



134 Haddington Ave  
North York, Ontario  
MSM 296  
June 14, 1992

Lewis T Preston  
President, International Finance Corp  
1818 H Street,  
Washington DC  
20433

Dear Mr. Preston,

I am writing to express my serious concern about potential IFC involvement in the building of dams along the Bio-Bio river in Chile. This biologically rich and diverse area would be seriously threatened by artificial reservoirs. It is also a seismically active region and the 2 active volcanoes in the area give the possibility of dam failure and catastrophic flooding. It is irresponsible for the IFC to require an environmental assessment for the first dam alone, ignoring the 5 dams which are planned to follow.

The Petuncheo people have a right to determine the use of their ancestral lands. Therefore, technical and economic feasibility studies and environmental and social assessments for all 6 Bio-Bio dams should be provided to any member of the public that requests them. The present disclosure method, where the final environmental report is to be available only in Santiago, and copies can't be made, is clearly inadequate.

The IFC should provide no financing whatsoever.

to such an environmentally damaging project, particularly  
in view of the objections of the affected local population. With  
the increasing understanding of the environmental  
vulnerability of our planet, it is time for the World  
Bank and the IFC to switch, from damaging mega-projects  
to supporting local groups involved in small scale sustainable  
development.

I hope you will give this matter some consideration.



Sincerely,

A CURTIS, MD

c.c.: **President Patricio Aylwin, Santiago, CHILE**  
Jaime Toha Gonzalez, Ministro President, Comision Nacional de  
Energia, Santiago, CHILE  
Frank Potter, Canadian Executive Director, The World Bank and  
International Finance Corp., Washington, D. C., USA  
The Honourable Donald Mazankowski, M. P., Ottawa, Ontario