

REASONS AGAINST THE PH BARRO BLANCO AND ITS FINANCING BY CER'S

The communities next to the Tabasará river as much as those of Bellavista, Veladero and Cerro Viejo and in the district of Tolé (in the Province of Chiriquí), as those of Bakama in the district of Müna (in the indigenous region of Ngöbe Buglé) live intimately interrelated with Rio Tabasará from time immemorial of the colony.

In these activities take place as agriculture and fishing, as also cattle raising, all of these vital activities for the economy of the region. Recently the industry of eco-tourism has been begun in the indigenous ngöbe buglé region. And among its main attractions is found the great Rio Tabasará that has a great historical importance, as much for ngöbes as for also the veragüenses and chiricanos and since this river takes the name of a famous cacique ngöbe buglé in the days of the colony. At the moment it marks in certain places the bordering points between Chiriquí and Veraguas. These activities would be seen seriously affected by this hydroelectric Project Barro Blanco that would mark the end of these activities in this area of the indigenous region. In addition inside the 258,67 hectares of reservoir are numerous cemeteries and pre-Columbian sites of the ethnic ngöbe buglé group. So these lands maintain a historical and sacred importance as much for ngöbes as the national patrimony of the Panamanians.

The presence of a hydroelectric with its corresponding reservoir would be as a strange presence in the heart of these communities. That would be forced to adopt other activities perhaps in other faraway sites as in the provincial head towns as David or Santiago, likewise the capital city of Panama since their passage to the river Tabasará, their main source of income would be impeded by the presence of such hydroelectric. Instead of being a source of wealth as publicly is announced by the company GENISA it would be a source of poverty for the communities. It would produce a massive exodus from the field to the city. Also it would limit the access of the cattle to the river, important activity for the economy of this region of the country.

The creation of a dam would eliminate the vital use of these lands for the activities of the communities. It is certain that this project would not directly produce CO₂ during the generation of electrical energy. The existence of a reservoir of 258,67 hectares would create an inert water body that would contribute to the decomposition of organic matter within the dam and instead of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, would increase them. Since the methane is 100 times more injurious as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ itself. So these carbon bonds would be ill assigned to a project that instead of reducing the creation of greenhouse gases would increase them contributing to a greater global heating (including a fossil generation plants).

As the greater quota of water (90%) or more would be reserved for company GENISA and hydroelectric generation, leaving only a scant 10% for the "assumed ecological flow". The communities would be themselves lacking of the vital liquid and submitted to a water shortage. The sole presence of a dam would prevent the migration and the natural life cycle of vital species for the community fish, shrimps, and crabs, as for the natural

environment condemning these species to an inevitable death and extinction. The fact that the waters would be also dammed would limit the normal flow of sediments towards the estuaries and mangrove swamps where they fulfill a vital function for biodiversity and the life cycle of the species.

The development of these hydroelectric projects also creates uneasiness in the communities when removing them of their water resource (Tabasará River) to the same, affecting their quality of life.

RESOLUTION

1. Considering that the fight for the defense of Rio Tabasará has 10 years of struggle on the part of the population that benefits from the same.
2. That company GENISA looks for the form of financing to destroy a part of the river Tabasará by means of the hydroelectric project Barro Blanco.

IT RESOLVES

1. Continue fighting for the defense of the natural integrity of the river Tabasará, from its birth to its mouth.
- 2 to solicit from the national and international financial organisms to be suspended all type of credits to the company GENISA for the development of the PH Barro Blanco.
3. Endorsement in solidary manner to the communities directly affected by the project and above all to the adjacent areas of the ngöbe buglé indigenous region that are affected by the hydroelectric project Barro Blanco.

Movement 10 of April of the Tabasará (M-10)

Environmentalist Association of Chiriquí (ASAMCHI)

Given in the city of David 25 July 2009

Province of Chiriquí, Republic of Panama