

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:

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