



Usoi Dam (Tajikistan) the highest landslide dam on the world

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Natural dams are an integral part of the landscape formation. They are formed when the soil from slopes blocks the watercourse. The development of such dam may lead to two rare but desirable extreme outcomes: quick easing of the new dam and leakage of water accumulated behind it or stabilization of the dam and the establishment of a permanent outflow of water from the newly formed lake before it overflows the dam. All outcomes between these two extremes pose a threat commonly resulting in catastrophic floods causing massive damage to the flooded areas. The largest known dam of this kind, more than 500 m high and existing already 100 years, is the Usoi Dam in Tajikistan. The dam is located in the Amur Darya river basin.