Usumacinta River Celebration**

Members of RiosMayas, a coalition to protect the Usumacinta River watershed on the border of Mexico and Guatemala, travelled on the river in celebration of the Mexican government's shelving of plans for a dam one year ago. Plans for hydroelectric dams have been proposed three times in the last 20 years. Each time, protests from communities, environmentalists and archaeologists have pressured the government to withdraw them.

**Contact:**

Dave Pentecost

RiosMayas

E-mail: [dave@gomaya.com](mailto:dave@gomaya.com)

Web: [www.gomaya.com/dams](http://www.gomaya.com/dams)

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**Mexico:**

## **San Gaspar de los Reyes: Protest San Nicolas Dam**

Affected citizens joined with CASA - Salvemos Nuestros Pueblos (Comité de Ausentes de San Gaspar en Acción) to demonstrate against the San Nicolas Dam in Jalisco, Mexico. CASA is a committee made up of immigrants and their descendants from the state of Jalisco whose lives and towns are threatened by the dam. This project, which would dam the Rio Verde, threatens to destroy 42 communities and displace 10,000 people.

### **Contact:**

Karolo Aparicio

CASA

E-mail: [kaparicio@savesfbay.org](mailto:kaparicio@savesfbay.org)

Web: [www.casasnp.org](http://www.casasnp.org)

## **Guadalajara: Meeting of Dam-Affected Peoples**

Mexico's MAPDER, the Movement of Dam-Affected Peoples held the second Meeting of Dam-Affected Peoples and in Defense of Rivers. This community is one of 48 communities that will be flooded with the construction of the San Niclas Dam on the Rio Verde.

### **Contact:**

Karolo Aparicio

CASA

E-mail: [kaparicio@savesfbay.org](mailto:kaparicio@savesfbay.org)

Web: [www.casasnp.org](http://www.casasnp.org)

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## Panama:

### River Baptisms in Celebration of Rivers and Life

In Panama, the "Frente Unido en Defensa de la Ecología" alliance held river baptisms on the Tabasará, Santa María, Cobre and Narices rivers to celebrate their lands and people. The alliance says, "Rivers are our mother, our lives, and our family. We will never accept the destruction of our history. We demand respect -- Human Rights and Nature Rights."

#### Contact:

Larissa Duarte

MOCAMDERCO COBRE'S RIVER

E-mail: [rio\\_cobre@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:rio_cobre@yahoo.com.mx)

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### north america

#### United States of America:

#### Sacramento: Bring the Salmon Home

The Karuk Tribe, Friends of the River, and International Rivers Network held a rally to **BRING THE SALMON HOME** to the Klamath Basin. Participants marched to the steps of the capital and held a rally featuring speakers from the Tribes and commercial fishermen. The Klamath River Dams have come up for federal relicensing, which represents a significant opportunity to remove dams and restore the river.

#### Contact:

Craig Tucker  
Friends of the River  
California, USA  
E-mail: [ctucker@karuk.us](mailto:ctucker@karuk.us)  
Web: [www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org)



[Download the event flyer in PDF format](#)

**Washington, DC: Worldwide Campaign Against Kalabagh**

## **Dam**

Sindhis from across the mid-Atlantic marched in an event organized by the World Sindhi Institute (WSI). Protestors made their way from the Washington Post building, past Embassy Row to Dupont Circle, and then concluded at the BBC's Washington office. Participants passed out flyers and petitions to increase awareness about the dire condition of one of the world's great rivers.

### **Contact:**

The World Sindhi Institute (WSI)

Washington, DC USA

Phone: 202-637-3244-3245

E-mail: [wsihq@worldsindhi.org](mailto:wsihq@worldsindhi.org)

Web: [www.worldsindhi.org](http://www.worldsindhi.org)

## **Los Angeles: Seminar on "Indus River Water Mismanagement Crisis"**

World Sindhi Congress (WSC) hosted the seminar "Indus River Water Mismanagement Crisis." The event was held to highlight awareness to Pakistan's ceaseless anti-humanitarian dam and canal projects along the River Indus in Pakistan. The theme of the day was promoting the idea from Kenyan Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai, "Recognizing that sustainable development, democracy and peace are indivisible is an idea whose time has come."

### **Contact:**

Siraj Makhdoom

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Saghir Shaikh

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Web: [www.worldsindhicongress.org](http://www.worldsindhicongress.org)

### **Arcata: Northwestern River Restoration**

The Northcoast Environmental Center introduced to local governments a resolution calling for March 13 to 19 as "River Education Week", including March 14 as International Rivers Day. The focus of the period is to educate the public about Northwestern waters.

**Contact:**

Tim McKay

Northcoast Environmental Center

E-mail: [tim@ournec.org](mailto:tim@ournec.org)

Web: [www.yournec.org](http://www.yournec.org)

### **San Francisco: Protest San Nicolas Dam at Mexican Consulate**

CASA - Salvemos Nuestros Pueblos (Comité de Ausentes de San Gaspar en Acción) held a press conference and deliver over 1400 letters at the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco (532 Folsom St.). CASA works in solidarity with Mexican grassroots organizations to stop the construction of the San Nicolas Dam in Jalisco, Mexico. This project, which would dam the Rio Verde, threatens to destroy 42 communities and displace 10,000 people.

**Contact:**

Karolo Aparicio

CASA

E-mail: [kaparicio@savesfbay.org](mailto:kaparicio@savesfbay.org)

Web: [www.casasnp.org](http://www.casasnp.org)

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east asia

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**There are no actions that were reported from this region in 2005.**

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### southeast asia

[Philippines](#) | [Thailand](#)

### Philippines:

These protest actions in the Philippines were coordinated by the River Watch East and Southeast Asia (RWESA)-Philippine Network:

#### **Manila: Opposing Laiban Dam**

Over 300 indigenous peoples and farmers from Southern Tagalog that would be affected by the construction of the Laiban Dam held a picket demonstration in front of the ADB office. The peoples called for the bank to not fund this destructive project, would displace 10,000 families.

#### **Kibawe, Bukidnon: Opposing Pulangi Dam**

More than 100 people from various concerned sectors gathered to protest the construction of the Pulangi Dam V, which would displace 9,000 families.

**Contact:**

Web: [www.rwesa.org](http://www.rwesa.org)

### **Panigan-Tamugan River Trek**

Citizens from all walks of life gathered to trek the magnificent Panigan-Tamugan Rivers. Participants from young mountaineers to environmental advocates called to save the rivers. There was also a kayaking event at Davao River.

**Contact:**

Angging Aban

E-mail: [athoz@rocketmail.com](mailto:athoz@rocketmail.com)

### **Dagupan City: March and Rally Against San Roque Dam**

In Dagupan City, over 400 farmers, goldpanners and indigenous peoples held a march and rally to call for the decommissioning of the San Roque Dam and the just compensation of farmers and goldpanners in the region. The event was sponsored by TIMMAWA (Alliance of farmers along the Agno River) and Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA).

**Contact:**

Joan Carling

Cordillera Peoples Alliance

E-mail: [cpa11@skyinet.net](mailto:cpa11@skyinet.net)

Web: [www.cpaphils.org](http://www.cpaphils.org)

**Building Awareness of the San Roque Dam**

TIMMAWA, the Peasant Movement to Free the Agno River, celebrated its 5th anniversary on March 14. TIMMAWA, partnering with BAYAN and student organizations in Manila, held a forum to build awareness in the province on the effects of the San Roque Dam on Feb 5. TIMMAWA also held a conference on March 14 with 500 delegates to celebrate the Day of Action and its anniversary.

**Contact:**

Nel Nagpala

TIMMAWA

Urdaneta City, Philippines

E-mail: [staff\\_timmawa@yahoo.com](mailto:staff_timmawa@yahoo.com)

**Lecture, Film, & Community Action Planning**

The Igorot Tribal Assistance Group and Project PINE TREE in the Cordillera Region visited Binga Dam, one of the two hydroelectric dams on the Agno River that the Philippine government constructed, displacing hundreds of indigenous peoples. The March 14 event included a lecture and film show on the history of the Agno River and a Community Action Planning Session to help restore the river and its peoples.

**Contact:**

Dr. Michael A. Bengwayan

Igorot Tribal Assistance Group (ITAG)

La Trinidad, Benguet

Philippines

E-mail: [pinetreemab@hotmail.com](mailto:pinetreemab@hotmail.com)

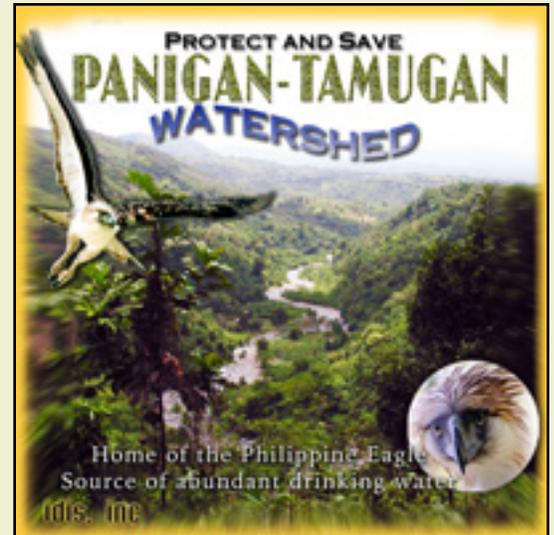
## Take Action in the Philippines, Davao City

In Davao City, Southern Philippines, various environmental organizations lined up activities aimed at dramatizing the urgency of saving and protecting the Davao River, which is the third largest river catchment on the Southern Island of Mindanao, Philippines. The activities include:

- **Fluvial Parade along Bankerohan River**

the community-based Protect the Davao River Movement (PDRM), composed of farmers, youth, women and urban poor, both from

Muslim and Christian groups, held a Fluvial Parade.



[Click to see full size poster](#)

- **Davao: Tree Planting Along Riverbanks**

LINK, Davao Inc., other NGO environmentalists and City Councilors led participants in tree planting along the riverbanks after the Fluvial Parade.

- **Mindanao: Meeting to Resist Violations**

Panaghoy sa Kinaiyahan, a coalition of environmental groups from all over Mindanao, held a meeting of representatives of various environmental organizations from the civil society to discuss what could be done in the midst of continuing gross violation of environmental laws in the country.

- **Kauban: Face Painting**

KAUBAN Mountaineers held a face-painting event in the

region to celebrate the International Day of Action.

- **Davao: Student Workshop, Painting and Collage**

Kinaiyahan Foundation and BARog KAlikupan DAbaw (BARKADA) held a workshop of secondary school students focused on Safeguarding Clean Water and its Sources Today Will Ensure Life and Hope for the Coming Generations. The event also included an on-the-spot painting and collage highlighting waters.

- **Davao: Celebrate Water for Life**

BARog KAlikupan Dabaw (BARKADA) celebrated the start of the United Nations' decade-long celebration of Water for Life. Events included a press conference with guests from the civil society groups and government representatives who will share government plans regarding Davao River protection, the city's water and its sources.

- **Davao: Street Activity**

Panaghoy sa Kinaiyahan held a street activity to dramatize the urgency of safeguarding their water and its sources.

- **Davao: Water for Life Forum**

Interface Development InitiativeS (IDIS) held a forum entitled Water for Life: Ensuring Clean and Abundant Water for Davao City.

**Contact:**

LINK, Davao Inc.

E-mail: [linkdavaoinc@skyinet.net](mailto:linkdavaoinc@skyinet.net)

Kinaiyahan Foundation

E-mail: [kinaiyahanfoundation@hotmail.com](mailto:kinaiyahanfoundation@hotmail.com)

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**Thailand:**

## Thai Villagers Rally Against Nam Theun 2 Dam Outside World Bank

More than 150 Thai villagers gathered in front of the World Bank's Bangkok headquarters to protest the Nam Theun 2 Dam in Lao PDR, now being considered for funding by the Bank. The Nam Theun 2 Dam, if built, would displace more than 6,000 villagers and affect the livelihoods of another 100,000 people living downstream along the Xe Bang Fai, a large Mekong tributary.

### Contact:

Premrudee Daorung, Director, TERRA

Srisuwan Kuankachorn, Secretary-General, NGO Coordinating Committee of Thailand

Tel: 662 691 0718

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### south asia

[India](#) | [Pakistan](#)

### India:

#### Mizoram: Media Action

The Centre for Environment Protection (CEP) celebrated the International Day of Action for Rivers with media action. The organization in Mizoram launched a press release to call attention to living rivers in the region.

#### Contact:

A.C. Zonunmawia  
CEP  
E-mail: [cep\\_mizo@lycos.com](mailto:cep_mizo@lycos.com)

#### Subansiri Valley: Women Roar Against Lower Subansiri Dam to Save Valley

The Subansiri Sangrakshak Naari Sanstha, Indigenous Women's Leadership Programme, Amar Bazaar, Peoples' Movement for Subansiri Valley, Rural Volunteers Centre, and Indigenous Forum held workshops on the role of women in resisting destructive

development projects. The women resist being the "critical test case" of the disastrous consequences of megadams in India. The participants submitted a memorandum to the Chairman of the LIC questioning the lending policy to build megadams.

**Contact:**

Subansiri Sangrakkhan Naari Santha

People's Movement for Subansiri Valley (PMSV)

E-mail: [pmsv\\_subansiri@yahoo.com](mailto:pmsv_subansiri@yahoo.com)

Centre for Organisation Research & Education (CORE)

Indigenous Women's Leadership Programme

E-mail: [core\\_ne@coremanipur.org](mailto:core_ne@coremanipur.org) or [rboro@coremanipur.org](mailto:rboro@coremanipur.org)

Rural Volunteers Centre - Amar Bazaar (RVC)

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Delhi Forum

E-mail: [delforum@vsnl.com](mailto:delforum@vsnl.com)

**Arunachal Pradesh: Sustainable Development & Tribal Rights on Rivers and Water**

Arunachal Citizens Right (ACR), All Arunachal Nishi Student's Union, South Asian Solidarity for Rivers and Peoples (SARP), and Brahmaputra Barak Rivers Watch (BBW) brought together villagers, students, youth and activists from affected areas. Participants submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of the State, Minister of Power and the Ministries of Environment and Forests and Tribal Affairs questioning the dozens of megadams planned without the peoples' consent.

**Contact:**

Arunachal Citizens Right (ACR)

E-mail: [arunachal\\_citizensright@indiatimes.com](mailto:arunachal_citizensright@indiatimes.com)

All Arunachal Nishi Student's Union

South Asian Solidarity for Rivers and Peoples (SARP)

E-mail: [sarp@ntc.net.np](mailto:sarp@ntc.net.np)

Brahmaputra Barak Rivers Watch (BBW)

E-mail: [brahmaputra\\_barakwatch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brahmaputra_barakwatch@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Itanagar: Affected Peoples Protest**

Dolok Bango Indigenous Peoples' Forum, a forum of 15 villages in the affected area, held a public protest ("dharna") in Itanagar. The DBIPF members submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh protesting the land acquisition, which is imminent there. SARP members be joined the dharna.

#### **Contact:**

Nefa Indigenous Human Rights Organization

E-mail: [tadokarlo@yahoo.com](mailto:tadokarlo@yahoo.com)

Dolok Bango Indigenous Peoples' Forum

Brahmaputra Barak Rivers Watch (BBW)

E-mail: [brahmaputra\\_barakwatch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brahmaputra_barakwatch@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Manipur: Environmental Public Hearing**

An Environmental Public Hearing was held on March 14th in Manipur, India. Citizens also gathered from all over Manipur for a meeting on rivers and wetlands.

**Contact:**

Wangkheirakpam Ramananda

E-mail: [wramd@yahoo.com](mailto:wramd@yahoo.com)

**Bhopal: Free the Narmada!**

Hundreds of displaced peoples were joined by representatives of various organizations and states struggling against flawed water projects and large dams. Citizens held a sit-in and writing protest. Appeal letters were sent to Sonia Gandhi, Pm and the Minister for Water Resources. Participants marched to Delhi to question and convince the government and assert their rights for resolution.

**Contact:**

Narmada Bachao Andolan

Badwani, Madhya Pradesh

E-mail: [initiative@riseup.net](mailto:initiative@riseup.net)

**Delhi: Free the Narmada!**

Hundreds of displaced peoples were joined by representatives of various organizations and states struggling against flawed water projects and large dams. Citizens held a sit-in and writing protest. Appeal letters were sent to Sonia Gandhi, Pm and the Minister for Water Resources. Participants marched to Delhi to question and convince the government and assert their rights for resolution.

**Contact:**

Narmada Bachao Andolan

Badwani, Madhya Pradesh  
E-mail: [initiative@riseup.net](mailto:initiative@riseup.net)

### **Meeting on Rivers**

Monoj celebrated the International Day of Action at Gogamukh. They took the risk to invite all the students and teachers of the colleges of Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts. Some participants brought villagers out to the meeting.

**Contact:**

Monoj Gogoi  
Peoples' Movement for Subansiri Valley  
E-mail: [gmonoj@yahoo.com](mailto:gmonoj@yahoo.com)

### **Conference on India's Rivers**

In Tirupati, India, Rayalaseema Vikas Parishad held a conference for International Water Day and the International Day of Action. The organizers educated participants on India's rivers and distributed the leaflet Financing Dams in India.

**Contact:**

Mylaram Narayana Swamy  
Rayalaseema Vikas Parishad  
Tirupati, India  
E-mail: [mynaswamy@yahoo.com](mailto:mynaswamy@yahoo.com)

**Securing a Sustainable Future of Our Living Earth**

The Justice and Peace Forum in the Northeastern part of India engaged in media advocacy and poster campaigns to generate greater consciousness among younger generations for the conservation of rivers and wetlands. The Forum works to promote the rights of indigenous peoples where inherent rights are gradually disregarded as a part of the onslaught of globalization. In addition to March 14, the Forum also celebrated World Water Day on March 3rd.

**Contact:**

Achouba Yumnam  
Justice and Peace Forum  
Manipur, India  
E-mail: [jitnyumnam@yahoo.co.in](mailto:jitnyumnam@yahoo.co.in)

**River Protection Committee for the Cauvery River**

The Society for Community Development Project celebrated March 14 at the riverside areas of the Mettur, Komarapalayam, Pallipalayam and Mohanoor dams. The events celebrated the Cauvery River, one of India's great sacred rivers, with media outreach, public meeting, water testing demonstration and rally. The participants also worked together in forming a River Protection Committee in the interest of serving a legal notice to the government pollution control board.

**Contact:**

P.Murugessan  
Society for Community Development Project  
Tamilnadu, India  
E-mail: [sscdp@yahoo.com](mailto:sscdp@yahoo.com)

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## Pakistan:

### Protest Against Injustice

The Pakistan Network for Rivers Dams and People (PNRDP) held an event in Islamabad on March 14 to observe a day of action against large dams. Sindh PNRDP also organized other events in the province to protest against the injustice of state and its departments:

- **Manchar Communities Speak Out**

Manchar Bachayo Itehad representing affectees of Manchar Lake organized protest demonstration on Manchar bund. The demonstration highlighted environmental and livelihood issues of Manchar communities.

- **Protest Against Kotri Dam**

Sindh Taraqi Pasand Mallah Tanzim arranged a protest against low flow of water below Kotri Barrage. Male and Female of the organization joined in the protest against construction of Kalabagh dam and Thal canal.

- **Displaced People at Sanghar Hold Protest**

Cohtiari Coordination Council representing affectees of Chotiari Reservoir arranged a protest demonstration against forced displacement of poor communities at Sanghar.

- **Seminar on Sindh Coastal Issues**

Morero Mirbehar Tahreek in collaboration with Karachi Harbour Committee of PNRDP Sindh arranged a seminar on Sindh Coastal Issues at Khada Market Lara Jamat Hall.

- **Protest Against Kalabagh Dam and Thal Canal**

Sindh Taraqi Pasand Mallah Tanzim (district Sukkur) arranged a protest against construction of Kalabagh dam and Thal canal at Sukkur Barrage.

**Contact:**

Zubeida Birwani

PNRDP Sindh Secretariat

E-mail: [zbirwani@yahoo.com](mailto:zbirwani@yahoo.com)

### **Stop Financing Mega Dams**

Pakistan Network for Rivers Dams and People organized a conference in Islamabad, Pakistan that to included project-affected peoples, civil society organizations, government officials, parliamentarians, technical experts, research institutes and academia. The conference focused on the issues including cost, involuntary displacement and the decision-making process. They presented suggestions and recommendations for International Financing Institutions.

**Contact:**

Naeem Iqbal

Pakistan Network for Rivers Dams and People

Sungi Development Foundation

Islamabad Pakistan

E-mail: [naeem.iqbal@sungi.org](mailto:naeem.iqbal@sungi.org)

### **Hunger Strike**

In conjunction with the International Day of Action, Chashma Lok Sath held a hunger strike in front of the Asian Development Bank

(ADB). This action aimed to force the ADB to finally provide compensation to people affected by the Chashma Irrigation Project.

**Contact:**

Mushtaq Gadi

Chasma Lok Sath

E-mail: [mushtaq\\_gaadi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mushtaq_gaadi2000@yahoo.com)

### **Save the Mighty Indus River**

Forum for Conflict resolution (FCR) and the Dialogue for Democracy & Development (DDD) focused on large dam construction on the Indus River. The groups released publications highlighting the multi-dimensional disasters of large dams on the lives of indigenous communities living down stream, politicization of decision-making, socio-economic impact, environmental disaster, rights and vulnerability of the local communities, displacement and migration of the indigenous people, agriculture and other living species.

**Contact:**

Zulfiqar Halepoto

Forum for Conflict Resolution (FCR)

Hyderabad, Sindhu, Pakistan

E-mail: [zhalepoto@yahoo.com](mailto:zhalepoto@yahoo.com)

Tel:

++ 92 221 867545

++ 92 300 8377241

**Hunger Strike & Blessing Ceremony**

Friends of the River Indus (FOTRI) held 26 demonstrations in three countries to protest the Kalabagh Dam and Thal canal in Pakistan. Thousands of people offered prayers for the long life of the Indus River, observed hunger strikes and participated in protest rallies and sit-ins in London, Pakistan and the US. The Indus River flows through the heart of Sindh. Dam and canal projects upstream have created a water shortage that has devastated the region. The proposed construction of the Kalabagh Dam and completion of the Thal Canal are the latest threats to the Indus River and to the Sindhi peoples.

**Contact:**

Ishaq Tunio

Friends of The River Indus

E-mail:

[fotri\\_org@yahoo.com](mailto:fotri_org@yahoo.com) or

[itunio@hotmail.com](mailto:itunio@hotmail.com)

Web: [www.saveindus.org](http://www.saveindus.org)

### **Raising Voices for Water**

The Sindh National Council in the Sindh-southern province of Pakistan held a seminar on March 14 with over 500 people to raise their voice through the global media. The region has been impacted due to water shortage from decades, devastating the lives of more than 20 million people. Because of the dominance of Punjab province, water has not been properly allocated to the Sindh Province according to their water treaties.

**Contact:**

Solangi Aijaz

Sindh National Council

E-mail: [aijazsolangi@yahoo.com](mailto:aijazsolangi@yahoo.com)

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### Bosnia & Herzegovina:

#### **Banja Luka: Action Against Proposed Hydro on Vrbas River**

Local peoples gathered at the main city square and gathered over 3,000 signatures to protest the proposed construction of two large dams upstream of Banja Luka. The Coalition for Protection of Vrbas River marched with over 150 people to city hall and the residences of Government and National Assembly of Republic of Srpska to hand-deliver requests for referendum.

#### **Contact:**

Miodrag Dakic  
E-mail: [dakic@mibl.org](mailto:dakic@mibl.org)

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### Spain:

#### **Zaragoza: Rights of Affected Peoples**

COAGRET (Coordinator of Affected Peoples by Large Dams)

together with concerned citizens demonstrated at the Ebro River, where a new large dam is proposed. COAGRET mobilizes citizens to prevent the construction of dams that displaces local peoples. The campaign seeks to modify current law so that it respects the freedom and residence of the citizens, so that no public work would cause the suppression or disappearance of local peoples.

**Contact:**

Julian Ezquerro

COAGRET

E-mail: [julian@coagret.com](mailto:julian@coagret.com)

Web: [www.coagret.com](http://www.coagret.com)

### **Huesca: Watching the South**

Ecological and citizen groups in Huesca (Aragón) organized calling themselves "Watching the South" held conference to celebrate the Day of Action. The event titled "A Route by Guatemala" showed photographs of the Usumacinta River, which flows through the forests between Chiapas and Guatemala. The photos showed the river "now it is" and "after, it will be" if 5 large dams are built in the basin.

**Contact:**

Pedro Luis Sainz

Watching the South

E-mail: [pedros1963@latinmail.com](mailto:pedros1963@latinmail.com)

### **Caceres: New Water Culture**

AEMS-RIOS CON VIDA held a three-day seminar on the "New

Water Culture" in the region of Extremadura, near Portugal. On exhibition were photographs of the Almonte River, one of last large undammed rivers in the area. The Almonte is now being considered for damming. The organization has already received formal declarations from some political parties in the city of Caceres to implement a water management plan instead of destroying the river.

**Contact:**

Pedro Brufao

AEMS-RIOS CON VIDA

E-mail: [pbrufao@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrufao@hotmail.com)

Web: [www.riosconvida.org](http://www.riosconvida.org)

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**United Kingdom:**

**London: Worldwide Campaign Against Kalabagh Dam**

World Sindhi Congress (WSC) staged a peaceful protest rally in Parliament Square in Central London, in front of the UK Parliament House of Commons. Protesters held banners and shouted slogans condemning Pakistan's anti-environmental policies affecting local peoples. The proposed construction of the Kalabagh Dam and completion of the Thal Canal are the latest threats to the Indus River and to the Sindhi peoples.

**Contact:**

Ms. Suraiya Makhdoom

London

E-mail: [smakhdoom3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smakhdoom3@yahoo.co.uk)

Web: [www.kalabaghdam.org](http://www.kalabaghdam.org)

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### Cameroon:

#### Media Campaign on Dangers of Dams

Global Village Cameroon launched a media campaign for the Day of Action. Using their recent field study on dams, Global Village Cameroon brought to the attention of Cameroonians the dangers of certain infrastructure projects, like dams, pose to rivers, and hope to have an impact on policy decision-makers and diplomatic missions.

#### Contact:

Halleson Durrell  
Global Village Cameroon  
Yaounde (capital city of Cameroon)  
E-mail: [hndurrel@yahoo.com](mailto:hndurrel@yahoo.com)

---

### Lesotho:

**Celebration of Rivers, Water, & Life**

Affected peoples in Lesotho held an action at the site of the proposed Metalong Dam on the Phuthiatsana River, southeast of the capital city of Maseru. The Transformation Resource Centre and community members who have been affected by the multi-dam Highlands Water Project and those who will be affected by the Metolong Dam came out to voice concerns. About 2,000 people gathered to sing, dance, and celebrate rivers, water and life - a huge turnout for the small country.

**Contact:**

JM Lenka

Transformation Resource Centre

Lesotho, Africa

E-mail: [lhwp@trc.org.ls](mailto:lhwp@trc.org.ls)

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**Mozambique:**

**Impacts of Cahora Bassa**

JA!Justica Ambiental in Mozambique gave presentations and distributed fact sheets to schools on the impacts of Cahora Bassa. The organization submitted a declaration requesting the government to audit the impacts of the Cahora Bassa and to address those issues before building more dams. Local newspapers covered the event and declaration. The giant Cahora Bassa Dam displaced tens of thousands of people, and severely degraded downstream floodplains and fisheries.

**Contact:**

Anabela Lemos

JA!Justica Ambiental

Maputo, Mozambique

E-mail:

[anabela@aism-moz.com](mailto:anabela@aism-moz.com)

[ja\\_ngo@yahoo.com](mailto:ja_ngo@yahoo.com)

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## **Nigeria:**

### **Nigeria: Helping Dam-Affected Communities in Nigeria**

The Society for Water & Public Health Protection (SWAPHEP) held the conference "Addressing the Rights, Risks and Needs of Dam-Affected Communities in Nigeria". The conference brought dam-affected communities and activists together to come up with a statement on the plight of the communities. It also included a roundtable discussion and press conference.

#### **Contact:**

Hope Ogbeide

SWAPHEP

Benin City, Nigeria

E-mail: [swaphep@yahoo.com](mailto:swaphep@yahoo.com)

Web: [swaphep.virtualactivism.net](http://swaphep.virtualactivism.net)

---

## **South Africa:**

### **Prioritize People, Not Revenue**

The Green Network in South Africa held a seminar where city planners were challenged on their plans of resettling local

peoples on the Msunduzi River for the development of a large shopping center. The Msunduzi River floods every year during the Christmas season, and the development will cause more damage during flooding. The poor community has been living in the floodplain for over a decade.

**Contact:**

Sandile J Ndawonde

Green Network

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Tel: 27-33-3452-045

E-mail: [sandile@greennetwork.org.za](mailto:sandile@greennetwork.org.za)

Web: [www.greennetwork.org.za](http://www.greennetwork.org.za)

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**Argentina:**

**Affected Peoples Say NO to Yacyretá Dam**

A group of ceramic workers affected by Yacyretá dam commemorated the Day of Action with a ceremony in the plaza of Posadas, Argentina. The Public Association of Ceramic Workers and Peoples Affected by Yacyretá dam said "We want people to know the grave consequences which we suffer because of dams - we have lost our way of earning a living".

**Contact:**

E-mail: [tallercoord@ciudad.com.ar](mailto:tallercoord@ciudad.com.ar)

**Resistencia: Resisting Privatization of Dam**

**audio**

[Radio Spot](#)

Hear a radio spot produced by groups in Argentina announcing March 14 as the International Day for Rivers.  
[.mp3 at 276 kilobytes](#)

[Por la Tierra, el Agua y la Vida](#)

Frente de Lucha Mapuche y Campesino  
[.mp3 at 1.2 megabytes](#)

[José Palomino Cortés](#)

[.mp3 at 1.3 megabytes](#)

[Rodrigo de la Serna](#)

[.mp3 at 1.4 megabytes](#)

[Erica Rivas](#)

[.mp3 at 1.3 megabytes](#)

In Resistencia, Argentina, the "Saving Yacyretá" documentary was shown at the library, where peoples affected by the Yacyretá Dam in Ituzaingó told of the conflicts, which took place between the local people and migrants who came in search of employment. The event

was a collaborative effort of the Fundacion Ambiente Total, Asociacion Civil Casa Grande, Foro Chaco Sustentable, Federacion De Estudiantes De Nivel Terciario Del Chaco; Centro De Estudiantes Del Instituto San Fernando Rey.

[Patricio Contreras](#)

.mp3 at 1.5 megabytes

[Todas las voces juntas](#)

.mp3 at 980 kilobytes

[Liliana Daunes](#)

.mp3 at 1.3 megabytes

**Contact:**

Jorge Castillo

FUNDACION AMBIENTE TOTAL

E-mail: [jorcast@ubbi.com](mailto:jorcast@ubbi.com)

**Rosario and Esquel: Guardians of the Earth**

Citizens gathered to view the documentary "Marici Weu: Guardians of the Earth." This video documents the Mapuche peoples and farmers struggle to protect the Carrenleufu River and their lives. The "Earth Guardians" maintain a harmonious relationship with nature, and say that a cement wall constructed in the middle of their source, the river, is to destroy the identity of the Mapuche peoples.

**Contact:**

Leticia Isaurralde

Amigos de la Tierra

email: [rios.proteger@arnet.com.ar](mailto:rios.proteger@arnet.com.ar)

Web: [www.amigosdelatierra.org.ar](http://www.amigosdelatierra.org.ar)

## **Silenced Rivers Book Launching**

Taller Ecologista of Rosário and the Paraná Ecological Forum of the Entre Rios province celebrated the launch of **Ríos Silenciados: Ecología y Política de las Grandes Represas**, the much-awaited Spanish version of the acclaimed book **Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams**, by Patrick McCully.

### **Contact:**

Leticia Isaurralde

Fundacion Proteger

E-mail: [rios.proteger@arnet.com.ar](mailto:rios.proteger@arnet.com.ar)

## **For the Earth, Water & Life!**

The Earth Soldiers in Argentina united under the slogan "By the Earth, Water and Life." Mobilizations in the cities of Esquel and Buenos Aires were made with the purpose of stopping the construction of six dams on the Corcovado River basin. These dams would flood 27,000 acres of productive lands and forests and would displace local communities. Mapuche peoples and farmers sent this message to the world: "In name of the development, they evacuate us, they contaminate us and they flood us. We say: No to the dams in River Carrenleufú; No to the mines; No to the privatization of the territory and its resources; No to the closing of the Patagonia; No to the continuing genocide of the people of the Earth."

### **Contact:**

Frente en Defensa del Río Carrenleufú

Argentina

E-mail: [rioslibres@riseup.net](mailto:rioslibres@riseup.net)

---

## **Brazil:**

### **Movement of Dam-Affected Peoples Across Brazil**

Brazil's Movement of Dam-Affected People (MAB) faced sometimes-fierce official opposition as its members carried on the annual tradition of multiple nationwide actions on March 14. Thousands of people joined in a number of actions to call attention to ongoing social problems resulting from the construction of dams in the country. Even the intimidating presence of the military at the Tucuruí Dam could not stop Brazil's dam-affected and their supporters from taking to the streets.

- In Para State, more than 2,000 people affected by the Tucuruí Dam occupied the area where the navigation locks are being constructed, impeding work from continuing. More than 20 years have passed since the dam began operation, principally to power aluminum smelters in the Amazon. The dam displaced more than 32,000 people, and many have never received compensation and continue live without electricity.
- Also, in the northeastern state of Bahia, 400 people took over the offices of INCRA, the federal agrarian reform agency.
- And in Rondônia, 500 farmers and fishermen affected by Samuel Dam blockaded the highway which provides access to the plant. This dam, built on the Jamari River over 20

years ago, displaced at least 2,000 families from their lands; most of them not yet been compensated.

- In Porto Alegre, more than 60 participants with Movement SOS River Uruguay, Aiming Mountain range, Nucleus Friends of the Terra/BR, Association Gaucho of Protection of the Environment (Agapan), Greenpeace and (MAB) had delivered to the Bradesco a symbolic check in the value of a large proposed dam on the River Uruguay - R\$ 1,2 billion. The peoples also delivered a letter, which requests the withdrawal of the Bradesco investments in dams.

**Contact:**

Movement of Dam-Affected People (MAB)

E-mail: [comunicacao@mabnacional.org.br](mailto:comunicacao@mabnacional.org.br)

### **Embrace Rio Pajeu**

In honor of the International Day of Action, Brazil held an event to Embrace the Rio Pajeu. The day commemorated the river in hopes of having the community prosper.

**Contact:**

[lu04lu@bol.com.br](mailto:lu04lu@bol.com.br)

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[Mesoamerica](#) | [North America](#) | [Oceania](#) | [South Asia](#) | [Southeast Asia](#)

If you held an action and have not yet contacted us, please do so

as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you!

International Rivers Network

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## International Day of Action

*Press Materials are downloadable here in PDF format*  
*Slower internet connection speeds may result in longer download times*

### press materials & photos

#### Africa

- [Mozambique](#): Peoples' Declaration, Ja! Justiça (*em português*)

#### Europe

- [Careres, Spain](#): AEMS-Ríos con Vida Premio Nacional de Medio Ambiente 1998, [www.riosconvida.org](http://www.riosconvida.org) -- Press Release

#### Latin America

- [Brazil](#): Movement of Dam-Affected Peoples (MAB), -- Press Release (*em português*)  
See the [event flyer](#) (PDF)

## photo galleries

### Combined Slideshows

[Small](#)      [Big](#)  
 (17 images)    (49 images)

### Slideshows By Region

#### Africa

- Lesotho
- Mozambique

#### Central Asia

- Turkey

#### Europe

- Bosnia & Hertz.
- Spain
- United Kingdom

#### Latin America

- Argentina
- Brazil

## Mesoamerica

- [Belize](#): Belize Alliance of Conservation NGOs (BACONGO) -- Press Release
- [Costa Rica](#): The Costa Rican Federation for Environmental Conservation (FECON) -- Press Release

## North America

- [United States, San Francisco](#): Comité de Ausentes de San Gaspar en Acción - Salvemos Nuestros Pueblos (CASA) -- Press Release
- [United States, Washington D.C.](#): March for the Indus, March for Sindh -- Press Release (Friends of the River Indus)
- [United States, California](#): Klamath River Tribes Appeal To Governor: "Help Bring the Salmon Home" -- Press Release (Friends of the River)

## South Asia

- **India**
  - [India, Aruchanal Pradesh](#): Call for Peoples' Free, Prior and Informed Consent in All River Projects, (Courtesy of *Echo of Arunachal*)
  - [India, Manipur](#): Report
  - [India, Narmada](#): Press Release / [Call to Action](#)

### Mesoamerica

- Mexico
- Panama

### North America

- United States

### Oceania

- Australia

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- India
- Pakistan

### Southeast Asia

- Philippines
- Thailand

- [India, Subansiri](#): Memorandum to Chairmain of Life Insurance Corporation of Indida
- [India, Subansiri](#): Subansiri Valley Women Roared Against Lower Subansiri Dam -- Press Release
- [India, Subansiri](#): Women's Report from Two-day Workshop for Dam-Affected Peoples
- [India, Arunachal Pradesh](#): Jampa Villagers Call for Peoples' Free, Prior and Informed Consent in All River Projects -- Press Release

- **Pakistan**

- [No Surplus Water for More Dams](#) -- News Article by Naveed Ahmad (Courtesy: *The News*, March 14, 2005)
- [Pakistan](#): People's Party Parliamentarians & the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Oppose Mega Dams -- News Article
- [Worldwide Actions](#): Roundup of Events Around the Globe, Friends of the River Indus (FOTRI) -- Press Release
- [Pakistan](#): Informational Flyer (FOTRI)

### **Southeast Asia**

- [Thailand](#): Bangkok Villagers Protest Nam Theun 2. Read the villagers' [Memorandum to the World Bank](#)
- [Philippines](#): San Roque, Dam-Affected Communities Join International Day of Action Against Dams -- Press Release
- [Philippines, Davao](#): Davao to Mark International Day of Action for Rivers -- Press Release

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## Additional Information

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- Read the [press release](#) for the 2005 International Day of Action

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## International Day of Action

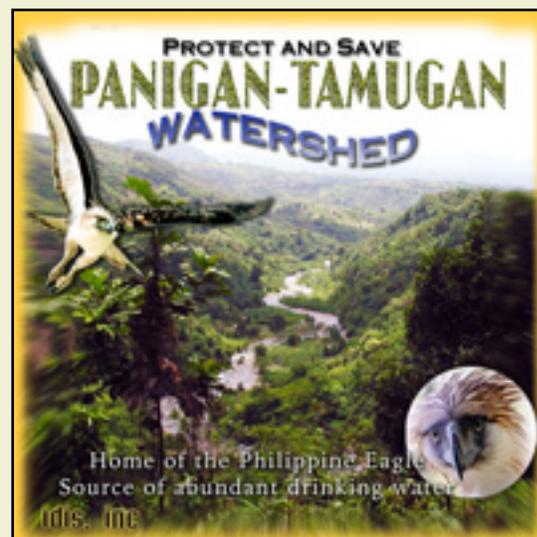
### event posters & presentations

*Event Posters are downloadable in PDF format*

*PowerPoint presentations require Microsoft PowerPoint to be viewed*



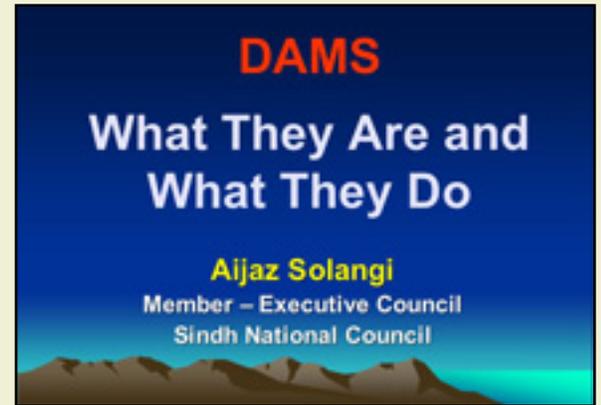
AEMS - Ríos con Vida  
Event Poster



Interface Development Initiatives (IDIS)  
Promotional Poster



Brazil's Movement of Dam-Affected People (MAB)  
Event Poster



Sindh National Council  
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Friends of the River, Sacramento, CA,  
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The Costa Rican Federation for Environmental Conservation  
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## International Day of Action

### press release

### **Many Tribes, One Voice: Communities Around the World Unite for Healthy Rivers**

PRESS RELEASE

**International Rivers Network  
For Immediate Release**

#### Contact

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

**Sacramento**, March 11, 2005: Highlighting growing concern over destructive river development schemes, tens of thousands of people from at least 26 countries marched to dam sites, held river blessing ceremonies, organized conferences and participated in hunger strikes, all as part of an annual effort to draw attention to the threats to rivers around the world. March 14, 2005 marked the eighth annual [International Day of Action for Rivers](#), a time when the global community joins in solidarity to fight for river protection and the rights of communities over their resources and lives.

In Sacramento, native tribes, commercial fishermen and ranchers joined [Friends of the River](#) and International Rivers Network to urge Governor Schwarzenegger to help bring the salmon home. Hundreds of people marched to the state capital to ask for restoration on the Klamath River. The Klamath River dams are currently up for federal relicensing, which represents a significant opportunity to remove dams and restore the river. At issue is a complex of six dams on the Klamath River that degrade water quality and block access to over 350 miles of historic spawning habitat.

Said Leaf Hillman, vice-chairman of the [Karuk Tribe](#):

"What's at risk here is the region's cultural heritage as well as the economy. For the tribes, salmon represent an integral part of their cultures, including unique ceremonies based on the annual return of salmon. As the salmon runs dwindle, ceremonies are lost. In addition, commercial fishermen and the communities dependent on the fishing economy struggle to survive as well."

This event was just one of over 90 being held in 30 countries around the world to increase awareness about the negative impacts that dams, diversions, and industrial pollution have on communities dependent on rivers for their livelihoods.

Said Patrick McCully, Executive Director of International Rivers Network:

"Each year on March 14, tens of thousands of people take to the streets and to their rivers to demand a stop to destructive river development projects. The Day of Action is a time for people around the world to celebrate, educate and demonstrate the importance of healthy rivers to people's lives and livelihoods."

Other actions worldwide include:

- A seminar in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where citizens challenged officials about their plans to resettle local people living by the Msunduzi River for the development of a large shopping center.
- In the Chubut mountain range in Argentina, the Mapuche peoples and farmers joined in solidarity to resist the injustice to their life and culture from the Carrenleufu River dams, mining in the region, and privatization of resources.
- Citizens in Sydney, Australia, paddled down the Nepean River to protest the world's largest mining company's plans to mine for coal under the Nepean River.
- In Medan, Indonesia, a children's painting competition built awareness about the Deli River and the meaning of water for life.
- And in Pakistan, activists held a river blessing ceremony and hunger strike in response to the proposed Kalabagh Dam and Thal Canal on the Indus River.

For more information, see [www.irn.org/dayofaction](http://www.irn.org/dayofaction)

###

*IRN supports local communities working to protect their rivers and watersheds. We work to halt destructive river development projects, and to encourage equitable and sustainable methods of meeting needs for water, energy and flood management.*

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