

# International Day of Action

## 2006 actions

### March 14th International Day of Action for Rivers

[See a Slideshow of 2006 Actions Around the World!](#)

For descriptions of 2006 actions and contact information,  
please select one of the following regions:



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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

E-mail: [dayofaction@irn.org](mailto:dayofaction@irn.org)

## Additional Information

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## International Day of Action

### central asia

#### Turkey:

### Munzur Will Flow Free

Munzurun Delileri (The Mads of Munzur) gathered at the Beyoglu post office to perform street theatre and hold a press conference for the people who live near the Munzur River and are fighting against dams.

#### Contact

Taylan Olmez, Activist of Munzurun Delileri (The Mads of Munzur)  
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## International Day of Action

### oceania

#### Australia:

#### **Rivers of Shame: Mining Damage in New South Wales**

Rivers SOS, a statewide river protection group, hosted events including a forum, a film show and live music to oppose the devastation of rivers throughout New South Wales due to mining operations. Rivers SOS campaigns for the NSW government to mandate a safety zone of at least 1 km around all rivers to protect them from damage caused by mining operations.

#### **Contact**

Caroline Graham

Rivers SOS

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### Burma:

#### **Symposium, Prayers, Music and Theatre for Burmese Rivers**

The Karen Rivers Watch (KRW) organized a 2006 World Dam Opposing Day on March 13-14, 2006, at the Weigyi area of Karen State. They held a symposium on dam issues in Burma highlighting the current dam trends in the country and identifying common goals for the dam movement. Salween Eyes, a peoples' network of 7 villages opposing dams on the Salween River, led a prayer ceremony. The groups concluded their events with music and community theatre.

### Contact

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### Cambodia:

## **Dam Day in Cambodia**

Culture-Environment Preservation Association (CEPA) organized Dam Day events in Srek Kor village, Srekor commune, SeSan district, Stung Treng province, on the 9-10 March 2006.

### **Contact**

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### **Indonesia:**

#### **Demonstration Highlights Impacts of Bili-Bili Dam**

Calling themselves the "Front of Anti-Imperialism," dozens of student activists, NGOs and citizens demonstrated in front of the Japanese Consulate General in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province. They displayed a banner and poster and criticized the Bili-Bili Dam through performing arts and oration about the 8000 families that have lost productive land, received inadequate compensation, and sustained significant losses in agricultural production and availability of clean water. This mass action demanded that the Indonesian and Japanese governments claim responsibility for the negative impacts of dams on people and the environment.



**Contact**

Roy Laifungbam

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**Monitoring Corruption and Compensation for Dam-Affected People**

Yayasan Tanah Air arranged a talk show on local radio with the Jatigede dam-affected people, NGOs, and the government. Some government staff are going to be jailed because of corruption on land compensation. Yayasan Tanah Air monitors the land compensation process that Indonesia and the local government plan to distribute this year. The budget is Rp 147 billion, but the local government has said that the fund is inadequate.

**Contact**

Mia Wastuti

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**No To New Giant Dams**

"No to new giant dams!" was the slogan of an action and the title of press conferences by Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) and Indigenous Peoples Alliance (AMAN). WALHI and AMAN rejected government policies and plans for the development of large-scale dams in Indonesia. The Department of Public Services seeks to develop 11 reservoirs in Indonesia over the next five years. WALHI and AMAN urged the government to support citizens' demands that donor countries provide compensation for

the social, economic and ecological consequences of dams.

**Contact**

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Indigenous Peoples Alliance (AMAN)

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**People Care About Mercury Contamination in the Siak River**

Approximately 200 demonstrators organized under the name "People Care About Rivers Community" (KMPS) at the Leighton Bridge over the Siak River. This gathering consisted of NGOs, students and local dam-affected people, including indigenous peoples who can no longer fish for their livelihoods because of excessive mercury content in local rivers. The groups stretched a banner of protest across the bridge. According to recent statistics from Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI), industrial waste pollution in the Siak River causes fish in the river to be inedible. Dam production in Riau alone has affected tens of thousands of citizens, and March 14th marked a progressive attempt to seek compensation for the ills of dam production, and to plead with the local government to halt further plans for further dam and industrial development on Indonesia's rivers.

**Contact**

Roy Laifungbam

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**Water is Life**

On Sunday March 12th, indigenous peoples of West Papua

organized spiritual gatherings and youth art projects to stand for their local rivers.

**Contact**

Lusiana Jantewo

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**Philippines:**

**Taking a Stand Against San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project**

This multi-day action began on March 11th, and culminated in large fora on the 14th and 15th of March. The first two days of this event were broadcast through radio touring and interviews to publicize the opposition of the people and the celebration of International Day Against All Large Dams (IDAALD). Following this, they organized mobile information teams in different populated areas, such as markets and commercial centers, to inform the community of the ills of San Roque Dam. The final two days of the action included panel discussions and fora at the local university and in the city of Udaneta, followed by a march to protest current dam and irrigation projects.

**Contact**

TIMMAWA

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**Forum on the Struggle Against Laiban Dam**

Rivers Watch East and Southeast Asia (RWESA) - Philippines

conducted a community forum on March 12 in Antipolo Rizal. The forum was about the effects of large dams and the struggle against Laiban Dam. More than 20 people attended the forum comprising of Laiban dam-affected people, peasants, indigenous people and their support groups. The forum was organized by Task Force Laiban Dam, KABALAT (IP provincial alliance).

### **Contact**

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### Argentina:

#### **Demonstrations, Art, Music and Education for Río Paraná**

The Asamblea Regional recently formed in Posadas, Misiones, Argentina, with the participation of environmental organizations and groups of workers, churches, indigenous peoples, professionals and independent organizations from Paraguay. This collaboration held a demonstration along the coast of the Paraná River in the city of Posadas, and a presentation of local artists and musicians from Monte and Tomate. They distributed pamphlets to the people of Posadas, and joined in solidarity with "Libertad de Los Ríos" to show videos and presentations of materials for the International Day of Action.

### Contact

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In the town of Misiones, the people of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil, with the participation of such organizations as NETO, Espiral, Josela Schuap, CAA YARI, RULA, and La Murga de la Estación commemorated the 9th Annual International Day of Action by taking a stand against Corpus Christi, Garabi and Roncador dams. The government's decision to sell hydroelectric energy to neighboring countries while concurrently raising the prices of energy for Argentineans threatens both the environment and the livelihood of the area's people.

**Contact**

Asamblea Regional

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**Brazil:**

**2nd Annual National Meeting Against Dams**

MAB (Movimiento dos Antingidos por Barragens) celebrated their 20th anniversary by hosting their second annual national meeting against dams in Curitiba. The events spanned four days, and brought together more than 1,300 dam-affected people to participate in many fora, panel discussions, ceremonies and marches, uniting Brazilians against dams and proposing alternate forms of energy.

**Contact**

Movimiento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB  
(Dam-Affected People's Movement)

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## **A Prayer for the Amazon**

People near the Madeira River of Brazil organized a boat rally and ecumenical prayer session for their local rivers and against local dam projects. They held a commemorative trip along the Madeira-Mamoré Railway, which will be completely flooded if a current dam proposal continues.

## **Protesting Construction of Hydroelectric Plants on the Madeira River**

Representatives of social movements and environmental activists protested the construction of two hydroelectric power plants (known as Jirau and Santo Antônio) on the Madeira River in the state of Rondônia. The protests were led by an umbrella group known as the Forum for Debates on Rondônia Energy which links, among others, an energy research group at the local federal university, the Indian Missionary Council and the Land Pastoral Commission (which are both linked to the Catholic church), an environmental NGO "Canindé," an Amazon region work group, a rubber tappers union, the NGO Rio Terra and the Dam-Affected People's Movement (Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB).

### **Contact**

Movimiento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB  
(Dam-Affected People's Movement)

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**Chile:**

**Patagonia Action Against Dams**

**Press Release:** [English](#) :: [en Español](#)

At the confluence of the Nef and Baker (Chile's most powerful) rivers, about 150 people from Cochrane, Port Bertrand, the Chacabuco Valley, Coyhaique and Santiago participated in a great cultural and artistic encounter organized by the Coalition of Citizens for the Aysén Reserve of Life and the Group of Defenders of the Spirit of Patagonia, to call attention to the potential impacts of four hydroelectric megaprojects in this zone of the Patagonia. The site selected for the manifestation would be submerged by the reservoir of Baker 1 Dam, which the inhabitants of the zone described as a true murder of the local culture and biodiversity, thus this activity was organized "for the living and free rivers and communities of Aysén."

Peter Hartmann of Codeff said that energy development must be focused on non-contaminating energy sources and greater efficiency. "We are not against all dams, but we believe the country has other smaller-scale options which are more sustainable and less destructive and invasive than these concrete monsters ... For Endesa, this project is desirable because they can make more money. They want Patagonia to subsidize their quality of life but, as responsible citizens, we owe it to our children to invest more as a society in energy alternatives, as has been done in other countries."

**Contacts**

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## **Colombia:**

### **Demonstration at Salvajina Dam**

In Colombia, dams have displaced many individuals and families, provoked social conflicts and had detrimental effects on many indigenous people. Large dams continue to be proposed and built as per the agenda of the government and large banks. For this reason, local groups held a demonstration against the Salvajina Dam, one of the first hydroelectric dams in the country.

### **Protest Against Urra Dam**

In Loricá, a city north of Córdoba, the Asociación De Productores para el Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciénaga del Bajo Sinú (Association of Producers for Community Advancement of Ciénaga and Bajo Sinú) - ASPROCIG arrived at the end of their annual trek of protest against the construction of URRÁ I Dam. Although the dam was constructed years ago, its detrimental effects are ever increasing, especially impacts on fisheries and the lives of indigenous peoples.

## **Contact**

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## **Panama**

### **Rivers Were Created to Be Free**

Nearly 2,000 people mobilized against proposals to dam more than 95 rivers in Panama. Actions included: press conferences, distributing fact sheets and documents, delivering official notices to governmental authorities, marching and protesting in front of Unión Fenosa (the country's third-largest electric utility, behind Endesa and Iberdrola), and performing cultural acts and skits with by pro-river slogans.

#### **Contact**

Larissa Duarte

Movimiento Campesino en Defensa del Río Cobre

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## **Paraguay:**

### **Open Tribunal on the Impacts of Yacyretá Dam**

Hundreds of families affected by the Yacyretá Dam gathered in the town of San Pedro-Viviendas and marched from the Villa

Cristina Bridge to the Plaza de Armas in the center of Encarnacion city where they held rallies and a festival to communicate with political groups, church officials, legislators, and city and national representatives in an open tribunal.

### **Contact**

Hariberto

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### Bosnia and Herzegovina:

#### **Say NO to Hydropower Plants on the Vrbas River**

The Coalition for Vrbas River Protection and the NGO Young Researchers of Banja Luka organized a gathering of campaign supporters in Banja Luka's main town square to disseminate leaflets detailing negative impacts of Hydropower Plants (HPPs) and progress in their campaigns. Prior to the action, they sent press releases to the media with demands for the government to cancel their agreements on concessions for HPPs on the Vrbas River. On the Day of Action, they sent requests to the Prime Minister for meetings with him and other relevant ministers to discuss withdrawal from this very controversial, economically unjustified and environmentally damaging project.

### Contact

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## England:

### **"Pure Iceland" Exhibition Meltdown**

An exhibition was held in London to bolster support for the production of dams throughout Iceland, Scotland, and England by reporting the supposed benefits of hydroelectric power to British citizens. This month-long exhibition was supported by the Icelandic government and large investing companies including Alcoa, Impregilo, Iceland Air and Landsvirkjun, Iceland's National Power Company. However, these companies and their particular interests in dam production were not the only Icelandic representatives at the exhibition. Saving Iceland Network stood firm with the rest of the international community against dams by dispersing leaflets and placing banners that sought to reveal the true ills and travesties of every proposed dam throughout Iceland and the United Kingdom.

#### **Contact**

Saving Iceland

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## Germany:

### **Opposition to Further Deterioration of the Danube River Basin**

In an effort to protect the Danube River Basin through active

involvement in implementation of the European Water Framework Directive, the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) issued a press release addressing plans for new dams on the longest remaining free-flowing stretch of the upper Danube in Germany, in the Austrian alpine region, at the Drava, Sava and Mura rivers in Croatia and Slovenia, and at the Vrbas River in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, there are concerns over the Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal Project in the Czech Republic, which would impact Austria and Slovakia, and the massive dredging and deepening in Danube stretches of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. These plans are accompanied by proposals for new hydropower dams, as well as new dikes and reservoirs for flood protection. The DEF unites more than 170 environmental organizations in all countries of the Danube River Basin that oppose these deteriorations of river and floodplain ecology, and demand that, before such new infrastructure measures are implemented, alternatives be thoroughly examined.

### **Contact**

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### **Republic of Georgia:**

#### **Round Table Discussion on Khudoni Hydro Power Plant**

Association Green Alternative and CEE Bankwatch Network organized a round table questioning whether the proposed controversial development of the Khudoni Hydro Power Plant is

indeed a step towards energy security for Georgia. The round table is the first step in the mobilization of Georgian society to stop the destructive joint Georgian government-World Bank plan to construct the 700 MW Khudoni Hydro Power Plant (HPP) at a cost of USD 500 million in Georgia's Upper Svaneti region. The meeting also discussed opposition to a number of big dams (Tobari, Nenskra cascade) planned upstream of the River Enguri in Georgia's high mountains. CEE Bankwatch Network released a fact sheet and press release about how, during the Soviet era, the River Enguri was spoiled and how the new democratic government is unfortunately following a similar course.

### **Contact**

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CEE Bankwatch Network

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### **Spain:**

#### **Adiós Barquitos Hundidos (Goodbye Small Sunken Boats)**

People joined in solidarity with each other and the Ebro River in an action called "Adiós Barquitos Hundidos." The event was held in Saragosse, and hosted by the Asociación Ebro Vivo, a member of the COAGRET (Coordinadora de afectados por grandes embalses y trasvases / Coalition of People Affected by Large Dams and Water Transfers) association. Part of the action involved releasing handmade paper boats into the river while

singing "Habanera Triste," a traditional Spanish song. They used this action to inform others of the adverse effects of dams and other production in and around rivers.

**Contact**

Victoria Trigo Bello

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**Apaga y Vamonos (Switch off, and Let's Go)**

The film "Apaga y Vamonos" was shown to inform the people of Spain of the state of affairs regarding an Endesa dam project on the Bío Bío River that has affected thousands of people in Chile. The film is acclaimed to be, "a history of an usurped nation, of a forgotten genocide, about globalization, about a river..." The film was presented by Esteban Bernatas and Andoliado Productions.

**Contact**

Pedro Luis Sáinz

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**Protect and Heal Rivers**

"Proyecto Cura Rios" educated and informed others of the state of the Guadarrama River in Villanueva de La Canada (near Madrid).

**Contact**

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### Bangladesh:

#### Peoples' Rally at Chandpur on Tipaimukh Dam Issue

A grand peoples' rally was held in Chandpur, a town standing beside the confluence of three rivers, the Padma, Meghna and Dakatia. Presided over by the Angikar district Chief Advocate Bulbul Ahsan, participants were apprised of the grave future emanating from the imminent construction of the Tipaimukh Dam in the Manipur state of India, just 100 kilometers away from the nearest Bangladesh border. Chandpur will be one of the places most affected by the dam. Eminent civil society personalities of the district headquarters participated in the discussion and vowed to strengthen the Tipaimukh Dam resistance movement.

#### Contact

Muhammad Hilaluddin

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#### Demonstration at Shabag Bottola

Buriganga Bachao Andolon organized a people's demonstration at

Shahbag Bottola to observe the International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life in Bangladesh.

**Contact**

Mihir Biswas, Member Secretary

Buriganga Bachao Andolon (Save the Buriganga Movement)

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**Human Chain to Save the Meghna River**

Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAN) is civil society initiative working in the coastal area of Bangladesh. The district stands at the Meghna River estuary and the Bay of Bengal. For this day, they produced a documentary on the Meghna Cross Dam near Noakhali, lobbied policy makers, mobilized at the grassroots level, developed posters and formed a human chain to save the river at Noakhali.

**Contact**

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Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAN)

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**India:**

## **Action Against Tipaimukh Dam**

A leaders' meeting convened at the Manipur Press Club in Imphal strongly opposed the government of India's decision to construct the Tipaimukh High Dam and urged the government to review the decision. The meeting was jointly organized by the Zeliangrong Youth Front, Imphal, the Ethno Heritage Council (HERICOUN), Indian Political Science Association (IPSA), Centre for Organisation Research & Education (CORE), United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and it was attended by leaders and representatives of the 25 different civil society bodies of the state. Participants resolved to form an Action Committee on Tipaimukh Dam, and to launch a series of agitations on the issue.

As an initial phase, all the constituent organizations of the committee staged a mass sit-in protest on March 14 at Khamlangba Lampak, Sagolband Moirang Leirak. The group will also hold a mass rally in Imphal on April 3 to protest the government of India's decision to construct the controversial dam. All the constituent organizations of the association have vowed to maintain unity and launch agitation together until the Tipaimukh Dam construction issue is over.

### **Contact**

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## **Changing Currents**

"Changing Currents" was a multi media, cross-disciplinary event focusing on water-related issues. On the 13th of March, a daylong program featured a series of films, plays, talks, exhibitions and installations highlighting pollution caused by

atomic power plants, destruction of coastal belts by tourism, effects of big dams, disastrous fishing policies of technological modernization and economic liberalization. The event promoted alternatives for harnessing energy and rational consumption to prevent the destruction of this natural resource. National Alliance of Peoples' Movements (NAPM), Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) and Open Circle called upon institutions and individuals with expertise to gather and present information about issues such as ground or rain water harvesting, micro-hydro power generation and solar or pedal power. Students, activists and professionals including artists, architects and environmentalists, came together to organize this one day festival.

### **Contact**

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### **Hunger Strike Against Raising Sardar Sarovar**

On 8 March, the Narmada Control Authority approved the Indian government's proposal to raise Sardar Sarovar Dam more than 10 meters (33 feet), increasing its height to 122 meters (400 feet). The increase would mean further resettlement and detrimental effects on 220 villages in the regions of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In response to this threat, representatives from each affected region gathered in an indefinite hunger strike against the dam's further construction. They join with millions of individuals around the world to boldly oppose dams and insist upon the freedom of indigenous peoples, villages and rivers.

### **Contact**

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Web: [www.narmada.org](http://www.narmada.org) (Friends of River Narmada)

## **Protection for the Cauvery River**

The Society for Community Development Project celebrated March 14, 2006 at the riverside areas of the Mettur, Komarapalayam, Pallipalayam, Poolampatty and Mohanoor dams. The events celebrated the Cauvery River, one of India's great sacred rivers, with media outreach, public meetings, water testing demonstrations and rallies. 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**

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### **Pakistan:**

#### **Fisherfolk Forum Demands Compensation and Restoration**

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum celebrated the International Day of Action against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life on the banks of the Indus River. Around 700 fishermen and delta community members, including some 200 fisherwomen, attended the

seminar, which adopted the following resolutions unanimously:

1. At least 35 million acre feet of water should be released downstream of Kotri Dam to stop further sea intrusion;
2. Families who left their ancestral abodes due to sea intrusion must be compensated from the earnings of the dam;
3. Stop more dams [including Kala Bagh, Bhasha, Munda], cuts, barrages and diversions on the Indus River;
4. The compensation of 22 million acres of land may be given to the owners and affectees;
5. Environmental damage to the Indus Delta may be remediated by release of more water downstream of Kotri Dam, or with a delta rehabilitation plan.

### **Contact**

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Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

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### **Hunger Strike, Demonstration and Seminar**

ActionAid Pakistan (AAPk) and SUNGI Development Foundation held a seminar on "Mega Water Sector Projects: Myths and Realities." Farmers affected by the closure of three canals from Taunsa Barrage held a peaceful demonstration, hunger strike and press conference organized by AAPk, SUNGI, and Parah Foundation to demand an independent commission to evaluate their losses and award compensation. Amjad Nazeer of SUNGI said there are conflicts between the policies and practices of the

World Bank. He said that the bank apparently champions transparency, accountability, good governance and freedom of information, but when it came to the projects it finances, the bank tries its best to conceal information.

### **Contacts**

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## **Media Campaign and Stakeholder Dialogue on the Indus River**

Forum for Conflict Resolution (FCR) demonstrated a range of activities to celebrate the International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life on March, 14th, 2006. This year, FCR shared articles and columns with the local press on the devastating impact of large dams on the social, economic, cultural, environmental, political and other aspects of lower riparian communities in Sindh province of Pakistan. In partnerships with Center for Social and Economic Change (CSEC), FCR released a booklet on the politics of large dams in Pakistan, addressing the illegal and unconstitutional decisions of dictatorial regime in Pakistan to built five dams on the Indus River without the consent of the lowest riparian province Sindh.



FCR also held a stakeholder's consultative dialogue on the agenda of privatization of water in Pakistan through International Financial Institutions (IFIs) like WB, ADB and other banks, featuring water experts and technocrats. The fourth activity on this day was the transmission of a dialogue on SINDH TV, under the banner of CIVIL SOCIETY. Zulfiqar Halepoto hosted a special program on the Day of Action. The guests of the talk were water expert and former Senator, engineer Kazi Abdul Majid, and water sector environmentalist and irrigation reforms expert, Mr. Nazeer Essani. FCR is a think tank and focus group lobbying legislators and documenting activities on water issues.

### **Contact**

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### **Protest Rally and Sit-In Against Kalabagh Dam**

The Sindh Qaumi Ittehad (SQI) held a protest rally against the proposed construction of Kalabagh dam, Thul canal, "Balochistan operation" and the US air strike in Bajaur Agency. SQI leaders Masroor Ahmad Chandio, Ahmad Khan Chandio and Gul Mooro led the rally. Carrying placards and banners, the participants marched on the city roads and shouted slogans against the government for its "anti-people policies." They warned the rulers of dire consequences if they continue with these policies. Participants then marched to the national highway and staged a

sit-in at the Tharoo Shah bus stop, disrupting the flow of traffic. The speakers said the Kalabagh Dam was an issue of life and death for the people of Sindh, and the Indus River was the lifeline of the province. They said the people of Sindh would never accept the construction of Kalabagh dam and Thul canal. These projects could only be built over the bodies of Sindh people.

### **Symposium Against Big Dams on the Indus**

Political leaders and water experts called upon international financial institutions not to advance loans to Pakistan for the construction of big dams. They spoke at a symposium in Hyderabad, Sindh organized by the Sindh National Council to mark the International Day Against Big Dams. They rejected Kalabagh and others dams on the Indus River on the grounds that they were extremely harmful to the economy and environment. Awami Tehrik leader Abrar Qazi said that, taking refuge behind shortage of water, the government wanted to construct big dams on the Indus River for the benefit of Punjab.

#### **Contact**

Sindh National Council

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| [Togo](#)

### Cameroon:

#### **Better Energy Options for Cameroon**

Global Village Cameroon (GVC) held a press conference to publicize the impacts of dams in Cameroon and the importance of rivers for life. GVC explained that millions of people affected by dams have been unsatisfied with compensation measures and have seen resettlement as inappropriate and inadequate. Dam-affected communities have been made poorer and it is now time for the world to look at energy alternatives that avoid displacing people. They presented renewable energy such as solar and micro hydro as better energy options for Cameroon.

### Contact

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## Lesotho:

### **Thousands Gather to Protect the Malibamatso River**

Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) and communities affected by Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) celebrated International Water Day for Communities and their Allies on March 14 at the Koma-Koma bridge, one of many proposed dam sites on the Malibamatso River. The Mohale and Katse communities stood in solidarity with those communities who would be affected by the next phase of LHWP. Attendance was awesome, there were close to 5000 participants, including many very small children and primary school kids, and news coverage by Lesotho Television. Communities who have already been affected by LHWP shared experiences with their comrades. "I have never been so fulfilled. I think I am ready to die. We have made a difference to the poor in this part of the world," says JM Lenka of TRC.

#### **Contact**

JM Lenka

Transformation Resource Centre (TRC)

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## Mozambique:

### **Public Outreach Campaign on Dam Safety**

JA! launched a public outreach campaign on dam safety in light

of a recent major earthquake in Mozambique to raise awareness of the dangers of big dams such as Mphanda Nkuwa. They distributed a fact sheet to the news and government and gave interviews to multiple news outlets. They spoke about the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and distributed the WCD report on CD to news people. They publicized the lack of records regarding Cahora Bassa, and bad management of the project, calling upon to the government to do more studies before any new dam is built, to take a position on the WCD and follow WCD guidelines.

### **Contact**

Anabela Lemos

JA!

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### **Namibia:**

#### **Adverse Consequences of Jumbo Dams**

Namibia's National Society for Human Rights commemorated the International Day by highlighting the adverse consequences of the country's jumbo dams and other mega-projects for the cultural, economic, environmental and social rights of affected communities. Huge hydroelectric power schemes at Epupa Falls and Baynes Mountains on the Kunene River and Popa Falls on the Okavango River are likely to be built at the expense of the Himba, Kxoe and others in terms of loss of their lands and livelihoods.

### **Contact**

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National Society for Human Rights

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Web: [www.nshr.org.na](http://www.nshr.org.na)

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## **Nigeria:**

### **Million Man March Against River Pollution**

Groups convened at the Aso Rock Villa in Abuja and at the Nigerian House of Assembly wearing vests with the message "Safe Rivers for ALL," to sensitize their president to the alarming rate of river pollution in the region. This enabled the policymakers to become informed and enact laws against water pollution by the private sector.

### **Contact**

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## **Senegal:**

### **Gathering for the Senegal River Basin**

Coalition des Organisations de la Société civile pour la Défense de l'Environnement et le Développement du Bassin du fleuve Sénégal - Coordination for the Senegal River Basin (CODESEN) invited many civil society organizations and media professionals to join them for a big event to mark the International Day of Action for Rivers.

## Contact

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Dakar - Sénégal

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## Togo:

### **Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Young Volunteers for the Environment)**

5 actions in Togo

1. In Nangbeto, JVE hosted a community forum on the impact of the Nangbeto Dam and Kpime Dam in order to give a voice to dam-affected communities and identify their perception of dams. They identified and organized group leaders for their actions.
2. On March 10th, there was a Conference on Energy and Hydropower at the University of Lomé, organizing University students to share their opinions on alternative energy sources and expand discourse against dams, and for rivers, water, and life!
3. A television program on the adverse impacts of dams in Togo was broadcast through Television Deuxieme on March 15th.
4. They visited the Project of Solar-Heated Water Pasteurization in Akumape. JVE has been implementing a solar energy project for more than a year in the school village of Akumape. This special visit will facilitate reproduction of similar projects in other areas. The tour of the facility was under the direction of the National Solar



Energy Study Unit at the University of Togo.

5. They broadcast a radio program on energy problems and solutions in Togo and Benin through the stations Radio Lomé, Radio Kara, Radio Zephyr, Radio Nana FM, Radio Victoire and Radio Metropolys.

There were also efforts to assemble a mass march in Lomé. Some JVE branches organized small actions around rivers in various cities in Togo.

### **Contact**

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### Belize:

#### Day of Action and World Water Day United!

Belize Alliance of Conservation NGOs (BACONGO) and Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy (BELPO) scheduled an entire week of celebrations for the International Day of Action and World Water Day. Through the mass distribution of posters across the country, they revealed to the general public the current state of rivers and dam production in and around Belize.

### Contact

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### Costa Rica:

**Rivers, Water, Life, and Live Radio**

Red Latinoamericana de Afectados por las Represas - Latin American Network of Dam-Affected People (REDLAR) hosted a live radio show for broadcast via both public radio and the internet. This was an effective local and international effort to inform the public about rivers in Costa Rica, a country whose environmentally-minded reputation marks it as a forerunner in progressive ecological ideas.

### **Contact**

Eugenio Guido Pérez

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### **El Salvador:**

#### **Defending the Torola River**

Communities of resistance against hydroelectric projects in El Salvador gathered to reaffirm their commitment to the defense of the Torola River. They stood in solidarity for those already affected by dams and those that would be affected if hydroelectric expansion continues. They unified under the slogan, "No a las represas!" (No dams!).

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### **Mexico:**

**Guerrero's Stand Against Dams, and For Rivers, Water,  
and Life**

The Papagayo River flows through a large part of Southern Mexico. Its waters provide life and sustenance for the people around the river, yet much of this purpose is impeded by La Parota Dam. This action informed the public of Papagayo's presence in the lives of the people of Guerrero. This event, like many others in Mexico, was part of the larger action entitled "Journey Against the Privatization of Water," which included a number of marches, movements, fora and discussions in Mexico.

**Contact**

Rodolfo Chávez

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**Journey in Defense of Water**

While many organizations chose to hold individual, separate actions limited to one day, "Journey in Defense of Water" was the aggregate collection of actions throughout Mexico that coincided with the Day of Action and the World Water Forum held in Mexico this year. This series of actions took place throughout Mexico over a span of eight days from March 14th to March 22nd. The "Journey in Defense of Water" involved numerous actions, including fora, symposia and marches.

**Contact**

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**Marches for Mexico**

Mexico's MONEXICO joined with REDLAR to orchestrate a forum to mobilize people against the privatization of water in Mexico. They organized a march that culminated in a forum against the construction of dams and privatization of water, and encouraged

discussion of alternative energy sources. The action ended with another march to the front of ENECAL and UNION FENOSA.

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---

### **Guatemala:**

#### **National Front Against Dams and In Defense of Water for Guatemala**

In association with the National Front Against Dams and In Defense of Water for Guatemala, the Second National Meeting will meet in the city of Ixcan, El Quiche, from April 27th to the 30th. Ixcan is one of the proposed sites for the construction of the Xalala Dam, the largest planned project to date in Guatemala.

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### **Nicaragua:**

#### **Campaign for the Defense of Water, Energy and Against Dams**

COMPA (Convergencia de los Movimientos de Pueblos de las Américas) held a widespread collection of actions throughout Nicaragua. The events began with a march called "Accessible Energy and Water for All." They found power for their cause by

unifying groups of indigenous peoples and specialists to gather a wide range of perspectives on sustainable river use. COMPA joined with UNACUN (Unión Nacional de Asociaciones de Consumidores y Usuarios de Nicaragua) for many of these events.

### **Contact**

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### **Panama:**

## **II Foro Nacional Contra Las Represas (FoNaCoR)**

### 2nd National Forum Against Dams

This large-scale action is part of the Day of Action, though it will formally be held from the 19th to the 22nd of March in the province of Chiriquí. The event will take place on the Tabasará River, and seeks to end dam production that has already displaced thousands of citizens of Panama. The Panamanian government currently has plans for the construction of 7 large dams that will negatively effect this tropical country that is wholly dependent upon its more than 500 rivers. As the title implies, this forum is the sequel to the successful first forum in Panama last year. This event will further public education and invigorate the movement against dams throughout Panama.

### **Contact**

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#### United States:

#### **Lobbying Legislators for Sensible Water Management**

In response to bond discussions in Sacramento that included money for dams, Friends of the River, California Coastkeeper Alliance, Planning and Conservation League, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Environmental Defense, Sierra Club and the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) highlighted International Dam Protest Day by delivering a flyer to every legislator's office in the California State Capitol. The flyer emphasized the World Commission on Dams' recommendations and promoted the new State Water Plan's emphasis on cost-effective water conservation, recycling and groundwater treatment as the best ways of meeting the needs of California's growing population. The groups rejected funding for new dams.

#### **Contacts**

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Linda Sheehan

California Coastkeeper Alliance

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### **Round Table Conference on African Water Issues**

Environmental Protection and Health Network (ENPROHNET) hosted a round table conference on African water issues. The outcome of the conference will appear in an African magazine produced in New York.

#### **Contact**

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If you held an action and have not yet contacted us, please do so  
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We look forward to hearing from you!

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