



North America

1. Take down the Klamath dams: In January 2007, the US government ordered a dam operator to install salmon passages at four large dams on the Klamath River in the Pacific Northwest. Decommissioning the dams would be cheaper than modifying them, so the government decision could trigger the largest dam removal project in history.

2. New dams proposed: California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will ask voters to invest \$4 billion to build two

new dams in the already heavily dammed state. Schwarzenegger cites population growth and climate change as reasons to build the new dams. Opponents say a better solution is to invest more in water use efficiency and recycling.

Latin America

3. The Amazon as power plant: Studies are proceeding for the 11,200 megawatts (MW) Belo Monte Dam, the first of a series of new dams planned on the Xingu River in the Brazilian Amazon. The Brazilian government has plans

for the construction of at least 60 new dams in the Amazon basin, and has indicated it will weaken environmental protection and indigenous rights guarantees to clear the way for the dams.

4. Damming Patagonia: Spanish company Endesa recently began environmental impact studies for a series of four dams on the Baker and Pascua Rivers in Chilean Patagonia. The dams would have a total generating capacity of 2,400 MW, and would require construction of a 1,200 mile transmission line system

through pristine ecosystems to transport the energy to industrial centers in northern Chile.

Africa

5. World's biggest dam: African governments are currently assessing the possibility of building a massive dam complex in the Democratic Republic of Congo that would divert the whole Congo River. With a capacity of 40,000 MW and a price tag of \$50-80 billion, the Grand Inga Project would be the world's largest hydropower project. Its



Europe

9. Damning Turkey's Kurds:

The German, Austrian and Swiss governments approved official export guarantees for the Ilisu Dam in Turkey in March 2007. The Ilisu Dam will affect at least 55,000 people, and violates the Common Approaches on the Environment of the export credit agencies of OECD countries. Activists note huge gaps in official studies on the project, and the potential for major human rights abuses in the Kurdish region where the dam is to be built.

Asia

10. Pakistan's big dam:

Preliminary work has started on the 3,300 megawatt Bhasha Dam in Northern Pakistan. The dam would be located in an earthquake-prone region and submerge 32 villages, displacing up to 100,000 people. Financial assistance for the \$7 billion project has not yet been secured.

11. Northeast India dam

begins: In early 2007, construction started on the massive Tipaimukh Dam in the state of Manipur in Northeastern India. If completed, the dam will flood 311 square kilometers of land and 90 villages. It is strongly opposed by the indigenous peoples of Manipur and by downstream Bangladesh.

12. Farewell, Yangtze: The Chinese government plans to build 100 new dams on the Yangtze River. One dam, slated to start construction in 2008, would flood the spectacular and much-revered Tiger Leaping Gorge and forcibly displace 100,000 people.

13. Dam-rush in the Mekong:

Major hydropower cascades are under development on the Sesan and Srepok rivers in Vietnam, and the Sekong River in Laos, all tributaries of the Mekong River. Downstream communities in Cambodia would be most affected and are calling for a halt to construction until cross-border impacts are addressed. With Thailand's renewed interest in purchasing hydropower from Laos, the Lao government has signed agreements with Malaysian, Thai, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese investors to build more than 13 dams on Mekong tributaries.

electricity would serve urban and industrial centers, and bypass the rural poor.

6. Victoria Nile damned: With support from the World Bank, construction of the Bujagali Dam on the Nile is expected to start in 2007. Ugandan NGOs say that the project violates binding World Bank policies, and have filed a complaint with the Bank's appeal mechanism, the Inspection Panel. Bujagali would be the third dam within a few miles of Lake Victoria; two existing dams have been implicated in draining Lake Victoria.

7. Ethiopia's dam boom:

Ethiopia has become Africa's busiest dam-construction site, with three hydropower dams under construction. The government hopes to generate millions of dollars in foreign currency by exporting electricity to neighboring countries. Currently under construction are the Tekeze Dam (300 MW), Gilgel Gibe II (420 MW) and Tana Belesse (435 MW). The government plans to build the 240 meter high Gilgel Gibe III Dam on the Omo-Gibe River. So far, no funders for the project have stepped forward.

8. China expands global dam-building:

In May 2007, the African Development Bank held its annual meeting in Shanghai. The meeting reflects China's rapidly growing role as a financier of infrastructure projects in Africa. China is already backing the Merowe Dam in Sudan and the Tekeze Dam in Ethiopia, and plans to build the Bui Dam in Ghana and Mphanda Nkuwa Dam in Mozambique.