

## **More Info on Major Jinsha River Hydropower Projects Location: Southwest China (Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces)**

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### **Xiangjiaba Dam**

Planning for a series of four megadams on the lower Jinsha River—Xiangjiaba, Xiluodu, Baihetan, and Wudongde—began as early as 1957. Currently under construction as the furthest downstream of the Jinsha dams, Xiangjiaba will generate 6 gigawatts of energy when completed. Along with Xiluodu, both projects will equal the Three Gorges' capacity by 2015. Financing for the dams comes from Yangtze Power, China Development Bank (CDB), and China Construction Bank, with costs estimated at US\$3.68 billion to US\$5.43 billion. 8,000 out of an estimated 85,000-118,000 people and six counties have already been relocated.

### **Xiluodu Dam**

Generating twice as much energy as Xiangjiaba (12.6 gigawatts), with a dam height of 278 meters, Xiluodu threatens to displace 32,000 to 50,000 people. In 2005, SEPA ordered a halt to construction because the dam, along with 30 other projects, lacked an environmental impact assessment. However, work has resumed and by November 2007, the gates of Xiluodu closed, officially damming the Jinsha River.

### **Ahai Dam**

A minimal EIA for the Ahai dam was released to the public in November 2007. The EIA states that at least three protected fish species will be impacted and several scenic gorges will be inundated. Unfortunately, comments made on the EIA by International Rivers and Chinese NGOs have not been addressed. The Ahai has had a contested history since construction began. On May 30, 2007, the Yunnan Provincial People's Government issued a public announcement to stop dam construction until effective measures to protect shores and resettled peoples were created, after landslides collapsed the shoreline. It has yet to receive necessary approval from the State Council.

### **Hutiaoxia (Tiger Leaping Gorge) Dam**

Hutiaoxia is famous for its magnificent features and dangerously steep drop, as well as being home to thousands of cultural heritages sites. Yunnan Hydropower has already designed this dam and conducted site surveys, but preparations have ceased as of April 2008. The project was shelved in 2004 after fierce public opposition led by local communities together with Greenpeace, Global Earth Village and nine other NGOs in Beijing. A media report in 2007 suggests the project may have been canceled and moved 200 km upstream to an ethnically Tibetan section of the river. If resumed, the dam would impact the Three Parallel Rivers World Heritage Site. 1.3 million hectares of land would

be submerged. Scientists have stated that major environmental damage would result and the scenic gorge that is highly popular with tourists would be inundated.