

Vienna, Radolfzell, January 2014

To
Sir Suma Chakrabarti
President of the EBRD
London EC2A 2JN, UK

Dr. Jim Yong Kim
President of the World Bank
Washington, DC 20433, USA

Open Letter: Mavrovo Resolution - Scientists against dams in Mavrovo NP

Dear Sir Suma Chakrabarti, dear Dr. Jim Yong Kim,

We write this open letter appealing to you to retract your institutions' funding of a hydropower project in the Mavrovo National Park, Macedonia.

The Mavrovo National Park – recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – is one of Europe's oldest national parks. According to the IUCN, national parks are areas set aside to protect large-scale ecosystems from human interference. They are meant to preserve ecological processes and natural biodiversity. As such, they are absolute no-go areas for large-scale dams or any other destructive forms of land use.

Your institutions are about to finance hydropower projects inside this national park. The EBRD is set to fund 'Boshkov Most' while the World Bank is considering financing 'Lukovo Pole'. Not only are these projects threatening specific habitats that this national park provides for many endangered species, they also undermine the very idea of national parks in general. Furthermore, the dam projects violate EU law, such as the Natura 2000 Directives and the Water Framework Directive.

We are scientists from all over the world who are concerned with ecosystems and biodiversity. We all consider it essential to preserve areas of high ecological value and protecting our existing national park system is an indispensable component of this aim. We are surprised that your institutions have even considered supporting these dam projects.

Dear Sir Suma Chakrabarti, dear Dr. Jim Yong Kim, we trust that you do not wish to take part in projects that would degrade the ecosystems and biodiversity of Mavrovo NP and that you respect the fundamental aims and defining criteria of national parks. Therefore, we urge you to reconsider your institutions' position to fund these projects.

Respectfully,



Signed by:

1. Friedrich Schiemer, Prof. Dr., Department Limnology, University of Vienna, Austria
2. Ljupcho Melovski, Prof. Dr., Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia
3. Jörg Freyhof, Dr., IUCN-SSC/WI Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Germany
4. Anna Roos, PhD, IUCN OSG, Department for Environmental Research and Monitoring, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Sweden
5. Bernhard Schön, Dipl.Ing., IUCN-WCPA; University of Vienna, Austria
6. Nicole Duplaix, Dr., IUCN/SSC, Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Oregon State University, USA
7. Michaela Bodner, Mag., Head of Heidenreichstein Mire Nature Park, Austria
8. Gwenaël Imfeld, PhD (Habil), National Center for Scientific Research, France
9. Franz Essl, Ass.Prof. Dr., Department of Conservation, Vegetation and Landscape Ecology, University of Vienna, Austria
10. Leopold Füreder, Mag. Dr., ao.Univ.-Prof, Institute of Ecology, University of Innsbruck, Austria
11. Karl Hülber, Dr., Department of Conservation Biology, Vegetation Ecology and Landscape Ecology, University of Vienna, Austria
12. Thomas Wrבka, Ass. Prof. Dr., Department of Conservation Biology, Vegetation and Landscape Ecology, University of Vienna, Austria
13. Emil Dister, Prof. Dr., Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
14. Walter Arnold, Prof. Dr., Department of Integrative Biology and Evolution, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria
15. Bernd Gerken, Prof. Dr., Portugal
16. Heiko Brunken, Prof. Dr., Faculty of Nature and Engineering, Hochschule Bremen, Germany
17. Amarasinha Gunatilaka, PhD, Limnologist and Environmental Consultant, Austria
18. Jörg Ott, Dr., (retired), Department for Limnology and Bio-Oceanography, University of Vienna, Austria
19. Konrad Fiedler, Univ.-Prof. Dr., Department of Tropical Ecology and Animal Biodiversity, University of Vienna, Austria
20. Gerhard Imhof, Dr., Limnologist, Austria
21. Constantin E. Pöll, Mag., Department of Conservation Biology, Vegetation- and Landscape Ecology, University of Vienna, Austria
22. Felicia Pia Lener, Mag.a, Ecologist and Biologist, Austria
23. Hubert Keckeis, Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr., Department Limnology and Oceanography, University of Vienna, Austria
24. Hermann Schacht, em. Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Ing., Institute for Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
25. Roland Psenner, o.Univ.-Prof. Dr., Research Group Alpine Soace, University of Innsbruck, Austria
26. Jakub Zarsky, Mag., Researcher, Czech Republic
27. Christian Scheder, Mag., Aquatic Ecology and Engineering, Austria
28. Ingrid Schmitzberger, Mag., Ecologist, Austria
29. Carina Rofner, MSc, Institute of Ecology, University of Innsbruck, Austria
30. Steven Weiss, Dr. Assoc. Prof., Institute of Zoology, Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria

31. Savrina Carrizo, Dr., Programme Officer, Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, UK
32. Erhard Christian, Prof. Dr., Institute of Zoology Vienna, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria
33. Laszlo Rakosy, Prof. Dr., Department Taxonomy and Ecology, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
34. Johann Waringer, Ao. Prof. Dr., Department of Limnology and Oceanography, University of Vienna, Austria
35. Erich Hübl, em.o. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c., Austria
36. Winfried Bücking, Dr., Biology in the Baden-Württemberg State Forest Research Institute, Germany
37. Lucian A. Teodor, Dr., Department of Taxonomy and Ecology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania
38. Cristina Craioveanu, Dr., Department of Taxonomy and Ecology, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
39. Michael Succow, Prof.em.Dr., Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-University Greifswald; Michael Succow Foundation for the Protection of Nature, Germany
40. Hans Joosten, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c., Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, International Mire Conservation Group, Germany
41. Gregory Egger, Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr., Umweltbüro, Austria
42. Mathias Jungwirth, Univ. Prof. Dr., Dept. of Water, Atmosphere and Environment, University of Natural Resources & Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Austria
43. Stefan Bouzarovski, PhD, School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester, UK
44. Thomas Frank, Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr., Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Research, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
45. Stoyan Beshkov, Assoc. Prof. Dr., Invertebrates Department, National Museum of Natural History, Bulgaria
46. Johannes Gepp, Univ. Doz. Prof. Dr., Institute of Conservation and Landscape Ecology, Austria
47. Robert A. Patzner, Univ. Prof. Dr., Organismic Biology, University of Salzburg, Austria
48. Harald Matz, OStR Mag., Mire Ecologist, Austria
49. Wilfried Robert Franz, Univ.- Doz. Mag. Dr., NSCH Board; Landesumweltanwaltschaft, Austria
50. Borislav Sandov, MSc, Climate Action Coalition Bulgaria
51. Paul Humphries, Dr., School of Environmental Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Australia
52. Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber, Dr., Senior Scientist, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
53. Hans D. Knapp, Prof. Dr., Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-University Greifswald, Germany
54. Christian Berg, Dr. rer. nat. habil., Institute of Plant Sciences, Karl-Franzens-University of Graz, Austria
55. Gerhard M. Tarmann, Prof. Dr., SEL Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica; Department of Natural Science at the Tiroler Landesmuseen, Austria
56. Georg Grabherr, Prof Dr., Department of Conservation Biology Vegetation Ecology and Landscape Ecology, University of Vienna, Austria
57. Rudolf Zechner, Univ. Prof. Dr., Institute of Molecular Biosciences, University of Graz, Austria
58. Spase Shumka, Dr., Department of Natural Sciences, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

59. Holger Wesemüller, DI, (retired), EUROPARC, Germany
60. Boyan Zlatkov, Dr., Faculty of Biology, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria
61. Simon H. Visser, Ir., (retired), National Agency for Cultural Heritage, The Netherlands
62. Voislav Vasić, PhD, (retired), Ornithologist, Natural History Museum, Belgrade, Serbia
63. Dragan Petrov Chobanov, PhD, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria
64. Vladimir T. Krpach, Prof. Dr., Entomological Society for Investigation and Conservation of Biodiversity and sustainable Development of Natural Ecosystems, Macedonia
65. Geert De Knijf, Dr., Research Institut of Nature and Forest, Brussels, Belgium
66. Ioan Ghira, Dr., Department of Taxonomy and Ecology, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
67. Uwe K. Simon, Dr., Institute for Plant Science, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Austria
68. Siegm-W. Breckle, Prof. aD. Dr., Department Ecology, Bielfeld University, Germany
69. Ingo Kowarik, Prof. Dr., Department of Ecology, Technische Universität Berlin; State Commissioner for Nature Conservation, Berlin, Germany
70. Christine von Weizsäcker, Dipl.Biol., Ecoropa, Germany
71. Ricarda Steinbrecher, Dr., EcoNexus; Ecoropa, GB
72. Florianne Koechlin, Dr., Ecoropa, Switzerland
73. Jacques Grinevald, Prof., (retired), Development Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland
74. Wolfgang Sachs, Prof. Dr., Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Germany
75. Ernst von Weizsäcker, Prof. Dr. Dr h.c., Germany
76. Susanne Gura, Dr., EcoNexus, Germany
77. Ulf Doerner, Dipl. Ing., GreenTech, Germany
78. Hartmut Mayer, Dr., GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Germany
79. Elisabeth Bücking, Dipl. Biol., PhD, (retired), Germany
80. Hermann E. Ott, Dr., Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Climate Network Europe, Germany
81. Reinhard Loske, Prof. Dr., Witten/Herdecke University, Germany
82. Gilles-Eric Seralini, Prof., Molecular Biology, University of Caen, France
83. Mathias Finger, Prof., Switzerland
84. Axel Paulsch, Dr., Institute for Biodiversity - Network, Germany
85. Emmanuel Gritti, Dr., INRA, France
86. Julian Rode, Dr., Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany
87. Jean-Baptiste Mihoub, Dr., Dept. of Conservation Biology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
88. Brigitta Erschbamer, Univ.-Prof. Dr., Institute of Botany, University of Innsbruck, Austria
89. Aleko Miho, Prof., Department of Biology, University of Tirana, Albania
90. Jula Selmani, MSc, Ministry of Environment, Albania
91. Lefter Kashta, Prof. Dr., Research Center for Flora and Fauna, University of Tirana, Albania
92. Bejo Duka, Prof., Department of Physics, University of Tirana, Albania
93. Laura Gjyli, PhD. Cand., Department of Medicine, University Aleksander Moisiu, Durres, Albania
94. Franz Speta, Univ.-Doz. Dr., (retired), Biology Centre Linz, Austria
95. Elise Speta, Dr. Foundation for Nature of the Naturschutzbundes Upper Austria, Austria
96. Barbara Ruthsatz, Prof. Dr., (retired), Department of Geobotany, Trier University, Germany
97. Mario F. Broggi, PD Dr., formerly Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Liechtenstein
98. Mimoza Milo, MSc, Natural Science Faculty, Tirana **University**, Albania

99. Lydia Schlosser, Mag., Ecologist at Ökoteam, Austria
100. Kurt Zukrigl, Univ.Prof.i.R. DI. Dr., Institute of Botany, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
101. Hubert Weiger, Prof. Dr., Department for Ecological Site and Vegetation Studies, University of Kassel, Gemany
102. Axel Gruppe, Dr. rer. nat., Dipl.- Ing. agr., Department Ecology and Ecosystem Management, Technische Universität München, Germany
103. Eric Egerer, Dipl.Ing., Forum of Austrian Scientists for Conservation, Austria
104. José Antonio Donázar, Dr., Department of Conservation Biology, Doñana Biological Station, Spanish Council of Research, Spain
105. Wolfgang W. Weisser, Prof. Dr., Department of Ecology and Ecosystemmanagement Technische Universität München, Germany
106. Traudlinde Aigner, Dr.a phil., Zoologist/Biochemist, Austria
107. Perikli Qiriazhi, Prof. Dr., Department of Geography, University of Tirana, Albania
108. Glícia Maria Torres Calazans Brunken, Prof., Department of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil
109. Kurt Pinter, DDI, Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
110. Wolfram Graf, Univ. Ass. Prof., Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
111. Susanne Muhar, Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr., Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
112. Anne Hartmann, Dr., Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
113. Helga Kremser, DI, Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
114. Carina Mielach, DDI, Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
115. Andreas Melcher, DI Dr., Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
116. Michaela Poppe, Dr., Institute for Hydrobiology & Water Management, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria
117. Roland Albert, Univ.-Prof. Dr., Department for Microbiology and Ecosystem, University of Vienna, Austria
118. Giorgos Catsadorakis, PhD, Ornithologist-Conservation Biologist, Greece
119. Joan Davies, Dr., ARC Aquatics Research and Consultancy, Switzerland