

March 31, 2017

To Board Members and Advisors:

The 272 undersigned organizations write to express our significant concern regarding the use of GCF resources to support large hydropower, and, in particular, the following proposals in the GCF's pipeline: (i) Qairokkum Hydropower Rehabilitation, Tajikistan; (ii) Upper Trishuli-1, Nepal; and (iii) Tina River Hydro Project, Solomon Islands.

The GCF can and should help pay for the incremental costs of renewable energy sources, which are often less "bankable" (though less so all the time). However, we wish to highlight that large dams are different from wind, solar and other technologies because they fail to fulfill the GCF Investment Criteria. For example:

- (i) Impact potential: Dams emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases, particularly methane, and damage carbon sinks;
- (ii) Paradigm shift potential: Large hydro is a non-innovative technology that has not seen significant technical or financial breakthroughs in decades;
- (iii) Sustainable development: Dams have high negative co-impacts with regard to the environment, human rights, and economic cost. By interrupting rivers and flooding lands, they irreversibly harm livelihoods and ecosystems. Because they routinely cost double their estimates, large dams stretch government budgets and increase borrowing costs<sup>1</sup>;
- (iv) Needs of the recipient: Hydropower projects are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and many countries are already alarmingly over-dependent on hydropower (as is the case with Tajikistan and Nepal). GCF should support efforts in these countries to diversify their energy mix, helping them improve their resilience and adaptive capacities; and,
- (v) Efficiency and effectiveness: Dams all over the world are losing generation capacity because of climate change-induced droughts.

In addition, each of the dam-related projects in the GCF's pipeline suffers significant deficiencies:

- **Qairokkum Hydropower Rehabilitation:** This funding proposal is expected at the April board meeting. The board should reject it. The project aims to extend the life of a Soviet-era dam, built in the 1950s. It is not innovative in any way, deepens Tajikistan's already alarming overdependence on climate-vulnerable hydro, and fails to address critical environmental problems of the original dam, among other concerns.
- **Upper Trishuli-1:** Though not up for consideration at the April board meeting, Upper Trishuli has been in the project pipeline for many months and should be expeditiously removed from it. With more than 30 hydro projects either operating, in construction, or planned on the Trishuli River, the project would have no transformational impact. It faces severe climate and disaster risks, would deepen Nepal's overdependence on climate-vulnerable hydro, and would have significant impacts on indigenous communities and the environment that have not been adequately studied or addressed. There is also no assessment of the project's vulnerability to earthquakes, despite the area being highly seismic.
- **Tina River Hydro Project:** Expected at the April board meeting, this 15 MW project is intended to reduce the Solomon Islands' reliance on imported diesel. The project does not include an

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<sup>1</sup> [Should We Build More Large Dams? The Actual Costs of Hydropower Megaproject Development](#), Ansar et al

assessment of climate vulnerability, threatens a world-class biodiversity hotspot, and is very costly. Meanwhile, Solomon Islands has considerable renewable energy potential that has not been sufficiently studied.

These issues and others are detailed in a letter sent previously to the Board.<sup>2</sup> Thank you for your attention to this most important matter. We look forward to working with you and the Secretariat to ensure that the GCF is a transformational institution of the highest social and environmental caliber. That cannot be accomplished if the GCF finances large hydropower.

Sincerely,

Greenpeace	International
International Rivers	International
Friends of the Earth International	International
LDC Watch	International
Socio-Ecological Union International	International
Umbrella Habitat International Coalition	International
Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition	International
Indigenous Environmental Network	International
Foro Indigena del Abya Yala	Regional
NGO Forum on ADB	Regional
ARENA	Regional
Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain (COPAGEN)	Regional
Focus on the Global South	Regional
Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)	Regional
SEAFISH for Justice	Regional
South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)	Regional
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)	Regional
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)	Regional
Europarc Federation	Regional
Friends of the Earth Europe	Regional
Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (GFLAC)	Regional
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)	Regional
South East Europe network for energy, transport and natural resources (SEENET)	Regional
Foro Del Buen Ayre	Argentina
EcoLur	Armenia
Finance & Trade Watch	Austria
Aid Organization	Bangladesh
Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Jote (Trade Union)	Bangladesh
Bangladesh Krishok Federation (Farmers)	Bangladesh

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<sup>2</sup> [Letter sent to GCF Board and Advisors regarding concern on the use of GCF support for large hydropower](#)

Community Development Library (CDL-Bangladesh)	Bangladesh
EquityBD	Bangladesh
Maleya Foundation	Bangladesh
National Federation of Hawkers Bangladesh	Bangladesh
SUPRO	Bangladesh
Unnayan Onneshan	Bangladesh
VOICE	Bangladesh
Carbon Market Watch	Belgium
Colectivo Árbol	Bolivia
Coordinadora para la Defensa de la Amazonia	Bolivia
Red Jurídica Amazónica Bolivia	Bolivia
Salvaginas	Bolivia
Fundación Jubileo	Bolivia
Trenzando Ilusiones	Bolivia
Centar za životnu sredinu/Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Engajamundo	Brazil
Aprema-SC - serviços ambientais	Brazil
Articulação São Francisco Vivo	Brazil
Associação Alternativa Terrazul	Brazil
Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Maravilha (CDECMA)	Brazil
Ecoa- Ecology & Action	Brazil
Fórum da Amazônia Oriental (FAOR)	Brazil
Fórum Mudanças Climáticas	Brazil
Instituto Transformance: Cultura & Educação de Marabá	Brazil
Movimento Tapajós Vivo	Brazil
Projeto Saude e Alegria	Brazil
Rede Brasileira de Arteducadores (ABRA)	Brazil
Uma Gota no Oceano	Brazil
Association of Parks in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Balkanka Association Sofia	Bulgaria
Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism	Bulgaria
Balkani Wildlife Society	Bulgaria
Cambodia Human Rights Task Forces (CHRTF)	Cambodia
Wild Earth Allies	Cambodia
Centre for Nature Conservation and Development (CNCD)	Cameroon
Collectif Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (COCODHD)	Cameroon
Green Development Advocates	Cameroon
Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad	Chad
Public Interest Law Center (PILC)	Chad
Bestias del Sur Salvaje	Chile
Chile Sustentable	Chile

Consejo de Pueblos del Oasis de Calama	Chile
Corporación Privada para el Desarrollo de Aysén	Chile
Ecosistemas	Chile
Fundación Futaleufú Riverkeeper	Chile
Geute Conservación Sur	Chile
Iniciativa de Acceso	Chile
Observatorio Ciudadano	Chile
ONG FIMA	Chile
Verdeseo	Chile
Centro Ecuménico Diego de Medellín	Chile
Coalición Ecuménica por el Cuidado de la Creación	Chile
Comité Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF)	Chile
Fundación Terram	Chile
Coalicion Ciudadana por Aysén Reserva de Vida	Chile
Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad	Colombia
ASOQUIMBO	Colombia
ClimaLab	Colombia
EducAR Consumidores	Colombia
Fundación Red Colombiana Para la Defensa De los Derechos Humanos, el Medio Ambiente y la Paz	Colombia
Justicia para la Naturaleza	Costa Rica
Asociación PROAL-JÄKÜII Ra Idëll	Costa Rica
Federación costarricense para la conservación del ambiente (FECON)	Costa Rica
CEE Bankwatc Network	Czech Republic
Centre for transport and energy	Czech Republic
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)	Denmark
Action Paysanne contre la Faim	DR Congo
Actions pour les Droits, l'Environnement et le Vie (ADEV)	DR Congo
Centre d'Accompagnement des Autochtones Pygmées et minoritaires Vulnérables (CAMV)	DR Congo
Observatoire d'etudes et d'appui a la responsabilite sociale et environnementale (OEARSE )	DR Congo
Conseil Regional Des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Developpement Pour le Service d'Action au Développement Communautaire (SADEC)	DR Congo
CREDDHO	DR Congo
Acción Ecológica	Ecuador
The Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)	Ecuador
Asociación Salvadoreña de Ayuda Humanitaria-PRO VIDA	El Salvador
CESTA Friends of the Earth	El Salvador
Association Toxicologie Chimie	
Brainforest	France
Green Alternative	Gabon
CounterCurrent	Georgia

Urgewald	Germany
Development Institute	Germany
Foundation for grassroots initiatives in Africa(GrassRootsAfrica)	Ghana
Friends of the Earth Ghana	Ghana
FEDES	Ghana
Amerindian Peoples Association	Guatemala
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)	Guyana
Plateforme des Organisations Nationales et Territoriales de la Societe Civile Haitienne (PONT-SCH)	Haiti
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)	Haiti
Alianza Hondureña ante el Cambio Climático (AHCC)	Haiti
Asociacion Nacional de Fomento a la Agricultura Ecológica (ANAFAE)	Honduras
Comision de Accion Social Menonita (CASM)	Honduras
Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH)	Honduras
Fundación Simiente	Honduras
Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras	Honduras
Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH)	Honduras
Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras (IDAMHO)	Honduras
Conservation Action Trust	Honduras
Indigenous Perspectives	India
ParyavaranMitra	India
Adivasi Mulvasi Astitva Raksha manch	India
Himalaya Niti Abhiyan	India
Housing and Land Rights Network	India
Indian Social Action Forum	India
Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation	India
mines, minerals and People (MMP)	India
Nadi Gati Morcha	India
National Federation of Women Hawkers, India	India
National Hawkers Federation	India
River Basin Friends	India
South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People	India
Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur	India
AKSI	India
Debt Watch	Indonesia
Institute for Essential Services and Resources	Indonesia
Jatam Indonesia	Indonesia
Anti Debt Coalition (KAU)	Indonesia
Sawit Watch	Indonesia
Solidaritas Perempuan (Women)	Indonesia
People's Coalition for the Right to Water (KRUHA)	Indonesia
Leuser Conservation Forum	Indonesia
Nature	Indonesia

Mediterranean Association for Nature (MAN)	Iraq
SONIA for a Just New World	Italy
Friends of the Earth - Japan	Italy
Endorois Welfare Council	Japan
Friends of Lake Turkana	Kenya
Jamaa Resource Initiatives	Kenya
Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization	Kenya
TI-Korea	Kenya
Friends of the Earth - Malaysia	Korea
Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN)	Malaysia
Institute for the Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)	Malaysia
Fundar Centro de Análisis e Investigación	Mali
Comunicacion y Educacion Ambiental SC	Mexico
EDUCA	Mexico
Effect Platform for Human Rights and Environmental Justice	Mexico
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia	Mexico
Frente Regional de Pueblos del Bajo Mixe Choápan	Mexico
Centro de Ecología y Desarrollo	Mexico
Eco-TIRAS Intl Assn of River Keepers	Mexico
OT Watch	Moldova
Reporters Without Borders (RwB)	Mongolia
Rivers without Boundaries	Mongolia
Justiça Ambiental - Friends of the Earth Mozambique	Mongolia
Shan Sapawa	Mozambique
All Nepal Peasant's Federation (ANPFa)	Myanmar
All Nepal Womens Association	Nepal
Campaign for Climate Justice	Nepal
Central Department of Geography, TU	Nepal
Community Empowerment and Social Justice (CEmSoJ) Foundation	Nepal
GEFONT - trade union federation	Nepal
Human Rights Alliance Nepal	Nepal
Jagaran Nepal	Nepal
Rural Reconstruction Nepal	Nepal
Trade Union Policy Institute(TUPI)	Nepal
BothENDS	Nepal
EuSAIN	Netherlands
Alianza Nicaragüense ante el Cambio Climático	Netherlands
Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st)	Nicaragua
Remando Juntos	Nigeria
Forum Solidaridad	Peru
Conservamos por Naturaleza	Peru
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)	Peru
Fundación EcuMénica para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ)	Peru

Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Sociedad (IIDS)	Peru
Marañón Waterkeeper	Peru
TierrActiva Peru	Peru
Bulig Visayas	Peru
Campaign for a Life of Dignity (KAMP)	Philippines
DIGNIDAD Alliance	Philippines
Freedom from Debt Coalition	Philippines
Gitib	Philippines
Our Rivers Our Life	Philippines
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI)	Philippines
Sanlakas Philippines	Philippines
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)	Philippines
Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education	Philippines
WomanHealth Philippines	Philippines
International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside (ICPPC)	Philippines
Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza	Poland
Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42"	Portugal
Social-Ecological Union/Friends of the Earth Russia	Republic of Macedonia
Assosiation of Journalists-Environmentalists of the Russian Journalist Union	Russia
Baikal Nature Reserve	Russia
Biodiversity Conservation Center	Russia
Buryat Regional Union for Lake Baikal	Russia
Climate Secretariat of Russian Socio Ecological Union (Friends of the Earth - Russia)	Russia
Eyge Ecological Education Center	Russia
Krasnoyarsk Regional Environmental Organization (PLOTINA)	Russia
Sibecocenter	Russia
Taiga Research and Protection Agency	Russia
КРОО "Камчатская лига независимых экспертов"	Russia
Primorye Regional Non Government Organization "Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns - BROCC"	Russia
Lumiere Synergie pour le Developpement	Russia
People and Water	Senegal
GroundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa	Slovakia
Global Citizens Alliance	South Africa
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance	South Africa
Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
COAGRET	Spain
InspirAction	Spain
JEMS Progressive Community Organisation	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname	Suriname
International-Lawyers.Org	Switzerland

Pro Natura / FoE Switzerland	Switzerland
Mom Loves Taiwan	Taiwan
Ujamaa Community Resource Team	Tanzania
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)	Thailand
Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand (IWNT)	Thailand
Mekong Community Institute Association	Thailand
Worldview	The Gambia
JVE International	Togo
Les Amis de la Terre - Togo	Togo
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)	Uganda
Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation (RCIDC)	Uganda
Foundation for GAIA	UK
Oil Vay: Jewish Climate Action Network	UK
This Changes Everything	UK
Ecosfera	Ukraine
Heinrich Boell Stiftung-North America	United States
Friends of the Earth-US	United States
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	United States
Institute for Policy Studies	United States
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)	United States
Amazon Watch	United States
Bank Information Center (BIC)	United States
Crude Accountability	United States
Gender Action	United States
Kentucky Environmental Foundation	United States
Sustainable Obtainable Solutions	United States
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)	United States
Students for a Just and Stable Future	United States
SustainUS	United States
Amigos del Viento	Uruguay
Agrupamiento Mburucuya	Uruguay
Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Centre for Mountainous Region (ADC)	Vietnam
The Law and Policy of Sustainable Development Research Center	Vietnam
Basilwizi Trust	Zimbabwe



