

**A broad campaign in Turkey and Europe aims to protect the region and provide alternative solutions to development and energy needs. Sign the petition to have Hasankeyf and the Tigris valley declared a UNESCO world heritage site at [www.stopilisu.com](http://www.stopilisu.com)**

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 Déclaration de Berne

**GEGENSTRÖMUNG**  
 CounterCurrent  
 Ilisu Campaign Germany

**Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung**  
 für Natur und Umwelt

**ECA WATCH**  
 Austria

# STOP ILISU DAM



Christine Eberlein



John Wreford



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Ulrich Eichelmann

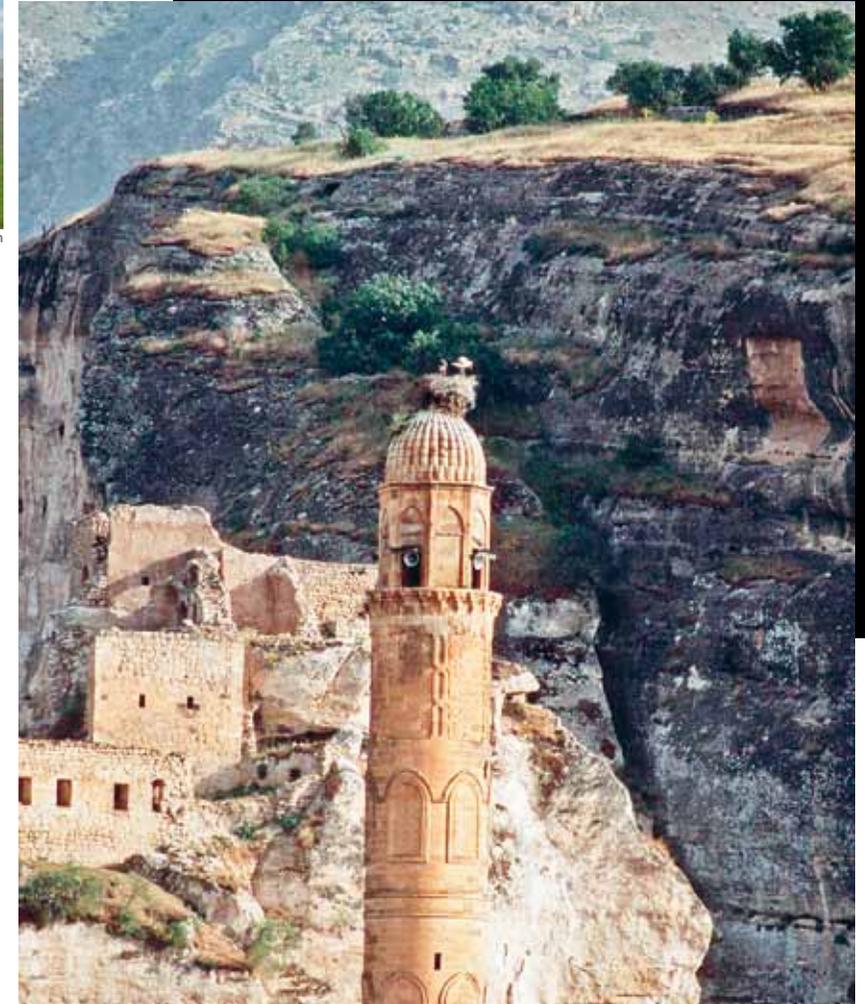
## DEMANDS:

1. The Turkish Government must immediately stop the Ilisu project and develop a sustainable water and energy policy.
2. 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.
3. 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. 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,  
 Dienerstrasse 12, P.O. Box, 8026 Zurich, Switzerland



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**GET ACTIVE!**  
 ADDRESS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND  
 BANKS INVOLVED AND DEMAND THEIR  
 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILISU PROJECT.

Sept. 2010

**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. The 1200 MW, 2 billion Euro project has become one of the most controversial projects in the international finance community. In July 2009 the Export Credit Agencies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, made an unprecedented step by withdrawing their guarantees for the project due to the Turkish failure to comply with required environmental, social and cultural heritage conditions.

**CULTURE** The Ilisu project is situated in Mesopotamia, the “cradle of civilisation”, hosting traces of dozens of cultures. The 10000 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 heritage 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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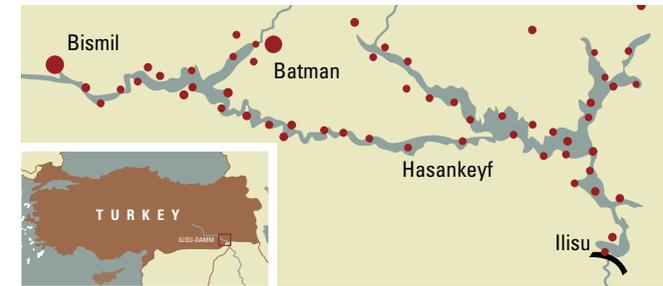
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**PEOPLE** Up to 78000 people will be affected in the project area. Neither land for resettlement nor other income restoration measures have been set in place yet. These people face a future in extreme poverty, the loss of their livelihoods and history, 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.

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**CURRENT STATUS** The Ilisu Dam Project has been initiated by the Turkish government through the Turkish Water Authority (DSI). After the withdrawal of the Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland as well as European banks, the Turkish banks Akbank, Garantibank and Halkbank are providing additional loans, with the Austrian company Andritz remaining part of the consortium. In March 2010 construction restarted and villagers were expropriated and offered resettlement houses at a higher price than the compensation they received. At the same time, legal proceedings against the project are underway. Dam opponents throughout the country are joining to demand changes in the Turkish dam policy.

**COMPANIES:** Andritz (AT), Nurol, Cengiz, Celikler, Temelsu (TR)  
**BANKS:** Akbank, Garantibank, Halkbank (TR)

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