

THE BELO MONTE DAM IN THE AMAZON BASIN

WE DEMAND:

1. Immediate suspension of the construction activities until current problems have been resolved, requirements have been met and pending court cases have been cleared. Otherwise immediate withdrawal of the European companies from the project.
2. Compliance with the recommendations of the World Com-

The controversial dam project Belo Monte in the Amazon Basin stands for the destruction of a unique ecosystem, the destruction of the livelihood of tens of thousands of people, many of them indigenous, and the forced displacement of them. European companies benefit from this destructive project..



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mission on Dams for all future dam projects and the binding commitment by the companies to comply with international environmental and human rights standards.

3. Binding regulation for European companies engaging in activities abroad stipulating their obligations concerning human rights and environmental protection to be set by national Parliaments and Governments and at EU level.

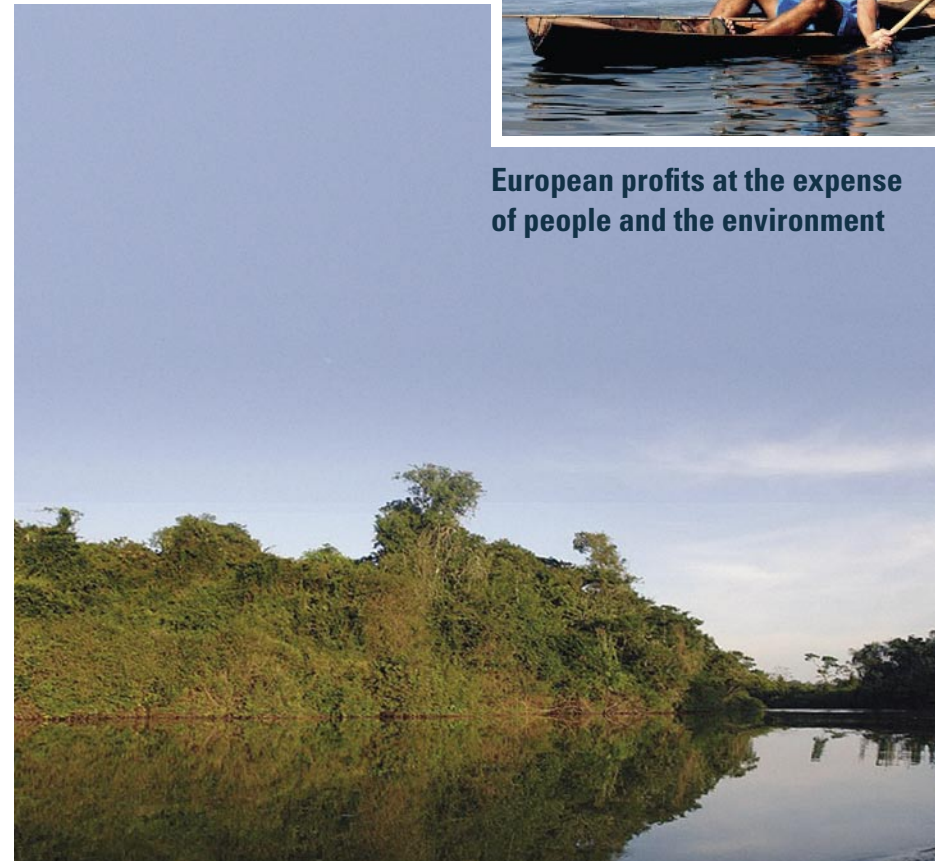
Belo Monte is just the start – many more dams are planned to be built in the Amazon Basin within the next few years.

PLEASE JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES!

Send an email or a letter to the European companies involved in the project and tell them what you think about their participation in the Belo Monte project. Contact us and join our further activities.!

FURTHER INFORMATION, ADDRESSES AND SUGGESTIONS: www.gegenstroemung.org

European profits at the expense of people and the environment



KONTAKT: GegenStrömung · Siemensstr. 10 · D-14482 Potsdam

gegenstroemung@gegenstroemung.org

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THE PROJECT Situated on the Xingu River in the Amazon Basin, the Belo Monte complex is designed to become the third largest dam in the world. With a planned capacity of 11,000 MW, its reservoir will permanently flood an area of 668 km² and it will divert most of the Xingu's water through a channel, leaving the famous Big Bend or „Volta Grande“ with a minimum of water. The Belo Monte Dam

is not a stand-alone project: It is only one out of a series of 60 to 70 dams being planned to exploit the Amazon Basin.

IMPACTS ON HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The project forces over 20,000 people out of their homes.

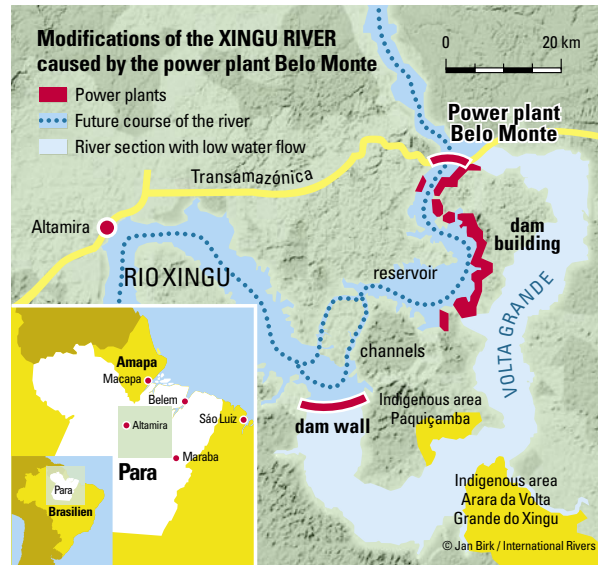


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The drastic reduction of the water flow of the „Volta Grande“ threatens the livelihood of thousands of people, including indigenous communities. Paradoxically, these people are not considered „directly affected“. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has stated that the Brazilian Government is violating human rights of indigenous people by carrying out the project.

The project designers estimate that tens of thousands people will migrate to the region looking for work, whereas the project will generate only 2,000 to 5,000 long-term jobs. Social conflicts are therefore inevitable.

The Amazon Basin is one of the ecologically most important and species-richest regions in the world. By devastating parts of this unique rainforest, the Belo Monte project will contribute to climate change and will have severe impacts on the local, regional and global environment.



Due to the volatile water flow of the Xingu River, Belo Monte will only use the total of its installed generating capacity for 3 to 4 months a year. Therefore social and environmental movements fear that further dams will be built in order to secure greater efficiency. Furthermore, gold mining is planned near the Volta Grande once the water is diverted.

PROTESTS The project has been accompanied by massive protests since the 1980s, which caused international financiers like the World Bank to withdraw from the project and resulted in a temporary suspension of the project. Ever since the project was revived in 2002, it has met constant protests and criticism of scientists, social movements and Brazilian and international celebrities. The Public Prosecutor in Altamira has filed numerous court cases.

THE CURRENT SITUATION Despite this unclear legal situation and although 40 social and environmental conditions previously imposed had not been fulfilled, a partial construction license was granted in January 2011. Construction work began in March 2011. The unwillingness of the government to wait for the final verdict of the judges on the legality of Belo Monte shows that the

Brazilian government is following a strategy of the fait accompli. Meanwhile, due to the influx of workers, violence is on the rise and the public infrastructure in Altamira such as the health care system is on the verge of collapse.

HYDROPOWER = CLEAN ENERGY? In the debate about „Green Economy“, hydropower is being propagated as a clean, climate-friendly and a cost-efficient technology. With thousands of dam projects in the world, hydropower is currently experiencing a boom. However, reservoirs release huge amounts of greenhouse gases, especially in tropical areas. Furthermore, hydropower is by no means cost-efficient, as the costs of ecological and social impacts are not calculated. It is the local population that is bearing these costs.



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In the case of Belo Monte, it is not the local communities who benefit from the energy generated, but mainly the export-orientated aluminium industry.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF EUROPEAN COMPANIES

Several European companies are profiting from the project: Iberdrola is partial owner; Andritz, Alstom and Voith Hydro are supplying turbines, Daimler is supplying trucks; Allianz, Munich Re and others are (re)insuring the construction. By participating in this project, the companies are violating their corporate responsibility with regard to human rights, as laid down in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In consequence, Munich Re was excluded from the Sustainability Index GCX.

EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION **Companies:** Alstom (F), Andritz (AT), Voith Hydro (Joint Venture between Siemens and Voith) (GER), Daimler (GER), Arcadis (NL), Iberdrola (ES) **Insurances:** Munich Re (GER), Allianz (GER), ACE (CH), JLT Re (GB), Kiln (GB), ING (NL)