

India

# Opening dams will affect drinking water supply: Govt

| Jan 7, 2014, 12.57 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Opening-dams-will-affect-drinking-water-supply-Govt/articleshow/28485530.cms>

MADURAI: Government has informed the Madras high court that releasing water from reservoirs would affect [drinking water supply](#) to Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai districts. The submission, which may disappoint farmers in the region, was made during Monday's hearing at the high court bench on two public interest litigations seeking release of dam water for irrigating [standing crops in Melur](#).

Last week the court had suggested releasing Vaigai water for the benefit of Melur farmers.

So far, hearings on the petitions were held for four days. All along the hearings, the government side maintained that releasing dam water would affect drinking supply to the above-said districts. However, the court directed the government on January 3 to hold meeting with concerned officials, including collectors and public works department officials of Theni, Madurai and Ramanathapuram on Saturday, to take a decision regarding releasing water, and convey the same to the court on January 6. Accordingly, the hearing was held on Monday. Submitting a report, the government side said the officers' meeting was conducted as the court directed.

Meanwhile, farmers were eagerly awaiting the government's decision. The latest submission will definitely anger 3,000 farmers faced with dying crops.

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Today's Paper» NATIONAL» KERALA

PALAKKAD, January 21, 2014

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/build-checkdams-to-solve-water-crisis-says-forum/article5599510.ece>

## Build check-dams to solve water crisis, says forum

## Drying up of Bharathapuzha during summer months

The Ottapalam Citizens Forum took out a march to the office of the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) Executive Engineer demanding temporary check-dams to protect drinking water sources in the Bharathapuzha, on Monday.

Every year, the river got dried up in the summer months resulting in acute drinking water problem, forum president P. Sreenivasan said.

Many drinking water schemes drew water from the river. But, the KWA had not constructed check-dams to prevent the complete drying up of the river during summer. This caused drinking water shortage in the district, causing hardships to thousand of families, he said.

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Philip Bethge

### Hydropower Struggle: Dams Threaten Europe's Last Wild Rivers

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<http://www.tehrantimes.com/science/113542-hydropower-struggle-dams-threaten-europes-last-wild-rivers>

Two large dams are planned for Mavrovo National Park, one of those at Lukovo Pole. The place is perched high in the mountains, where the trees give way to dewy alpine meadows and biodiversity is at its apex. A nearby valley may become a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status.

The planned Lukovo Pole Dam will be 71 meters tall. A new road must be paved through the park in order to build it. In July, the World Bank will decide whether to support the project with \$70 million in funding.

Further down, in the valley, is the Boskov Most, the last refuge of the Balkan lynx. That's where a dam is planned which will block the Mala Reka River. The EBRD has already pledged €65 million for the construction project. A narrow road leads uphill along the Mala Reka. After driving for a few minutes, Eichelmann stops the car and jumps out. The first snow of winter lies across the valley like a porous blanket. The air is stingingly cold. The river froths and roars.

Eichelmann scrambles down the embankment. Suddenly he comes upon a world of light and shadow, cold and moisture. The water bubbles over moss-covered rocks, disappearing into hidden hollows, forcing its way through ridges of icicles.

On an overhanging rock, a white-throated dipper has built a nest out of moss. There, among a labyrinth of roots and stones, live species of trout found only in the Balkans and the larvae of caddis flies and dragonflies. "That's what I love: this unique variety," says Eichelmann. What will happen to the Mala Reka when the dam is built? "The riverbed will be dry most of the time," he says. The water of the future reservoir will still flow through the Mala Reka, but only in times of high electricity demand. Engineers call the technique "hydropeaking." Once a day, a tidal wave will rip through the valley.

Biologists fear that a majority of the ecosystem's plants and animals would not survive the daily deluge. Furthermore, the roads necessary for the construction of the dam would fragment the Mavrovo reserve, making life difficult for wild animals there.

## **'We Need Hydropower'**

International investors seem not to care. "None of the comprehensive studies and additional monitoring undertaken has suggested that the project could affect the national park status of Mavrovo," the EBRD said in a statement. The power station operator for the power company ELEM likewise chose a reassuring tone, saying that the project would not endanger diversity.

Macedonia is one of the member states of the "Regions 2020 Network." The countries involved have pledged to increase the share of renewable energies in their mix to at least 20 percent by 2020 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent relative to 1990 levels in the same time period. "We need hydropower to take care of the future of our country," says ELEM head Dejan Boskovski.

But international pressure is increasing. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) passed a resolution demanding that the dam project in Mavrovo be abandoned. And last week, several hundred European researchers, including the German natural scientist Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, a former German parliamentarian and nephew of the ex-German President Richard von Weizsäcker, appealed directly to the World Bank and the EBRD in an effort to halt financing for the Mavrovo dam. "We are surprised that your institutions have even considered supporting these dam projects," reads the open letter. The projects "undermine the very idea of national parks" and "violate EU law, such as the Natura 2000 Directives and the Water Framework Directive."

If nothing happens, "these rivers will be destroyed just as ours were in the 1970s, and it will be done with our help," says preservationist Ulrich Eichelmann. "I am not opposed to hydropower, but we need a master plan for the Balkans to determine where it is okay to build such power plants and where it is not."

## **A Glimmer of Hope**

Many of those countries in the Balkans that aren't yet members of the EU would ultimately like to join. "One of the things these countries have to offer the union is scenery," Eichelmann says.

But most Balkan countries remain mired in economic crisis. And where there is a paucity of money, environmental protection often takes a back seat. Not even a rigorous look at river diversity has been undertaken thus far.

Still, the economic crisis could indirectly benefit the rivers. In many places, dam construction projects have become playthings for speculators -- which is why Albania's Energy Minister Gjinkuri has revoked some building permits. "Many investors haven't started construction at all, but were trying to trade their licenses on the black market," he says. "Some only pretended" to build "so that they could increase their price in the market."

Gjinkuri doesn't explicitly mention the half-finished Kalivaç dam. But he can't hide the fact that he is unhappy with the situation there too. With good reason. Despite the energy with which Becchetti presents his Vjosë River project, almost no progress has been made in the last four years.

That gives Ulrich Eichelmann a glimmer of hope. "Thus far, no irreparable harm has been done to the Vjosë," he says. "We will do everything we can to block the power plant -- but it is a race against time."

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How did Europe's rivers look before they were tamed -- back when they were allowed to flow freely through the beds they spent centuries carving out?

Most of the Continent's waterways, like the Elbe, the Rhine and the Danube, have long since been hemmed in. But examples of Europe's largely vanished wilderness remain. Such as the Vjosë, which flows unfettered through its valley in southwestern Albania, splitting off into tributaries that once again flow together in a

constant game of give-and-take with solid ground.

"With every flood, the Vjosë shifts its course," says Ulrich Eichelmann, a conservationist with the organization RiverWatch, as he looks across to the narrow ribbon of alluvial forest that clings to the side of the valley. "The river fills the entire valley," says the 52-year-old. "Such a thing in Europe can only be found here, in the Balkans." Then he pauses. On the opposite shore, a cormorant takes flight.

The Vjosë: 270 kilometers (168 miles) of river landscape, from the Pindus Mountains of Greece all the way down to the Adriatic Sea. Not a single dam disturbs the water's course. No concrete bed directs its flow. And every pebble tells a story, says Eichelmann -- of pristine mountain enclaves, of waterfalls, gorges and lakes.

### **The 'Blue Heart of Europe'**

The Vjosë is not alone. Several crystal clear, untamed rivers rush through many countries in the region. "The blue heart of Europe beats in the Balkans," says Eichelmann, who, together with environmental organization EuroNatur, works to preserve these natural water systems.

Experts say that approximately 80 percent of rivers in the Balkans remain in good or very good ecological condition -- a paradise for fish, freshwater molluscs, snails and insects.

But Europe's last wild rivers are now at risk. More than 570 large dams, complete with hydroelectric power plants (each with a capacity of more than one megawatt), are planned for the region (see graphic).

With money from international financial institutions -- among them Deutsche Bank, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) -- dam construction is well underway.

Eichelmann describes a "gold rush mentality," with the "hydro-lobby" grasping for the last untapped energy market in Europe. Just before the Balkan states are forced to comply with ecological regulations as part of the process of joining the European Union, the industry is trying to establish a fait accompli: "Something that has long been banned in the EU, they're now trying quickly to pull off in the Balkans," says Eichelmann. It's a sell-off of untouched nature in the name of green energy and climate protection.

### **Albanian Building Boom**

In Albania, the taming of wild waterways is already in full swing. The poverty-stricken country is currently in the grips of a construction boom. Three large dams have already been completed on the Drin River in the north. The Norwegian company Statkraft has acquired concessions for construction on the Devoll River. And the Vjosë, too, is under threat. Eight dams are planned. One is already under construction, where the river squeezes through a narrow gap near the village of Kalivaç. Excavators there haul heaps of gravel and sand; the dam is to be nearly 50 meters high and 350 meters wide (165 by 1,150 feet).

The man behind the construction of this dam is an Italian named Francesco Becchetti. Back in Italy, the 47-year-old owns a construction and waste removal empire. He also owns an Albanian television station. Those wishing to meet him must first submit to screening at the hands of one of his TV journalists, before being escorted down a dusty road to Kalivaç. There, the industrialist waits with his entourage -- over a dozen sturdy men crowded around a bevy of expensive sedans.

At the office unit on the construction site, Becchetti shows his plans for the Vjosë dam. He's brought along a thick stack of expert reports. His project has already swallowed up €70 million (\$93 million) he says, including money from Deutsche Bank. Meanwhile the financial institution has backed out of the joint venture.

During the walk to the half-finished construction site, the conversation turns to the Vjosë. Is Becchetti aware that he is dealing with one of Europe's last remaining wild rivers? No, answers the builder. "The dam won't be a problem for the environment," he says, "somebody had to explain this to me first, but we will add some steps for trout."

A fishladder for trout? To mitigate the total loss of a unique habitat? From the perspective of ecologists, it sounds like a bad joke. "If the Vjosë degenerates into a chain of reservoirs," fears Spase Shumka, from the department of natural sciences at the Agricultural University of Tirana, "the eel and mullet here, for example, would not be able to survive." The fish, endangered throughout Europe, currently migrate up to 200 kilometers (124 miles) up the Vjosë.

Countless birds, such as little ringed plovers, little egrets and great egrets are dependent on the rivers' floodplains, says Shumka. And many fish species found only in the Balkans, such as the Pindus stone loach, could be brought to the brink of extinction.

No Choice but Hydropower?

In the Albanian capital of Tirana, however, it quickly becomes clear that nature conservancy is not high on the Albanian government's priority list.

Minister of Energy and Industry Damian Gjiknuri lives in the government quarter along Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard. He made an honest effort during his first few months in office to raise understanding for nature conservation. But the country's energy supply is an issue closer to his heart.

"Albania is still importing 35 to 40 percent of its electricity needs," says Gjiknuri. In order to change that, Albania has no other choice but to pursue hydroelectric power. The potential is enormous: "We have the possibility to generate 10 times more electricity from hydropower."

For the same reason, the state-owned energy company Elektrani na Makedonija (ELEM) wants to build two dams in neighboring Macedonia -- in the middle of a national park.

The 73,000-hectare (180,000-acre) Mavrovo nature reserve lies on the border of Albania and Kosovo and is one of the oldest national parks in Europe. It contains old-growth beech forests, where wolves and bears still prowl. Its streams are home to otters, trout and freshwater crayfish. The pride of the region is the Balkan lynx; only about 50 specimens of the feline species continue to roam the woods -- extinction is well in sight

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## **U.S. Tightens Development Safeguards**

By Carey L. Biron

**WASHINGTON, Jan 28 2014 (IPS)** - Development activists and rights watchdogs are applauding a surprise strengthening of environmental and human rights policies governing U.S. development funding and overseas financial assistance.

Under the new provisions, the United States will be required to vote against multilateral funding for large-scale hydroelectric projects in developing countries, as well as push for redress of rights violations resulting from development initiatives by international financial institutions.

## “We’ve watched donor agencies such as USAID turning a blind eye to blatant human rights allegations in these areas.” -- Anuradha Mittal

In addition, Washington will be barred from offering any bilateral assistance that could facilitate certain rights abuses, extractive industries or industrial logging in primary tropical forests.

The new mandates constitute just a tiny part of a massive [bill](#), signed into law on Jan. 17, that funds the federal government through the end of this financial year. But supporters say the provisions could have both direct implications for specific situations and pending projects as well as longer-lasting impacts on development funding and approaches.

“The U.S. Congress has taken an important step toward bridging the gap between U.S. government policy on development finance and its human rights policy in requiring the U.S. government to press international financial institutions to provide compensation or otherwise remedy human right violations linked to their projects,” Jessica Evans, a Washington-based researcher on international financial institutions at Human Rights Watch, told IPS.

The new provisions, reportedly sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, will impact both on bilateral U.S. funding through agencies such as USAID, as well as on the significant contributions that the United States provides to multilateral development institutions, particularly the World Bank.

U.S. representatives will now be required to vote against multilateral funding for the construction of major hydroelectric projects, likely defined as anything over 15 metres high. Large dams have been criticised by development experts for decades, given their often inevitable impact on local communities and environmental systems.

However, the World Bank recently unveiled a new institutional strategy that may include a prominent focus on big dams. Thus, the Leahy provisions could prove to be an impediment to the Washington-based development funder’s vision.

“I applaud the U.S. Congress for directing the U.S. Treasury to oppose the financing of large dam projects through the World Bank and other financial institutions,” Deborah Moore, a former commissioner on the World Commission on Dams and current chair of the board of International Rivers, a global watchdog group, said in a statement.

“I think the message now is clear: there are better options for meeting communities’ needs for electricity that are cheaper and sustainable.”

International Rivers says the new law will require the United States to oppose current and pending hydro projects on the Indus and Congo rivers, as well as in Guyana, Laos and Togo.

The appropriations bill also requires that the U.S. push multilateral funders, particularly the World Bank, to incorporate new external oversight and evaluation mechanisms for each project they undertake, to ensure that stipulated safeguards are being followed.

According to a statement released to the media and published over the weekend, the World Bank is currently analysing the scope of the new provisions. Yet future U.S. funding for the bank could now be contingent on this new requirement.

“The overall sentiment in provisions calling for stricter oversight and urging [World Bank President Jim Kim] to look outside the World Bank walls to better address the issues plaguing the institution is at the core of civil society advocacy,” Josh Lichtenstein, director of campaigns for the Bank Information Center (BIC), a watchdog group here, told IPS.

“We welcome the use of the legislative process to send strong messages to the [international financial institutions], particularly in pushing them to adopt policies and procedures that are better in line with highest international standards and in implementing stricter oversight to ensure those standards are upheld.”

### Official acknowledgement

Other provisions within the new appropriations bill mandate actions regarding specific ongoing or pending projects that have garnered criticisms over rights abuses, particularly in Cambodia, Guatemala and Ethiopia.

In 2010 in Cambodia, families in northern Phnom Penh were illegally evicted from their lands for a major development project that included filling a large lake, Boeung Kak, with sand. Cambodia is a World Bank client, and the evictions directly contravened bank standards.

In Guatemala, the construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the Chixoy River during the early 1980s displaced 3,500 indigenous peoples, leading to tensions that resulted in the massacre or rights abuses of some 400 people. That project was partially funded by the World Bank.

Under the new legislation, the U.S. representative at the World Bank (and, in the case of the Chixoy dam, the Inter-American Development Bank) will now be required to offer regular updates on progress on reparations and redress surrounding both of these situations.

“We began to work for reparations in 1995 and today we heard the great news,” Carlos Chen Osorio, director for the Coordination of Affected Communities by the Chixoy Hydroelectric Plant, an advocacy group, said in a statement. “We feel that we are not alone and are very grateful to all those that have committed to work on this.”

In Ethiopia, meanwhile, the United States itself has come under criticism for helping to bankroll a major government development project that has included forcibly moving pastoralists from traditional lands in the Lower Omo and Gambella regions, to be settled in villages. The new law now disallows U.S. monies from either directly or indirectly funding forced displacement in these areas.

"We've watched donor agencies such as USAID turning a blind eye to blatant human rights allegations in these areas," Anuradha Mittal, executive director of the Oakland Institute, a watchdog group that has carried out multiple [investigations](#) on forced displacements in Ethiopia, told IPS. (USAID did not respond to request for comment by deadline.)

"It's a real relief now to see the U.S. Congress offering true acknowledgement that these reports of forced evictions are not mere allegations," she continues. "Now that they've taken a stand, however, we need to ensure that this is not just language but rather is fully implemented."

Indeed, civil society interest will now focus on how U.S. and international agencies implement these new provisions. While U.S. law offers a new opportunity to mitigate adverse impacts of development funding, it is unclear the extent to which that tool will be used.

"While we celebrate this achievement, we are cautious in our expectations," BIC's Lichtenstein says, "as unscripted and unfunded mandates, at their best, often indicate the start of serious discussion and better coordination, rather than systematic change."

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## Hampstead Heath dams: Expert defends double role

**Published: 30 January, 2014**

**By DAN CARRIER**

THE engineer behind controversial plans to build £15m dams on Hampstead Heath has said his role as safety advisor to the City of London and as engineer for the firm which has designed the scheme is not a conflict of interest.

In an interview with the New Journal, Dr Andy Hughes, who has masterminded the scheme that would radically alter the Highgate and Hampstead ponds, dismissed fears that his role in recommending that the work should be done, coupled with his employer Atkins drawing up the project, would leave the City open to criticism.

The City of London says it must follow his recommendations that state a severe storm could lead to a catastrophic breach of dams, flooding homes and killing up to 1,400 people.

Dr Hughes said: "Every dam owner employs a panel engineer. Once you write a report for them, your role is finished. The owner can go to any company to do the work, or to another engineer to act as a referee to check your findings.

"I can be challenged at any time on my results. I am detached from the engineering work, except to make sure it is safe. There is no conflict of interest.

"The Institute of Civil Engineers has a professional ethics committee and I could be disbarred if they found otherwise."

Dr Hughes is vice-chairman of the British Dam Society, which provided evidence to Parliament over the 2010 Flood and Water Management Bill that has led to the City of London saying it must do the work.

He said: "We produced a document at the government's request."

Dr Hughes was appointed in 2010 by the City to be the panel engineer to study the risk of the ponds flooding.

He has worked as an advisor to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is a director of dams and reservoirs at engineering firm Atkins.

He is set to face the public at two guided walks in February and will explain why he thinks the scheme is necessary.

The Heath and Hampstead Society is campaigning against the dams project.

The society's Helen Marcus said: "Computer modelling behind these proposals is not based on facts, which are that the ponds have never breached. They are based on the worst possible case scenario of a one-in-400,000-year storm, which then prompts a catastrophic collapse of all the dams.

"We feel this is so exaggerated as to be quite uncalled for."

On the question of whether there is a conflict of interest in using an engineer who has lobbied for stronger rules covering dam safety to draw up plans for the Heath. Mrs Marcus added: "This is an interesting question and should start alarm bells ringing as to why this project has been pursued."

Dr Hughes told the New Journal that the risk of flooding was based on estimates that measure the consequences of a dam bursting against its likelihood.

He said: "For example, if a reservoir is in a remote area and no lives are at risk the work would not be insisted on."

He added that, because Hampstead Heath's reservoirs are in a highly-built-up area, work would need to be done.

Dr Hughes said the new legislation was the result of a study by engineer Sir Michael Pitt that found previous laws drawn up nearly 100 years ago were no longer adequate as weather patterns become more extreme.

"We use rainfall studies by meteorologists going back hundreds of years to calculate the probability of severe storms," Dr Hughes added. "We calculate how much the water level could rise, and consider how we cater for it."

The guided walks are on Tuesday, February 11, and Saturday, February 15, both from 9.30am to noon. They start at the Parliament Hill staff yard and finish at East Heath.

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## US Congress tells government to oppose large dams

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/us-congress-tells-government-oppose-large-dams>

Author(s): [Soma Basu](#)

Date: Jan 17, 2014

It also seeks compensation and redress to people who suffer violation of human rights, including forced displacement, resulting from loan, grant, strategy or policy of international financial institutions

In a landmark decision, the United States Congress has instructed the US government and its agencies to oppose any financial or policy support to large dams.

The resolution, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, passed on January 13, reads: "The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution that it is the policy of the United States to oppose any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution to support the construction of any large hydroelectric dam (as defined in Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making, by World Commission on Dams (November 2000))."

It may be noted that US is the biggest financial contributor to World Bank and other international financial institutions (IFIs) and has the biggest vote share in World Bank and other boards. Several large dams across the globe are funded by such IFIs.

The World Commission on Dams endorses the definition of large dams by the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), established in 1928, which says that a large dam is a dam

with a height of 15 m or more from the foundation. If dams are between 5-15m high and have a reservoir volume of more than 3 million cube metre, they are also classified as large dams. Using this definition, there are over 45,000 large dams around the world.

The resolution also says the secretary of the treasury shall instruct the US executive director of each international financial institution to seek to ensure that each such institution responds to the findings and recommendations of its accountability mechanisms by providing just compensation or other appropriate redress to individuals and communities that suffer violation of human rights, including forced displacement, resulting from any loan, grant, strategy or policy of such institution.

### **Redress for those affected by Chixoy dam?**

United States executive directors of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank would now have to take steps to support implementation of the April 19, 2010 Reparations Plan for Damages Suffered by the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam in Guatemala.

The project, financed by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, was built on the Chixoy River in the early 1980s. The project forcibly displaced more than 3,500 Maya community members. More than 6,000 families living in the area also suffered loss of land and livelihoods. When community members opposed relocation and sought better compensation, they were massacred, tortured and kidnapped. More than 400 Maya indigenous people were killed in such massacres.

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<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/155339-mnas-concerned-over-construction-of-dams-by-india-on-pakistani-rivers.html>

## **MNAs concerned over construction of dams by India on Pakistani rivers**

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Tuesday, 28 January 2014 17:35  
Posted by Imaduddin

ISLAMABAD: Treasury and opposition members of National Assembly on Tuesday urged the government to vigorously defend Pakistan's water rights at rivers as India continues to build dams.

Taking part in the discussion at the floor of National Assembly on the resolution moved by MNA Beelum Hasnain on the construction of dams by India on the waters of Pakistan, the members urged the government to contest the country's rights for water at international forums.

However, the debate went off the track when some members took up the issue of Kalabagh dam and reminded that three provinces Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were opposed to the project.

Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf MNA Aisha Gulalai said India had been constructing dams in violation of Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960.

PML-N MNA Javed Ali Shah said it was unfortunate that issue of construction of dams was politicised.

Ameer Haider Hoti of Awami National Party (ANP), Aftab Sherpao of Qaumi Watan Party, Shazia Marri and Yousaf Talpur of PPP said three provinces passed resolutions opposing construction of Kalabagh dam.

They asserted that only those projects should be taken up on which the provinces have a consensus.

The members urged the federal government to initiate more dam projects and improve irrigation system in the country to stop wastage of millions acre feet of water that drains into the sea every year.

The members criticised the Indus Water Treaty and said India was taking away share of water of Pakistan.

Aftab Sherpao said the 1991 water accord provides basis for distribution of water among the provinces.

He urged for completion of non-controversial projects like Diamer Bhasha dam.

He said under the Indus Water Treaty Pakistan handed over three rivers to India, however, according to international law rights of lower riparian like Pakistan are protected.

Independent member Jamshed Ahmed Dasti said the successive governments did not pay attention to developing water resources.

"Politics should not be done on the issue of water. Millions of cusecs of water gets wasted in sea and floods wreck havoc in the country and people lose their lives and livelihoods," he added.

He said Kalabagh dam should be built as it would not reduce water for Sindh province.

Those who were opposing construction of dams were not favouring in the best interest of the country, Dasti remarked.

PPP MNA Mir Munawar Ali Talpur said more focus should be given to economic issues.

He recalled that PPP government took different steps including export of wheat and provision of tractors to farmers for betterment of agriculture sector.

PPP MNA Nawab Muhammad Yousaf Talpur said according to 1991 water accord Sindh should be given 10 million acre feet of water downstream of Kotri and rights of Sindh as a lower riparian should be safeguarded.

MNA Naeema Kishwar of JUI-F said half of the water in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gets wasted so there is need to conserve water.

She called for building small dams and hydropower projects in areas like Chitral for irrigation and power generation.

MQM MNA Salman Baloch expressed concern over scarcity of water in Pakistan and suggested that his party's plans for development of water resources should be adopted.

Sahibzada Tariqullah of Jamaat-e-Islami pointed out that water of Kabul river should be utilized before it makes its way into Afghanistan.

He complained that the affectees of Diamer Bhasha dam had not received any compensation so far, adding Munda dam on Swat river and other dam projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province should be completed.

PML-N MNA Marvi Memon said everybody has a common stance on building of dams by India on Pakistani rivers.

She said the government had a clear policy on Kalabagh dam and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had consistently stated that without consensus, controversial projects would not be started.

MNA Nazir Khan drew attention towards the displacement of tribesmen from FATA area and sought the government's help for them.

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<http://dailytrust.info/index.php/environment/15489-water-access-more-dams-needed>

## **Water access: More dams needed**

Published on Wednesday, 29 January 2014 05:00

Written by Alex Abutu & Chidimma C. Okeke

The Federal Government needs to construct more small scale dams to be able to increase access to portable water for millions of Nigerians, a government official has said.

Speaking to Daily Trust, Dr. Emmanuel Adanu, Director of Dams and Reservoir Operations, at the Federal Ministry of Water Resources said: "We need to complete the 30 dams currently under construction and build new ones all over the country because every individual needs water every day. You cannot say you want to concentrate on one part of the country while the others wait, because every human being needs water. If it is possible for government to embark on the construction of more

dams, it will be better.” Daily Trust recalls that in the 2013 and 2014 budget, the Federal Government allocated over N22 billion for the construction and completion of about 30 small scale dams across the federation. The allocation as contained in the 2013 budget showed that construction of a dam in Otukpo, Benue State got N5.5 billion, Ivo-River in Enugu State, got N2.5 billion while Kashimbilla Dam in Taraba State got N2.4 billion. In 2014, Kashimbilla Dam got the highest allocation of N1.6 billion, the Otukpo Dam also got N550 million, Barkin Ladi Dam in Plateau State, got N500 million, Galma Dam got N500 million while N700 million was allocated for 27 small earth dams across the federation. Adanu noted: “We construct dams to make sure we tap fresh water in the country within our geographical reach for future use in areas like power generation, irrigation, and for drinking which is the most important. The issue is this federal government is only entitled to provide fresh water. It now becomes the responsibilities of states to take this raw water and distribute. It is not the mandate of the federal government to send water into tap, we provide the raw water, any state that has a dam in its territory can apply for them, we give them. In fact, they don’t need to ask, we tell them take the water and distribute.” He said that the 30 dams started since 2013 are in various stages of completion, adding that if funds were made available, some of them would be completed this year. Continuing, he said: “If government thinks that water is a necessity and ahead of other needs then, it should make more money available. We are very concerned because we know the history of water and the amount of water available to us. It keeps depleting every year so we are very careful and we are planning so much that we trap as much fresh water as should have gone into the ocean so we can have enough water for future use.” He said that the existing dams in the country were holding about 33 to 34 billion cubic metres of water which the states could distribute to their people. “But the issue is that federal government is looked upon as responsible for not providing water to the tap, it is not the mandate of the federal government to do that but that of the state. if you have a dam in your vicinity, go and use it and I think it is unfair when they keep blaming the federal government for not providing water in the tap, we don’t have that mandate,” he added.

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## **China hydropower market: Accelerating the building of hydroelectric dams London**

1/23/2014 09:36 GMT (TransWorldNews)

The market for hydropower in China is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years. The hydroelectric power industry in China comprises establishments that operate hydroelectric power generation facilities. These facilities derive energy from falling or flowing water, such as rivers, streams and the overflow of dams. The establishments in this industry produce electric energy and provide electricity to transmission systems or to electric power distribution systems. The industry has experienced significant growth in installed capacity. There are many ongoing construction projects of new hydropower plants and the enlargement of existing facilities. Most major players have set high targets to increase capacity to at least two to three times their current levels. The government prioritizes the development of hydroelectricity and will focus its efforts on increasing hydropower's share of total power generation, thereby constraining the share of thermal power generation. The government's strategy for developing renewable energy in China has had a positive impact on the development of the industry. At present, many problems exist in hydropower development such as environmental protection, mainly because enterprises fail to deal with the relationship between hydropower development and local residents' interests as well as ecological protection. With 2020 clean-energy targets to meet, China is set to accelerate the building of hydroelectric dams, reversing a long halt caused by environmental concerns and the social upheaval of relocating people living in the shadow of dam sites.

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# Ghana: Bui and the Tale of Three Hydro Dams

23 JANUARY 2014

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201401231317.html>

GHANA can now boast of three hydroelectric power dams with the completion and inauguration of the Bui Dam Hydroelectric Power project located on the Black Volta, a boundary river between Bole in the Northern Region and Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region.

With its turbines turning, Bui becomes the third hydro-power plant to be developed in Ghana after the Akosombo and Kpong projects.

This means, three regions of the country can boast of hydro-power dams. These are the Northern and Brong Ahafo regions for Bui and the Eastern Region for Akosombo and the Kpong dams.

## **Size of dams and capacity**

The Akosombo Dam remains the largest of the three, covering an area of 8,502 square kilometres and has an installed capacity of 1,020 MW of power.

The Volta Lake created by the dam is the largest reservoir by surface area in the world, and the fourth largest by water volume. Its northernmost point is close to the town of Yapei and its southernmost at the Akosombo Dam, 520 kilometres downstream from Yapei.

Ghana's famed Akosombo Dam holds back both the White Volta and the Black Volta which formerly converged where the middle of the reservoir now lies, to form the single Volta River.

It takes approximately 36 hours to travel round the vast expanse of the Volta Lake, which has been created by the dam. The Akosombo Dam is 2,200 ft long, 440ft high and 1,400ft wide at the base and holds a water volume of 148 kms (32.6 x 10<sup>12</sup> gallons).

The Kpong hydro-electric project, which represents the third stage in the development of the Volta River, commonly known as the Volta River Project, is the third largest dam in Ghana, with a total installed capacity of about 160 MW.

Nonetheless, if all four units at Kpong are running, there is a rise in tailwater elevation, which limits the output of the generation to about 148 MW.

The combined Akosombo/Kpong system has an installed capacity of 1,180 MW, while the Kpong head pond has minimal storage capacity and is therefore operated in tandem with Akosombo, as a run-of-the-river plant to optimise water use from the Volta Lake.

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# Nigeria : FG targets 10,000MW of electricity with 200 dams

By [Phillip Eta](#) on January 23, 2014

<http://businessnews.com.ng/2014/01/23/fg-targets-10000mw-electricity-200-dams/>

The Federal Government has said it is currently building over 200 new dams in order to achieve its target of 10,000 megawatts of electricity at the end of this year.

Vice-President Namadi Sambo stated this on Tuesday while granting an audience to the management of a Japanese company, Marubeni Corporation, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

A statement by the vice-president's spokesperson, Mr. Umar Sani, quoted Sambo as commending the firm for helping in the building of the hydro dams, especially the Mambilla Dam and others.

The vice-president asked the management of the company to invest in the area.

He also asked the management of Marubeni to explore other areas of investment opportunities that were abundant in the country.

Sambo said the present administration had put in place many incentives to encourage investors in all sectors of the economy.

He told the management of the company to explore opportunities in the solid minerals sector, noting that the sector had been neglected in the past and that the President Goodluck Jonathan administration was working hard to develop it.

The vice-president also urged the firm to take advantage of the huge deposits of coal in the country as the government was encouraging the private sector to engage in the coal-power project.

Sambo gave an assurance to prospective investors that the government was taking necessary steps to deal with the issue of shortage of gas, which has been a problem for the newly built thermal power plants.

He urged the company to invest in this sector as the price of the product in the country is cheaper than anywhere in the world.

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## Otter's water: Governor aims to build more dams in Idaho

Posted: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 10:42 am

[Otter's water: Governor aims to build more dams in Idaho](#) Associated Press |

BOISE — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter aims to build billions of dollars' worth of new and expanded dams as part of his dream of capturing more water in the drought-stricken southern desert of Idaho to irrigate potatoes, grow cities and industry, and flush endangered salmon to the sea.

The Republican has asked lawmakers for a \$15 million down payment for, among other things, studies to help decide whether a modern era of dam building makes financial sense.

Among the projects pushed by Otter is a \$502 million dam on western Idaho's Weiser River, upstream from where it flows into the Snake River.

The parched climate of the state, where river basins are well behind average snowfall again as winter advances, appears to be adding urgency to the governor's push.

"It is a critical investment in our capacity for responsible future growth," Otter told lawmakers Monday, as he began lobbying for the cash.

Activist groups are skeptical, saying the Weiser project, known as the Galloway Dam among its supporters, would have been built during Idaho's dam-building heyday decades ago if it made sense.

The project got \$2 million in 2011 for a study on whether the Weiser area is seismically suited for a dam that could store up to 750,000 acre feet of water — more than double the capacity of the Lucky Peak Reservoir on the Boise River. The initial conclusion was that a dam would be safe.

Now, Otter wants to shift another \$2 million to the Galloway project for environmental work and to analyze how a complicated land exchange necessary for the project to go ahead could work.

Kevin Lewis of the Boise-based group Idaho Rivers United predicts the spending won't show many results.

"Times have changed," Lewis said. "We don't have the money to be running around and building dams just for the sake of building dams."

America's dam-building spree lasted 50 years, ending about 1980. Idaho was in the thick of it, from the completion of Idaho Power Co.'s three-dam Hells Canyon Complex on the Snake River by the 1960s to the Teton Dam on eastern Idaho's Teton River that failed spectacularly in 1976 as it was nearing completion.

The disaster left 11 people and thousands of head of livestock dead as towns like Sugar City were submersed.

Brian Patton, planning bureau chief at the state Department of Water Resources, says naysayers like Lewis shouldn't dismiss new Idaho dams as a dream ill-suited for the modern era.

He points to water-storage projects on Washington state's Yakima River as examples of how dams can advance, especially in areas of the West where water is a scarce commodity.

On the Weiser River, for instance, a new dam could have multiple benefits, Patton insists, from controlling floods and irrigating crops to producing up to 40 megawatts of clean hydropower.

Impounded water could be released to cool overheated Snake River reservoirs downstream — something Idaho Power is under federal pressure to fix — as well as help resolve water conflicts on the Upper Snake River, hundreds of miles upstream, he said. There, infighting between irrigators, cities and fish farms has been complicated by a landmark 2004 agreement with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe, with its commitments to flush water to aid salmon returning to the Pacific Ocean.

Idaho Power is participating in studies to ensure any new Weiser dam doesn't disrupt existing hydroelectric projects and power generation.

"It's all about the timing, and location where water is delivered from," said Kresta Davis-Butts, Idaho Power's operations hydrology leader.

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# Ressources hydriques : 30 nouveaux barrages prévus dans le plan 2015-2019

19/01/2014 11:20:00

<http://www.lefinancier-dz.com/actualite/10834-ressources-hydriques-30-nouveaux-barrages-prevus-dans-le-plan-2015-2019.html>

Trente nouveaux barrages totalisant une capacité de près de 1,5 milliards de m3 seront réalisés dans le cadre du futur plan quinquennal 2015-2019 a affirmé, dimanche le ministre des Ressources en eaux, Hocine Necib. S'exprimant sur les ondes de la radio nationale, le ministre a souligné que les axes stratégiques concernant le développement du secteur seront maintenus lors du prochain plan. «Nous nous attellerons davantage à optimiser nos investissements et à améliorer la qualité du service public dans la distribution de l'eau», a insisté le ministre. Il a mis l'accent, ainsi, sur l'ampleur des investissements réalisés par les pouvoirs publics à travers les grands barrages et les ouvrages de transferts d'eau pour réguler les écarts de pluviométrie d'une région à une autre. M. Necib a cité le cas du barrage de Koudiet Esserdoun qui permet de «sécuriser l'approvisionnement» de plusieurs wilayas du centre du pays et le grand barrage de Beni Haroun qui doit alimenter les wilayas de l'Est du pays (Batna, Khenchela, Souk Ahras). Le ministre a mis en avant l'apport de l'ouvrage de transfert d'eau Mostaganem Arzew Oran (MAO) qui permet d'approvisionner près de trois millions de personnes dans la région ouest du pays. Concernant le transfert d'eau In Salah - Tamanrasset, «cet ouvrage devrait donner un nouvel élan au développement du grand sud du pays avec la création de nouveaux centres de vie sur son itinéraire», a-t-il ajouté. Au sujet de la faible pluviométrie enregistrée au cours de l'automne 2013 et l'éventualité d'une situation de sécheresse, le ministre s'est montré rassurant affirmant que le bilan pluviométrique retrace «une situation globalement d'équilibre» mais avec des différences selon les régions. «Le centre et l'Est du pays ont connu un déficit de pluie mais les régions Ouest (Oran, Tlemcen, Saida) ont enregistré des apports pluviométriques appréciables», a-t-il estimé. Globalement le taux de remplissage des barrages s'établit à une moyenne nationale de 70 %, légèrement supérieure au niveau enregistré à la même période en 2013 a-t-il encore ajouté.

Malik A.

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## [Hocine Necib, ministre des ressources en eau : « Nos réserves sont globalement suffisantes »](#)

« L'ouvrage de transfert d'eau "MAO" fait près de 100 km »

<http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/52842/?comopen>

Actuellement le taux de remplissage des barrages a atteint une moyenne nationale de 70%, a indiqué le ministre qui a précisé que pour augmenter les capacités hydriques du pays, 30 nouveaux barrages d'une capacité de 1,5 milliard de m<sup>3</sup>, seront réalisés au cours du prochain quinquennat.

« Inscrits sur le plan quinquennal, 2015-2019, trente nouveaux barrages totalisant une capacité de près de 1,5 milliard de m<sup>3</sup> seront réalisés au cours de cette période », a déclaré, hier, le ministre des Ressources en eau, Hocine Necib, lors de son passage sur les ondes de la Chaîne III de la Radio nationale, affirmant ainsi les axes stratégiques concernant le développement du secteur qui seront maintenus lors du prochain plan. « Nous nous attellerons davantage à optimiser nos investissements et à améliorer la qualité du service public dans la distribution de l'eau », a-t-il indiqué.

Le ministre a assuré que les réserves en matière d'eau au niveau des barrages sont « globalement suffisantes ». Néanmoins selon lui « il faut toujours raisonner par région. J'ai toujours rappelé que nous avons un territoire très contrasté sur le plan du relief, mais également sur le plan du climat et sur le plan de pluviosité. Globalement nous avons des réserves assez intéressantes, toutefois, pour certaines régions il y a des insuffisances et des difficultés, notamment la partie est des hauts plateaux tel que Souk Ahras, Tébessa, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna et Khenchela pour lesquels il y a des solutions qui sont en train d'être mise en place à l'image de celle qui concerne le barrage de Beni Haroun », souligne M. Necib.

Ce taux de remplissage représente par rapport à l'année dernière, « un léger excédent d'environ 100 millions de m<sup>3</sup> ». « Nous avons quelques barrages malheureusement, où on accuse des déficits à l'image de Souk Ahras, barrage de Ain Dalia qui connaît un niveau de remplissage assez faible, ainsi que le barrage de Kourdet Lamdawar de Batna », précise-t-il mettant l'accent sur l'ampleur des investissements réalisés par les pouvoirs publics à travers les grands barrages et les ouvrages de transferts d'eau pour réguler les écarts de pluviométrie d'une région à une autre.

Il a signalé que pour Khenchela, Batna et Oum El Bouaghi, le secteur de l'hydraulique va mettre en service avant la fin du premier trimestre 2014, la ligne d'urgence de transfert d'eau de Beni Haroun, pour pouvoir fournir de l'eau au barrage de Kourdet Lamdawar de Batna, à Khenchela et une autre branche qui va sur le barrage Bourkis à Oum El Bouaghi.

Il a fait savoir que le but d'un transfert c'est de pouvoir fournir et transporter de l'eau de la région qui est dotée vers une région qui est pauvre en eau. Comme c'est le cas pour le barrage de Koudiet Esserdoun qui permet de « sécuriser l'approvisionnement » de plusieurs wilayas du centre du pays et le grand barrage de Beni Haroun qui doit alimenter les wilayas de l'Est du pays (Batna, Khenchela, Souk Ahras).

#### **« L'ouvrage de transfert d'eau "MAO" fait près de 100 km »**

Il a entre autres, précisé que le barrage de Koudiet Acerdoun est le deuxième plus grand système en Algérie qui se situe au nord d'Algérie qui capitalise 600 millions de m<sup>3</sup>, il régularise 170 millions de m<sup>3</sup> avec 70 millions destinés à l'agriculture et environ 100 millions de m<sup>3</sup> pour l'eau potable. Il se déploie sur quatre wilayas : Tizi-Ouzou, Bouira, M'Sila et Médéa et il fournit de l'eau pour un million et demi de personnes avec un impact très important.

En matière d'irrigation cet ouvrage est destiné à irriguer 19.000 hectares de vergers à Lakhdaria et 18.000 hectares dans la partie est du grand périmètre d'El Hamis.

Le premier responsable du secteur, et dans le même cadre des transferts d'eau, a mis en avant l'apport de l'ouvrage de transferts d'eau Mostaganem-Arzew-Oran (MAO) qui fait près de 100 km et qui est un méga-système qui a permis de sortir l'Ouest « d'une situation très difficile », suite à des périodes de sécheresse assez longues. En outre il permet d'approvisionner près de trois millions de

personnes dans la région ouest du pays. Il va être utilisé également pour les eaux de dessalement que va produire la méga station d'El Magtaa à Oran qui est d'une capacité de 500.000 m<sup>3</sup>/j. Une étude de faisabilité a permis d'envisager une dizaine de transferts du Sud vers les hauts plateaux, dont le premier projet pilote est celui qui permettra de transférer les eaux du sud de Djelfa à Laghouat et Ghardaïa, avec une autre branche sur Tiaret, Boussaâda et M'Sila. « C'est un transfert qui permettra d'apporter une solution très importante pour cette région qui connaît un déficit important en matière de ressources hydriques », précise le ministre en ajoutant que l'étude est terminée et que le forage de connaissance a débuté pour l'inscrire dans le prochain plan 2015-2019. Pour ce qui est du transfert d'eau In Salah - Tamanrasset, « cet ouvrage devrait donner un nouvel élan au développement du grand Sud avec la création de nouveaux centres de vie sur son itinéraire », a-t-il ajouté.

Au sujet de la faible pluviosité enregistrée au cours de l'automne 2013 et l'éventualité d'une situation de sécheresse, le ministre s'est montré rassurant, affirmant que le bilan pluviométrique retrace « une situation globalement d'équilibre » mais avec des différences selon les régions. « Le Centre et l'Est du pays ont connu un déficit de pluie mais les régions ouest (Oran, Tlemcen, Saida) ont enregistré des apports pluviométriques appréciables », a-t-il estimé.

Il a par ailleurs, souligné que l'Algérie se trouve « à moins de » 600 m<sup>3</sup> par habitant, par rapport aux normes de la Banque mondiale qui fixe le seuil de pauvreté en eau à 100 m<sup>3</sup> pour 1.000 habitants par an et que la nécessité est « impérative de poursuivre les investissements pour aller vers « une plus grande sécurisation du pays » en matière de ressources hydriques.

**Kafia Ait Allouache**

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## **UK dams are 'dangerously unregulated'**

### **Unmanaged and ill-maintained water barriers put lives and property at risk, says report**

Rohan Bannerjee, Rich Cookson

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-dams-are-dangerously-unregulated-9053739.html>

Sunday 12 January 2014

The safety of scores of Britain's smallest dams is being compromised by flooding and the severe storms hitting the country, experts say. In a report, they warn that small dams, which can hold back up to 25,000 cubic metres of water (five million gallons), are dangerously unregulated and that the UK has been "lucky" that nobody has died from a dam failing since 1925.

The study, commissioned by the British Dam Society (BDS) says that unless the dams are routinely inspected and their risks better assessed, "lives and property" will be "at risk". Under current rules, only reservoirs with a base size of over 25,000 cubic metres are inspected, but experts have warned that even smaller dams carry a potential danger. The reports states there have been at least 41 safety problems at small dams in England and Wales over the past six years, including 14 serious incidents.

In one incident, a breach at Shut Mill Dam, near Romsley, Worcester, in 2008 nearly killed one resident, despite the fact the dam contained only 6,000 cubic metres of water.

The report says the exact number of small dams in the UK is unknown, but many, built by the Victorians, were not built with "formal engineering design or supervision". After the industries they served closed, they have been left "unattended, unmanaged, not maintained, not visited".

The BDS wants all dams, regardless of size, to be assessed on a regular basis. However, the National Farmers' Union, which has many members with dams on their land, are opposing any change. According to documents submitted to the Environment Agency, they insist that dam maintenance can be achieved, "without the further expense of employing a panel or inspecting engineer". The NFU has rejected the need to take adaptive action to their property, saying "structural failure of a major nature is not likely, as most reservoirs were constructed to an accepted industry standard and larger reservoirs by panel engineers".

The NFU also called for a screening process to be put in place to identify which reservoirs; especially those between 25,000 and 10,000 cubic metres can present a low risk to life and property.

The BDS is adamant though, that laws are subject to update. Dr Andy Hughes, director of dam engineering at Atkins, said: "The general condition of dams is generally very good and the majority of owners have been responsible in keeping them up to modern standards.

"But there's always a residual risk – we have three or four major incidents or accidents a year, and it's important to remind dam owners about them. We have to be vigilant."