



Christian Poirier, Amazon Watch

International Rivers

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Dear Friend of International Rivers,

In 2010, International Rivers celebrated 25 years of waging effective campaigns to protect the world's endangered rivers and the communities that depend on them. What began as an all-volunteer effort to bring together a worldwide network of dam-affected people has blossomed into a professionally-staffed organization based in Berkeley, California, with offices in Brasilia, Mumbai, Bangkok, and Yaounde.

I'm proud of our first 25 years of accomplishments and look forward to our next 25 years of strengthening the global movement for rivers and rights. Some of our achievements include:

- Stopping destructive dams, from Mexico to the Mekong, from the river valleys of Nepal to the Amazon, and from Namibia to the Himalayas. Together with our partners, International Rivers has been responsible for a dramatic decrease in global dam construction over the past 25 years.
- Creating a global movement for the protection of rivers and rights. Today, almost everywhere that a dam is planned, it meets local resistance. This is no accident. The talented staff of International Rivers has nurtured a worldwide movement for healthy rivers and human rights that is demanding a new, 21st century approach to river basin management.
- Being the driving force behind the formation of the World Commission on Dams, whose recommendations form a gold standard for water and energy planning.
- Helping to broker commitments from hydropower companies and governments to compensate dam-affected communities in Lesotho, Laos, Thailand and Brazil — and ensuring that those promises are kept!

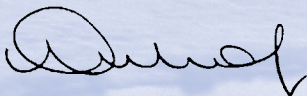
2010 was certainly not a time for us to rest on our laurels. We organized Rivers for Life 3: The Third International Meeting of Dam-affected People and their Allies in Temacapulín, a small dam-affected community in rural Mexico. For five days, more than 300 people from 54 countries gathered together to laugh, cry, share stories, celebrate, and most importantly of all, to strategize about how to counter the growing threats to the world's rivers. The people of Temacapulín graciously shared their homes with dam-affected people and activists from all over the world, and our partners at IMDEC, the Mexican Institute for Community Development, worked tirelessly to ensure that the meeting ran smoothly. To our Mexican friends and compañeros, we will be eternally grateful. To the international community of activists who attended Rivers for Life, your passion, strength and commitment are truly inspiring.

In 2010, we also ramped up pressure on governments in Southeast Asia to stop a series of disastrous dams planned for the Mekong mainstream; stepped up our campaign to stop proposed megadams in the Amazon; and coordinated a series of events to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the World Commission on Dams. You can read all about our achievements in our Program Highlights section.

2010 ended with Patrick McCully announcing that he would leave International Rivers at the beginning of 2011. Paddy is greatly missed not just by all of us at International Rivers, but by our global community of allies who came to depend on him and his vast knowledge. International Rivers would not be where it is today without the hard work, commitment and intellectual rigor provided by Paddy over his 17 years at the organization. Thankfully, Paddy has left the organization financially solid and with a strong and capable staff to carry on his important work.

Finally, to all of you, our supporters, I want to thank you for your support. Our work would not be possible without your generosity.

For people, water and life,



Aviva Imhof
Interim Executive Director

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2010 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Rivers for Life 3:
The Third International
Meeting of Dam-Affected
People and their Allies**



In October 2010, more than 300 dam-affected people and dam activists from 54 countries descended on the tiny town of Temacapulín, located in the central highlands of Mexico, for the Third International Meeting of Dam-Affected People and their Allies. International Rivers was the main organizer of this event, the third such meeting that has taken place over the past 13 years. Over five days, dam-affected people and activists shared stories about their struggles, exchanged ideas and developed strategies to counter new threats to their rivers and rights. People left Temacapulín feeling energized by the sense of solidarity created at the meeting, and with renewed vigor to face the struggles ahead.

**Defending the Rivers
of the Amazon**



International Rivers partnered with Amazon Watch and actors Sigourney Weaver and Dira Paes to produce a new Google Earth tour and video called “Defending the Rivers of the Amazon.” In the video, available in English and Portuguese, the actors take us on a journey through the Xingu Basin to reveal what would be lost if the Belo Monte Dam were built. The tour illustrates the impacts of diverting the mighty Xingu River, such as reducing access to water along a 100-km stretch called the “Big Bend,” where two indigenous tribes have lived for generations. The video is available on our website and our YouTube Channel. www.internationalrivers.org/node/6390

In Brazil we supported local and indigenous communities in organizing against the massive Belo Monte Dam planned for the Xingu River. We worked to increase transparency at the Brazilian National Development Bank, a major funder of dams in the Amazon. We also ramped up our efforts to support communities in the Tapajós Basin — the next major Amazonian tributary slated for dam construction — and in southern Peru, where together with local organizations, we successfully delayed the Pakitzapango and Inambari dams.

By early 2010, International Rivers and our partner, Friends of Lake Turkana, had succeeded in discouraging the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank from supporting the highly destructive Gibe III Dam in Ethiopia. Later that year, China’s largest bank agreed to partially fund the dam. This announcement only further energized the campaign working to stop the project, and the struggle is continuing.

In 2010, we persuaded the world’s largest dam builder, China’s state-owned Sinohydro Corporation, to adopt an environmental policy reflecting the highest international standards. Sinohydro shared their draft policy with us, which was broadly consistent with international standards. We also continued to provide campaign support to communities affected by Chinese overseas dam-builders, and used these case studies to bring about environmental reforms across the sector.



Our work in Chilean Patagonia helped sway public opinion against the building of five controversial dams on the Baker and Pascua Rivers in Chilean Patagonia. The proposed US\$3.2 billion project would flood at least 5,600 hectares of rare forest ecosystems, river valleys and farmlands in the Aysén region of southern Chile, including a portion of the Laguna San Rafael National Park. In 2010, the project continued to be delayed due to public opposition and technical concerns.

We persuaded the Indian government to pay more attention to the concerns of environmental organizations and dam-affected communities. After meeting with NGOs in September 2010, the Minister of Environment asked the country’s Prime Minister to suspend all hydropower projects in the Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh, a dam-building hotspot.

International Rivers, together with the Save the Mekong Coalition, raised the pressure on dam-builders proposing dams on the Lower Mekong River’s mainstream through a growing civil society and community movement and high-profile media coverage. In an important success, a major report commissioned by a regional inter-governmental body recommended a ten-year deferment on Mekong mainstream dams, representing a serious challenge to the dam-builders who nonetheless seek to push ahead with their plans.



PEOPLE



WATER



LIFE

Photos (left to right): Christian Poirier, Amazon Watch; International Rivers; © Suthep Krisanavarin

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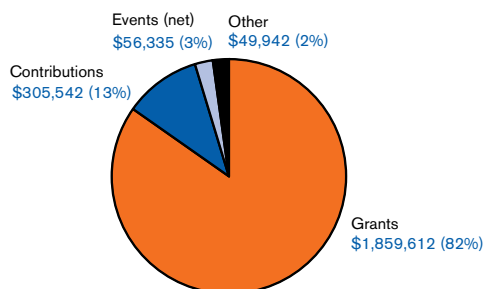
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* Indicates a River Healer (monthly sustainer)

Financial Report

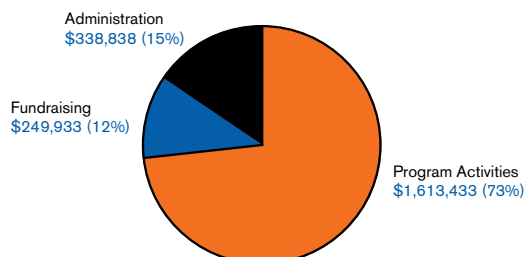
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY – JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

REVENUE



TOTAL INCOME \$2,271,431

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,202,204

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: **\$69,227**

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR: **\$228,293**

To obtain a copy of International Rivers' most recent audited financial statement or IRS form 990, please contact membership@internationalrivers.org.

PLANNED GIVING

THE LUNA B. LEOPOLD LEGACY SOCIETY A LEGACY FOR LIVING RIVERS

The Luna B. Leopold Legacy Society was established to strengthen International Rivers' long-term financial health and to support our efforts to protect rivers around the world and defend the rights of people who depend on them.

International Rivers can accept the following planned gifts:

- Bequests
- Insurance Policies
- Deferred Employee Benefits
- Retirement Assets

Contact our Development Department for more information: +1 510 848 1155 ext. 301 or karolo@internationalrivers.org.

Please consult with your financial advisors to discuss your charitable giving options.

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