



President of China
His Excellency, Mr. Hu Jintao
State Council Secretariat
Zhongnanhai
Beijing, People's Republic of China

March 4, 2004

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned 76 organizations from 33 countries, are writing to express our concerns about the plans to develop up to thirteen large hydropower projects on the Nu River in China. We have learned that officials from the local prefecture on the Nu River in China plan to approve the construction of a major dam at Liuku in Yunnan Province and that Huadian Group is seeking construction contracts. We are deeply concerned that this decision is being made without consultation with downstream riparian residents.

The Nu River, also known as the Salween River, is the last free-flowing international river in the region, and is shared by China, Thailand, and Burma. The Nu River in the Three Parallel Rivers area is the epicenter of Chinese biodiversity. Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the Three Parallel Rivers area is known to be one of the richest temperate regions of the world. The area contains over 6000 different plant species and is believed to support over 50% of China's animal species. Forests and wetlands along the river are home to diverse species of flora and fauna and contain areas of high ecological value. Nine of the thirteen dams proposed would be located in the World Heritage Area.

Millions of people of over twenty ethnicities depend on the Nu/Salween River watershed for their livelihoods. Along the river, fisheries are a major source of dietary protein. Nutrients carried down the river also sustain vegetable gardens in the dry season and fertilize large areas of farmland. Dam projects risk drastic impacts to all of these resources.

We respectfully ask that the Chinese government suspend the project plans immediately in the World Heritage Area.

If the Chinese government wants to construct dam projects on the Nu River outside of the World Heritage Area, we request that comprehensive environmental and social impact studies are completed before construction and implementation, to determine if the projects are economically, socially and environmentally acceptable. Proper consultation with riparian neighbors and all affected communities should be conducted according to international standards. Reports and assessments should be publicly disclosed in regional languages.

We look forward to understanding how the Chinese government is going to work to protect this important international river.

Sincerely yours,

Doris Shen
International Rivers Network

This letter is endorsed by the following 76 organizations:

Australia

Tim O'Connor, AID/WATCH , Australia

Bangladesh

Zakir Kibria, BanglaPraxis, Bangladesh

Belize

Candy Gonzalez, Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy

Brazil

Julianna Malerba, Projeto Brasil Sustentável e Democrático/FASE Rede Brasileira de Justiça Ambiental, Brazil

Sociedade de Proteção e Utilização do Meio Ambiente/PUMA, Brazil

Ing. Frans J. Leeuwenberg, City of Goiás, Brasil. World Heritage City by UNESCO

Alcides Faria, Rios Vivos Coalition - Executive Secretariat, Brazil

Burkina Faso

Dr. Moses K. Kambou, SYNADEC, Burkina Faso

Burma

K'nyaw Paw, Karen Women's Organization, Burma

Canada

Karen Hawley, Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG), Canada Marty Bergoffen,

China

Dr. Howard Liu, Greenpeace China

Croatia

Helena Hecimovic, The Drava League, Croatia

El Salvador

Juan N. Rojas, Coordinadora Nacional Anti-Represas, El Salvador

Angel Maria Ibarra, Unidad Ecologica Salvadoreña-UNES- El Salvador

France

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Gérard Borvon, Association S-EAU-S, France

Jean-Claude, OLIVAACME France

Meredyth Ailloud, IDS, France

Laetitia Desmarez, Energy Campaign, Greenpeace France

Benoit Ducasse, Confederation Paysanne, France
Raphaëlle Gauthier, Climate Action Network France
Sébastien Godinot, Friends of the Earth France
Danielle Mitterrand, France Libertés Fondation
Jean-Luc Touly, L'ACME France (Association pour le Contrat Mondial de l'Eau)

Germany

Heike Drillisch, WEED, Germany
Heffa Schücking, Urgewald, Germany
Ulrike Bey and Dorothy Guerrero, Asienhaus

Ghana

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India

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Ashish Fernandes, Ecologist Asia
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Indonesia

Mia Wastuti, Yayasan Tanah Air/YATANI, Indonesia
Ar Wahab, Serikat Petani Jawa Barat/West Java Peasant Union, Indonesia

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Korea

Moon Chang-Shik, Daegu Korean Federation for Environmental Movement, Korea

Mexico

Rodolfo Chavez, La Parota, Acapulco, Mexico

Mozambique

Anabela Lemos, Livaningo, Maputo, Mozambique

Netherlands

Henneke Brink, Both ENDS, Netherlands

Pakistan

Naeem Iqbal, Pakistan Network for Rivers, Dams, and People, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Philippines

Tignayan dagitti mannalon a mangwayawaya ti agno (Peasant movement to free the Agno River),
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Cc: Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
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Mr. Achim Steiner, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
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