



**A broad campaign by Turkish and international non-governmental organizations aims to protect the region and provide alternative solutions to development and energy needs.**

**EvB**  
 Erklärung von Bern  
 Dichiarazione di Berne  
 Déclaration de Berne

**ECA WATCH**  
 Austria

**GEGENSTRÖMUNG**  
 CounterCurrent  
 Ilisu Campaign Germany

# STOP ILISU DAM



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zvg

## DEMANDS:

1. The export credit agencies from Germany, Austria and Switzerland need to cancel the guarantee contracts for Ilisu and develop higher criteria for their engagement in dam projects.
2. The Turkish Government must immediately stop the Ilisu project.
3. Hasankeyf must be declared a UNESCO world heritage site and an alternative model of development needs to be established with the true participation of the affected population.
4. The companies and banks involved must withdraw from the project and also develop higher criteria for their engagement in dam projects.

**The Ilisu Dam Project is one of the most contested infrastructure projects in the world. Export credit agencies, companies and banks from five European countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy) are providing equipment and funding for the dam. Presumably designed to bring development to the Southeast of Turkey, it entails the impoverishment of thousands of affected people, massive environmental destruction, the loss of invaluable cultural heritage, and an exacerbation of regional conflict.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: [www.stopilisu.com](http://www.stopilisu.com)  
 SWITZERLAND: [www.evb.ch/ilisu](http://www.evb.ch/ilisu) AUSTRIA: [www.eca-watch.at](http://www.eca-watch.at) GERMANY: [www.gegenstroemung.org](http://www.gegenstroemung.org)

ILISU CAMPAIGN EUROPE c/o Berne Declaration,  
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**SAVE HASANKEYF'S CULTURAL HERITAGE &  
 THE LIVELIHOODS OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE TIGRIS VALLEY**

The **ILISU DAM** on the river Tigris is currently the largest hydroelectric power plant planned by the Turkish government, supported by Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The 1200 MW, 2 billions Euro project has become one of the most controversial projects in the international finance community. In December 2008 the Export Credit Agencies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, made an unprecedented step, by ordering the suspension of delivery contracts due to the Turkish failure to comply with required environmental, social and cultural heritage conditions. In July 2009 they will decide whether to continue their engagement or not.

**CULTURE** The Ilisu project is situated in Mesopotamia, the “cradle of civilisation”, hosting traces of dozens of cultures. The 10 000 year old town of Hasankeyf with its unique merge of historic cultural heritage in line with nature as well as hundreds of yet unexplored archaeological sites would be flooded by its reservoir. However, Hasankeyf deserves UNESCO world heritages Status.

**NATURE** The dam will destroy approx. 400 km<sup>2</sup> of precious riverine habitat for many – partially endangered – species like the Euphrates soft shell turtle. The water quality of the reservoir is expected to be extremely low, leading to massive fish extermination, and threatening people’s health. Further downstream the decreased water flow will affect the Mesopotamian Marshes in Iraq – one of the most important ecosystems worldwide.

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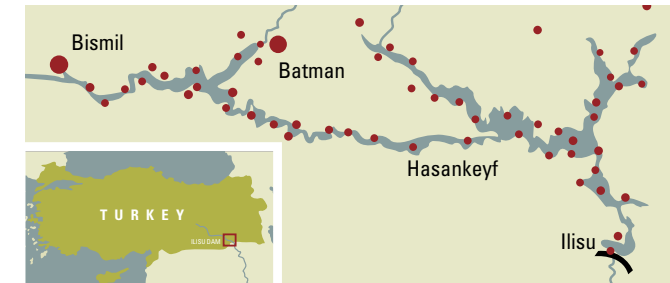
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**PEOPLE** Up to 78 000 people will be affected by the project. Neither land for resettlement nor other income restoration measures have been set in place yet. These people face a future in extreme poverty, the loss of their livelihoods and history, and the disruption of their village and family structures. Participation by affected communities in the project planning, as stipulated by international standards, did not take place. Surveys show that 80 per cent of the affected population oppose the project.

**TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS** The change in water flows and the deterioration of water quality will be felt far downstream. The dam will give Turkey an additional instrument of power and may lead to unprecedented droughts in Iraq. In violation of international law, the riparian countries were not consulted during the planning stage of the project. Although talks were initiated, no agreement has been reached.

Christine Eberlein



**CURRENT STATUS** The Ilisu Dam Project has been initiated by the Turkish government through the Turkish Water Authority (DSI). Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland approved guarantees for European deliveries to the project. The project has not been aligned with international standards, and does not comply with World Bank standards, e.g. no comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment exists to date. Instead, the ECAs attached 153 (weaker) conditions, relating to resettlement, environment, cultural heritage and the transboundary impacts. However, a committee of experts installed to monitor the implementation of the conditions, revealed massive violations of them, which triggered the suspension of the delivery contracts with European companies end of 2008. Preparatory construction work and further expropriations have been halted as a result. But the final withdrawal of the ECAs is still uncertain.

**COMPANIES:** Andritz (AT), Züblin (GER/AT), Alstom, Colenco, Maggia, Stucky (CH), NuroI, Cengiz, Celikler, Temelsu (TR) **BANKS:** Société Générale (F), UniCredit/BankAustria (I), DekaBank (GER), Akbank, Garantibank (TR) **EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES (ECAs):** OeKB (AT), EulerHermes (GER), SERV (CH)

**Despite years of intense negotiations, the fundamental problems of the project have not been solved and international standards are not met.**