

Manifest for the Tua

Published originally on the International Day for Monuments and Sites, the 18 April 2012

It is eminent the destruction of the Tua Valley, and one of the last rivers existing in Europe in a natural state, and one of the most beautiful rivers in Portugal. The signatories demand the immediate suspension of the construction works in Foz Tua before irreversible damages are committed over a priceless heritage of high ecological, social and economic value, part of our heritage and Portuguese identity and culture.

Seven objective reasons to stop the construction of the Foz Tua dam:

1. It doesn't achieves the stated objectives. Foz Tua is part of the National Dam Program, which overall production would generate 0,5% of the energy consumption in Portugal (3% of the electricity), reducing only 0,7% of the energy importation and 0,7% of the greenhouse gas emissions. Foz Tua would only provide the meagre 0,1% of all the energy consumption in Portugal.

2. It isn't needed. The objectives of the National Dam Program have already been exceeded as a result of the ongoing power capacity increasing: on a short-term the supply of 7020 MW of hydroelectric energy will be installed (the NDP objectives was to reach 7000 MW), 2510 MW with water pumping equipment (the NPD expected to reach 2000 MW), without any new dam.

3. It is too expensive. If the new dams go ahead the Portuguese people will have to pay in their taxes and electricity bill its cost, reaching to about 16 thousand million – an average of €1.600 per inhabitant. With these dams, along the 75 concession years, households and companies in Portugal will have to pay 10% more for the electricity (above the estimations made before), favouring the banks, the construction and electricity companies.

4. There are better alternatives. All the energetic objectives may be achieved in a much more effective and cheaper way if other alternative possibilities are taken, namely: (i) investments in energetic efficiency, having 1/10 of the cost per kWh than the new dams; and (ii) increasing power capacity of the dams existing already, having 1/5 of the cost per kWh than the construction of new dams.

5. It is a cultural disaster. The Foz Tua reservoir will destroy Tua historic railway line and a valley of natural and man-made landscape of rare beauty and of high cultural and touristic value. The dam also puts pressure on the nomination of the Alto Douro Wine Region as a World Heritage site (UNESCO will hardly accept the boldness and lack of good sense showed by the Portuguese State and EDP).

6. It is an environmental disaster. The Foz Tua reservoir will irreversibly destroy agricultural land and rare river habitats, it will endanger protected as well as threatened species, it will cause added coastal erosion risks as a result of the sediment retention, and it will inevitably cause a water quality degradation.

7. It is a social disaster. The dam will lead to the disappearance of the impoverished population of the Tua Valley. It is another brake on the development possibilities for the region of Trás-os-Montes, as a result of the loss of the railway line and valuable touristic assets as water sports and landscape railway travelling. To create a workplace in tourism is 11 times cheaper than to create one in the dam. The scarce compensations of EDP will never be enough for the destruction of the values and identity of this astonishing region.

The construction of certain projects are acceptable by bringing added value to the country. Others like the Foz Tua dam impoverish it more: we cannot sacrifice a singular heritage of outstanding value and beauty in detriment of the scarce benefits this project brings. It is our responsibility to ensure that the future generations are not jeopardised as the result of the decisions taken and we must ensure that they have as well the possibility to make the best of the Tua Valley.

The petition signatories study backgrounds are sciences, culture, economics, politics, and citizenry; even if their vision for Portugal differs they all share a common will:

TO SAVE THE TUA

Public figures subscribing the Manifest For the Tua (October 2012)

Adriano Bordalo e Sá, hidrobiologist, professor at *Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar*

Alexandra Cunha, university teacher, President of LPN

Ana Benavente, university teacher

Ana Paula Amendoeira, President of ICOMOS Portugal

António Carmona Rodrigues, professor at *FCT-UNL*, expert in hydraulics

António Cerveira Pinto, artist

António d'Orey Capucho, President of the *Fundação D. Luís I*, politician, former parlamentay leader of *PSD*

Arminda Deusdado, journalist, coordinator of the tv program *Biosfera Catarina Martins*, Actress, *BE* deputy

Clara Casanova Ferreira, President of *SPEA*

Conceição Martins, Head teacher of *Escola Superior de Educação de Bragança*

Daniel Conde, founding member of the Tua and Corgo Railway Civic Movements

Daniel Oliveira, journalist and political commentator

Domingos Leitão, Coordinator of *SPEA*'s program *Terrestre*

Duarte Pio, Head of *Casa de Bragança*

Eugénio Sequeira, coordinating investigator, counselor of *CNADS*, board member of *LPN*

Fábia Azevedo, President of *Aldeia*

Fernando Gomes, entrepreneur in tourism entertainment

Fernando Pessoa, landscape architect, teacher at *Universidade do Algarve*

Fernando Santana, Director of *Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia* of *UNL*

Francisco Ferreira, professor at *FCT-UNL*, board member of *Quercus*

Francisco Louçã, economist and *BE* leader

Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles, landscape architect

Graciela Nunes, founding member of *Movimento de Cidadãos pela Linha do Tua*

Helena Freitas, Vice-Rector of *Universidade de Coimbra*

Helena Matos, journalist and political commentator

Heloísa Apolónia, deputy and leader of *PEV*

João Joanaz de Melo, professor at *FCT-UNL*, President of *GEOTA*

João Labrincha, activist for *Movimento 12 de Março*

João Roquette, sub-administrator of the winery *Esporão SA*

Jorge Pelicano, producer, film-director of "*Pare, Escute, Olhe*"

José Archer, President of *ABAE*

José Macário Correia, President of *Câmara Municipal de Faro*, leader of *PSD*

José Manuel Fernandes, journalist and political commentator

Luís Costa, Executive Director of *SPEA*

Luísa Amorim, manager of the winery *Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo*

Luísa Schmidt, journalist and investigator of *ISC-UL*

Manuel Maria Carrilho, professor, former UNESCO ambassador of Portugal

Manuela Cunha, national leader of *PEV*

Mara Sé, environmental engineer, member of *GAIA*

Margarida Cancela d'Abreu, landscape architect, President of *APAP*, teacher at *Universidade de Évora*

Mendo Castro Henriques, teacher at *Universidade Católica*, President of *Instituto da Democracia Portuguesa*

Miguel Roquette, director of the winery *Quinta do Crasto SA*

Mila Simões de Abreu, archaeologist, Cambridge University

Nuno Sequeira, biologist, teacher, President of *Quercus*

Paulo Talhadas Santos, university teacher, President of *FAPAS*

Pedro Felgar Couteiro, head member of *COAGRET-Portugal*

Pedro Mansilha Branco, Port wine producer, *Quinta do Portal*

Pedro Valdjiu, musician, member of *Blasted Mechanism*

Ricardo Inverno, President of *Clube de Canoagem e Águas Bravas de Portugal*

Rui Cortes, university teacher at *UTAD* lecturing "River ecology", member of *Conselho Nacional da Água*

Rui Reininho, musician, member of *GNR*

Viriato Soromenho-Marques, university teacher and essayist