

September 21, 2007

VIA E-MAIL AND FAX

Celso Amorim, Foreign Relations Minister, Brazil

Dilma Roussef, Presidential Chief-of-Staff, Brazil

Your Excellencies:

We are writing to express our support for the process initiated in August between the republics of Bolivia and Brazil for the formation of bi-national working groups to assess the potential impacts on Bolivia of the Santo Antônio and Jirau dams on the Madeira River, the Amazon's principal tributary.

Official project studies and independent expert opinions indicate that there is a distinct probability that Bolivia could suffer flooding of territories in Pando province, possibly including the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve; loss of fish species and serious impacts on some of the most important fish currently populating the upper Madeira; and health impacts, including proliferation of vectors of malaria and methylation of toxic mercury in the reservoirs.

The need for prior assessment of the possibility of negative impacts of this significance using the "precautionary principle" is affirmed in international treaties, including the Montreal Protocol (1987) and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development (1992). The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), which both Bolivia and Brazil have subscribed to, holds that sovereign states have "the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction".

As the work of these bilateral working groups moves forward, we trust that representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and independent technical experts will be guaranteed participation in this process, and that the working group meetings will be conducted in a transparent manner. Given the seriousness of the potential impacts of the dams, these analyses should proceed in a timely manner.

Confident that your Excellencies will do everything possible to promote transparency and the thorough and objective analysis of technical data from official and independent studies, we will anxiously await your response to this letter.

Cc: David Choquehuanca, Foreign Relations Minister, Bolivia

Juan Pablo Ramos Morales, Vice Minister for Biodiversity, Forestry Resources and Environment, Bolivia

Marina Silva, Environment Minister, Brazil

Sincerely,

The undresigned organizations:

**Brasil**

Associação Terra Laranjeiras, Juquitiba, SP  
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Rede de Educação Cidadã - Recid-RO  
Associação Etno-Ambiental Kanindé, Porto Velho  
Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico - GTA/RO  
Associação ADA AÇAÍ, RO  
Conselho Indigenista Missionário -CIMI-RO  
Associação Rio Terra, RO  
Associação dos Seringueiros de Rondônia - OSR  
Movimento Hip-Hop da Floresta – MHF, Porto Velho  
Vitae Civilis, São Lourenço da Serra, SP  
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Fórum Carajás, São Luís, MA  
Núcleo Amigos da Terra Brasil, Porto Alegre  
Amigos da Terra Amazônia, São Paulo  
Ecologia e Ação, Campo Grande  
Instituto Centro de Vida, Cuiabá  
Instituto Peabiru, Belém  
Terrae, Miracatu, SP  
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Centro de Referência do Movimento da Cidadania pelas Águas, Florestas, e Montanhas  
Igassu, Iterei, SP  
Gambá – Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia  
PACS – Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul, Rio de Janeiro  
Greenpeace Brasil  
Associação Brasileira da Indústria de Higiene Pessoal, Perfumaria e Cosméticos, São Paulo  
Centro de Assessoria Multiprofissional, Porto Alegre  
Instituto de Direitos Humanos, Econômicos e Sociais  
Forum Sul de ONG – ABONG  
Instituto de Mobilidade Sustentável – RUAVIVA, Porto Alegre

Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos, Brasília  
Fórum Mato-Grossense de Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento  
WWF-Brasil  
Esplar - Centro de Pesquisa e Assessoria, Fortaleza  
Rede Pantanal  
Diretoria Executiva, ABONG - Associação Brasileira de ONGs  
Instituto Raoni - complexo Kayapó  
Movimento Reage São Luís (reúne cerca de 40 entidades contra a implantação de siderúrgicas no Maranhão)

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Elba Stancich, Taller Ecologista, Rosário

### **Belgium**

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David Heller, Friends of the Earth Brussels and Flanders

### **Canada**

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### **Chile**

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### **Colombia**

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### **Denmark**

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### **France**

Marc Senant, France Nature Environnement  
Sébastien Godinot, Les Amis de la Terre

### **Germany**

Yvonne Bangert, Society for Threatened Peoples (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker/GfbV), Goettingen

### **Ghana**

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### **Guiné-Bissau**

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### **Honduras**

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Prashant Pastore, Toxics Link India

Himanshu Thakkar, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People

Roy Laifungbam, Executive Director, CORE Centre for Organisation Research & Education, [Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy and Human Rights in India's Eastern Himalayan Territories], NGO in Special Consultative Relationship with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Dr. Mohd. Abdul Matin, Coordinator, Jatyo Nadi Raksha Andolon(National River Saving Movement)

### **Indonesia**

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### **Italy**

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### **Japan**

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### **México**

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### **Nepal**

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Johan Frijns, Bank Track

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César Chía Dávila, Presidente del Consejo Ambiental Regional Madre de Dios (CAR MDD)  
Alfredo García Altamirano, Presidente de TReeS Perú  
Víctor Zambrano Gonzáles, Presidente del Comité de Gestión de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata  
Vidal Salazar Fernandez, Presidente de la Federación Agraria Departamental de Madre de Dios  
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### **United Kingdom**

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### **United States**

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### **Venezuela**

Sociedad de Amigos en defensa de la Gran Sabana

Red Alerta Petrolera -Orinoco-Oilwatch

### **And the following individual signers:**

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