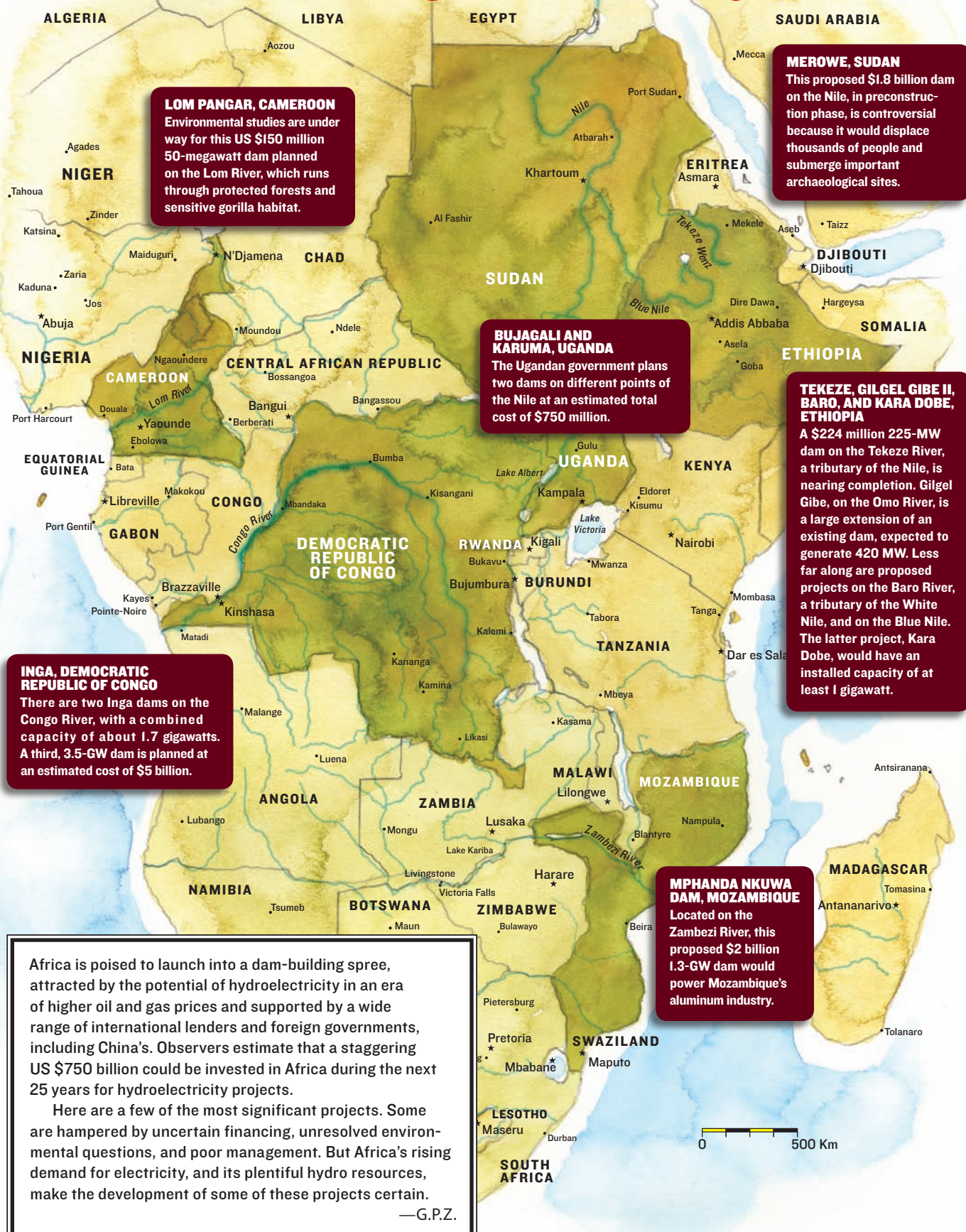


# Africa's Big Dam Projects



**LOM PANGAR, CAMEROON**  
Environmental studies are under way for this US \$150 million 50-megawatt dam planned on the Lom River, which runs through protected forests and sensitive gorilla habitat.

**MEROWE, SUDAN**  
This proposed \$1.8 billion dam on the Nile, in preconstruction phase, is controversial because it would displace thousands of people and submerge important archaeological sites.

**BUJAGALI AND KARUMA, UGANDA**  
The Ugandan government plans two dams on different points of the Nile at an estimated total cost of \$750 million.

**TEKEZE, GILGEL GIBE II, BARO, AND KARA DOBE, ETHIOPIA**  
A \$224 million 225-MW dam on the Tekeze River, a tributary of the Nile, is nearing completion. Gilgel Gibe, on the Omo River, is a large extension of an existing dam, expected to generate 420 MW. Less far along are proposed projects on the Baro River, a tributary of the White Nile, and on the Blue Nile. The latter project, Kara Dobe, would have an installed capacity of at least 1 gigawatt.

**INGA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
There are two Inga dams on the Congo River, with a combined capacity of about 1.7 gigawatts. A third, 3.5-GW dam is planned at an estimated cost of \$5 billion.

**MPHANDA NKUWA DAM, MOZAMBIQUE**  
Located on the Zambezi River, this proposed \$2 billion 1.3-GW dam would power Mozambique's aluminum industry.

Africa is poised to launch into a dam-building spree, attracted by the potential of hydroelectricity in an era of higher oil and gas prices and supported by a wide range of international lenders and foreign governments, including China's. Observers estimate that a staggering US \$750 billion could be invested in Africa during the next 25 years for hydroelectricity projects.

Here are a few of the most significant projects. Some are hampered by uncertain financing, unresolved environmental questions, and poor management. But Africa's rising demand for electricity, and its plentiful hydro resources, make the development of some of these projects certain.

—G.P.Z.