



# Organising your local event – What to keep in mind for a film screening?

## Count Down on River Xingu V – about the fight against mega dams and corruption in Brazil

*Documentary by Martin Kessler | short version: 25 min - long version: 95 min | the movie is part of a long-term observation of mega projects in the Brazilian Amazon region.*

The **Belo Monte** dam was justified with its importance for the Brazilian (economic) development and the (economic) growth of the Amazon region and goes hand in hand with other mega projects such as mining, agro-industrial monocultures and oil extraction. This neo-extractivism describes a post-liberal variant of the classical commodity-based economic model. Countries such as Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil are increasingly financing their development and social programmes via revenues from raw material extraction – but this does not change the devastating ecological and social effects of raw material exploitation. In the Amazon, advancing extractivism is creating poverty, provoking human rights violations, destroying the environment and driving land theft. But aren't there other development paths, for the Amazon region as well as for cities and towns in Europe?

### GENERAL IDEA

The documentary “Count Down on River Xingu V” should be used as a possibility to enter in a dialogue with citizens, local initiatives and organisations on the topic of energy production, energy cooperatives, the use of energy and/or human and indigenous rights. Especially, questions like where energy comes from, what are the benefits and challenges of renewable energies and the potentials of decentralised energy production can be part of the discussion. The impact of the demand of resources on indigenous peoples and their territories can also be a topic to talk about after the screening of the movie.

The goal of these events is to raise awareness of the impacts of energy production and its use, pros and cons of big-scale renewable energy systems as well as human and indigenous rights and their connection to energy systems. The role of (multi-national) companies can be discussed as well.

You want to invite the filmmaker to your local event? Contact us!

### COMBINATION WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES

You can easily find many other activities with which you can combine the screening. You could, for example, show the exhibition “**We are all witnesses of climate**”

change”, the campaign “**A good life is simple**” or promote the online tool “**Change the future**”.

Another option is to invite other local initiatives to take part in the event, e.g. the local Brazilian community.

The movie should be seen as the starting point for a deeper discussion, not only on global questions of energy (production) but also on local ones.

So be creative – use the movie for an interesting event connected to the topics relevant in your city (see some ideas below).

### **MOVE RIGHTS ETC.**

Within the EU funded project “Change the Power – (Em)Power to Change” Climate Alliance and the project partners acquired the rights of the movie for three years for non-commercial screenings. All Climate Alliance members are invited to show the movie. Please inform us and check basic administrative issues with us before.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES TO HAVE IN MIND**

- The **EU flag** and the **disclaimer** have to be on all printed and digital documents (e.g. invitation, poster, etc.).
- Do not forget to put the name of the director and a link to his website ([www.neuwut.de](http://www.neuwut.de))
- Do you need **pictures or press material**? Have a look at the **director’s website**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- **Timeline on the dam project** developed by “International Rivers”
- Despite the damage caused by the Belo Monte Dam, the government of Pará approved a licence for the biggest gold mining project in the same region. See the **Environmental Justice Atlas**
- **Belo Monte, Odebrecht and the Luxembourg Connection** (ASTM December 2018)

### **TOPICS WITH WHICH YOU COULD COMBINE THE SCREENING**

- Energy transition in your municipality
- Energy democracy and (de)central energy production
- Human and indigenous rights
- Political shift to the right in Latin America and Europe
- Role of European companies in other countries
- Development model / (neo)extractivism

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES FOR PARTICIPANTS – HOW CAN WE BECOME ACTIVE IN EUROPE?

- **As an individual:**
  - Get politically active, e.g. pressure on big (European) companies, get involved in demonstration against mega projects and for a fossil free world;
  - Be mindful about consumption (**online tool** gives ideas and support in daily life): stop using plastic bags in shops and avoid plastic packaging, eat more local and biological food as well as reduce meat consumption, use your car less and favor soft mobility...
  - Talk about what you have seen. Let your friends about it!
  - ...
- **As a city:**
  - Start initiatives such as becoming a “plastic straw free town” or decarbonize your local economy
  - Divestment: take your money out of grey energy / fossil fuels
  - Expand public transport
  - Improve the pedestrian and bike infrastructure
  - Support local initiatives which work on these topics
  - Support social and solidarity economy in your city
  - Get your national government to sign the ILO169 Convention
  - ...

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