



**VICTORY!**

## BANK OF AMERICA Dumps Coal Mining

**SWEEPING NEW POLICY**

**commits to reducing exposure  
to coal mining companies globally**

In May, after nearly four years of RAN campaigning, Bank of America unveiled a new global policy that essentially takes them out of coal mining companies across the board. This is a huge moment. Bank of America has gone from being the top bankroller of coal to having the strongest global coal mining policy of any major global bank. It's the result of years of constant pressure from RAN, our many frontline allies — and from you and all of RAN's supporters in this fight.

Bank of America's new policy is the strongest policy of its kind within the financial sector to date and has significant implications for the coal industry in the United States, Colombia, India, South Africa, Indonesia and Australia. The bank has also, for the first time, recognized the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous communities who face proposals to mine on their traditional lands.

When RAN first approached Bank of America about instituting a responsible coal policy, they told us they were “diametrically opposed to our position on coal.” They said they aspired to be

“number one in every sector they worked in” — including the fossil fuel sector. After four years of RAN campaigning, Bank of America's coal mining policy represents a sea change: it acknowledges that they are responsible for the fossil fuels that they bankroll. This is a huge paradigm shift toward the realization that fossil fuels need to kept in the ground.

And this work is far from over. Bank of America's new policy is the strongest to date of any global private-sector bank — but it can't be the only one. RAN will continue to hold Bank of America accountable to its new policy, but we will also be pushing other banks to meet or exceed it.

And, as this publication is going to press, there is news that Citibank has also released a new policy that will bring that major bank more in line with a clean energy future. Across the financial sector, we need banks to stop bankrolling fossil fuels that are destroying the climate. Stay tuned!

***Read the complete campaign timeline on page 4 » »***



PHOTO: DANIEL CASILLAN

## TURNING UP THE HEAT ON CONFLICT PALM OIL LAGGARDS

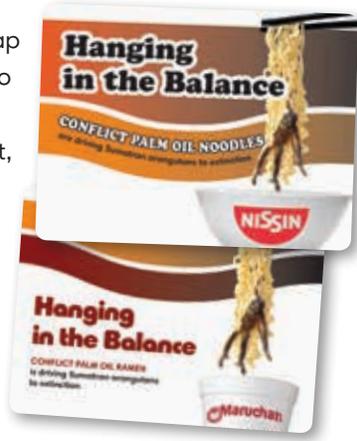
Earlier this summer, three more major snack food companies — Hillshire Brands Company, maker of popular Sara Lee frozen pies and cakes; and Nissin Foods and Maruchan, America’s two largest instant noodle companies — were exposed as Conflict Palm Oil laggards. These companies have not done nearly enough to ensure that the products they sell are free of human rights abuses, rainforest destruction, land grabs, or child and forced labor.

With the help of thousands of activists, we tied up the companies’ phone lines, flooded their Facebook pages and Twitter feeds, filled their email inboxes and, in Chicago and Los Angeles, blocked the doors of their headquarters, demanding

that they adopt truly responsible palm oil policies.

These laggards profit from using cheap and controversial Conflict Palm Oil. So far, they have refused to stop — but that is about to change. We know that, with your support, we can keep the pressure up and convince these laggards to cut Conflict Palm Oil for good.

Read more at: [www.ran.org/sf20scorecard](http://www.ran.org/sf20scorecard)



## The PANTHER

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PHOTO: ANDRE DIB / SHUTTERSTOCK



**NEW LEAF PAPER**

Rainforest Action Network saved the following resources by using 700 pounds of Ingenuity, made with 100% recycled fiber, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates. Calculation based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

	8 TREES
	3,927 GAL WATER
	4 MILLION ENERGY BTUS
	263 LBS SOLID WASTE
	724 LBS GREENHOUSE GAS

# FROM the CANOPY

Lindsey Allen, RAN Executive Director



## 30 Years of an Exhilarating Journey

As I write this, I'm coming off a trip to Louisiana to mark the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a trip to Indonesia to meet with more than 30 frontline partners in the fight to save their rainforests, and I'm preparing for the 30th Anniversary fundraiser for Rainforest Action Network.

But if I stop to think about how to capture the past 30 years of this organization that I am so privileged to lead — it's impossible. There's just too much. From our humble roots in 1985 as hard core activists determined to stop the unchecked destruction of rainforests in the Amazon, to an international organization that just this year pushed Bank of America to get out of the coal mining business, it's been a very long, challenging, and exhilarating trip.

Thanks to you, we have accomplished a great deal in thirty years. From getting Burger King to abandon cattle ranch contracts in the Amazon in 1987, to supporting the U'wa Tribe's successful efforts to fight off oil and gas companies from their ancestral lands in 2002; from getting Disney to cut out deforestation from all their paper products globally in 2012, to hearing Cargill announce their new global zero deforestation policy in 2014 — your support has created serious change in the world on behalf of forests, communities and the climate.

But one of our biggest victories in 2015 didn't even have our name on it. It was an article in the *Wall Street Journal* this July, titled *Palm Oil Workers Tell of Abuses on Malaysian Plantations; Industry Contributes to Human Trafficking*. The article detailed the deplorable conditions for workers on palm oil plantations: the constant threats of injury and toxic exposure, the confiscation of passports, and the fact that families technically aren't allowed on many plantations — yet women and children routinely work off the books in order to pay off the systematic debt to the company and to third party labor brokers. And all of this to produce corn chips. And instant noodles. And eye liner. And donuts.

But this article was months, if not years, in the making. RAN staff worked closely with this *Wall Street Journal* reporter — connecting him with first person accounts, securing access to plantations, helping to connect the corporate dots and ensuring the accuracy of the information. This is just one example of how RAN changes the conversation, changes hearts and minds, and changes the practices of the business community, the finance community, and the regulatory community. This is how RAN creates consensus that business as usual has to stop.

If we would not allow these human rights abuses to occur here in the US, then we should not support these human rights abuses anywhere in our economy.

That's why RAN has always made the explicit connection between environmental protections and the protection of human rights. That's why labor protections, indigenous land rights, human and local participation commitments are non-negotiable elements to any rainforest protection or fossil fuel extraction policy that RAN negotiates.

Because it's not just about protecting species from extinction. It's not just about protecting the climate from fossil fuels. It's not just about protecting the rainforests from destruction.

It's about fighting systemic injustice. It's about all of it. That's been the RAN model for 30 years. And I could not be more proud to continue that journey with you.

For the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsey Allen'.

Lindsey Allen  
Executive Director



Follow Lindsey Allen at @lrallen



# BREAKING THE BANK

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## How RAN Convinced Bank of America to Keep Coal In the Ground

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By Amanda Starbuck  
*Climate and Energy Program Director*

RAN's network of activists and supporters, along with hundreds of allies, used a wide array of strategies in this campaign, including: introducing shareholder resolutions at Bank of America annual meetings; connecting with directly-impacted communities in the Powder River Basin, Appalachia, India, and Colombia to document environmental and human rights abuses related to Bank of America-backed coal mining companies; disrupting Bank of America recruitment efforts on college campuses; organizing direct action protests at Bank of America branch locations; and hanging a "Bank of Coal" banner off the side of Bank of America stadium in Charlotte, NC, and much, much more.

PHOTO: NELL REDMOND

OPPOSITE: JOHN DUFFY ; PAUL CORBIT BROWN

# BANK OF AMERICA CAMPAIGN

## TIMELINE TO VICTORY

**MARCH 2011:** RAN places six banks, including Bank of America “on notice” by serving “Cease and Desist” orders instructing them to stop their coal financing activity.

**AUGUST 2011:** In a face-to-face meeting, Bank of America tells RAN that they are “diametrically opposed” to our position on coal.

**NOVEMBER 2011:** Over 60,000 customers close their Bank of America accounts during the “Move Your Money” initiative. RAN launches a banner action at Bank of America headquarters in Charlotte, NC.

**MAY 2012:** RAN re-brands Charlotte’s Bank of America Stadium as “Bank of Coal Stadium;” a huge coalition at their shareholder meeting calls on Bank of America to put people and planet before profits. Over 1,000 activists protest outside shareholder meeting with more than 100 activists inside the meeting.

**NOVEMBER 2012:** Direct action in Charlotte: four simultaneous lockdowns at Bank of America branches. Nine people arrested, including grandmothers Pat Moore and Beth Henry.

**MAY 2013:** Bank of America’s Annual General Meeting is filled with frontline community members, medical professionals, students, and faith leaders. They all call on Bank of America to stop funding coal.

**JANUARY 2014:** RAN circulates shareholder sign-on letter and begins engaging major Bank of America shareholders in support of proxy resolution calling for BofA to measure and report on climate risks from lending.

**MAY 2015:** Bank of America adopts their groundbreaking global coal-mining policy.

**JULY 2011:** RAN announces the Bank of America campaign with a “Billionaires for Coal” protest at a San Francisco branch.

**OCTOBER 2011:** RAN teams up with Reverend Billy and Occupy Wall Street to lead a protest to a Bank of America branch at Zuccotti Park in New York.

**JANUARY 2012:** All 85 Bank of America ATMs in San Francisco are transformed into Truth Machines, inspiring similar actions in cities across the United States.

**JUNE 2012:** Bank of America releases an environmental commitment that falls far short of necessary action. In response, Charlotte citizens dump 500 pounds of coal on a copy of Bank of America’s environmental commitment.

**JANUARY 2013:** In the space of three days, students disrupt Bank of America recruitment at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Boston College, and the University of California, Berkeley.

**NOVEMBER 2013:** Student bank recruitment protests spread to over 70 campuses nationwide.

**MAY 2014:** A shareholder resolution calling for BofA to measure and report on climate risks from lending receives 24% shareholder support.





# THE HIGH COST of HIGH FASHION

NEW RAN REPORT EXPOSES HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ON THE FRONTLINES OF FOREST FABRIC PRODUCTION

For over 13 generations, the Indigenous Tano Batak people of Pandumaan-Sipituhuta in North Sumatra have gone into the forests surrounding their community to harvest the resin of the *kemenyaan*, or benzoin, tree. The resin is used to make incense and provides a sustainable livelihood for the local people.

In 2009, the Indonesian government ignored this community's ancestral rights to the land and handed over 4,100 hectares of community-owned forest to pulp and paper company Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL). TPL began to clearcut the forest to plant mono-crop eucalyptus plantations, to provide the material for rayon, viscose, and other wood-based fabrics. This not only destroyed the community's livelihood, it also destroyed irreplaceable habitat for countless species and damaged a critical watershed.

Since launching in the Fall of 2014, RAN's Out of Fashion campaign has been calling on fashion companies to take action to eliminate this type of fabric-driven deforestation, human rights abuses, and species loss from their supply chains. *Lessons from the Incense Forests*, a new RAN report released in August, documents the recent global expansion of mega-plantations for the production of pulp for fabrics,

and the devastating impact this has on indigenous and forest-dependent communities. These communities have been protesting against the loss of their land, livelihoods and resources, and have maintained a decades-long campaign against Toba Pulp Lestari, which is owned by Indonesian tycoon Sukanto Tanoto.

These protests are occurring the context of major changes in the pulp and paper industry. The largest pulp and paper producer in Indonesia, Asia Pulp and Paper, committed to a strong policy in 2012. In June of 2015, the Tanoto-owed Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) group — who also own the second largest pulp producer in Indonesia, APRIL — followed suit and released sustainability principles. Another RGE company, viscose producer Sateri, who purchase from TPL, also has come out with a commitment. Despite these many commitments, communities directly in the line of fire, like Pandumaan-Sipituhuta, have yet to see real changes on the ground.

RAN is calling on fashion companies to help pressure growers and producers to implement real changes on the ground. Together, we can ensure that rainforest destruction and human rights abuses are truly out of fashion.

**STAND WITH THE TANO BATAK PEOPLE!** Read the new report and take action at: [www.ran.org/incenseforest](http://www.ran.org/incenseforest).



# PUBLIC LANDS, PRIVATE PROFITS

## RAN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO KEEP FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND

On September 15, a broad coalition of over 400 environmental, labor and human rights organizations met with White House advisors to call on President Obama to become a true climate leader by using his executive authority to end the federal leasing of publicly owned carbon reserves to corporations. Ending the federal leasing program would keep our public lands accessible for generations and keep 450 billion tons of carbon emissions out of the atmosphere.

Exposing the corporate giveaway of America’s public lands, RAN released a new report calling out the top dirty energy companies involved in fossil fuel extraction on America’s public lands. This report, *Public Lands, Private Profits* was featured in *Newsweek*.

The report compiles the top federal leaseholders in each of three fossil fuel arenas: coal mining, onshore oil and gas drilling, and offshore oil and gas drilling. These “Filthy 15” dirty energy companies own 36% of the leases on federal lands and offshore waters. Supermajors — which are the world’s half-dozen biggest publicly owned oil and gas companies such as BP, Shell, and ConocoPhillips — are destroying our natural resources and making millions from the profits.

The track record of the top leaseholders of public lands and offshore waters is one of corruption, violation of Indigenous sacred sites and environmental destruction. It is also a record of consistently failing to pay their fair share of U.S. taxes, using every conceivable loophole to avoid the already incredibly low rates and fees they are charged.

Today, an acre of federal land can be leased for as little as \$2, a stark illustration of how the federal fossil fuel leasing program is out of date and out of touch with the reality of our modern financial or environmental obligations. We need systemic change that addresses the issue comprehensively, rather than the lease-by-lease practices administered by the Department of the Interior.

In a rare opportunity for action, President Obama has power to stop this — today. Through executive order, the president can end the leasing of federal lands for fossil fuel extraction, stop the corporate giveaway of public lands and public waters, and preserve cultural heritage sites, reduce the threats of climate change, limit environmental disasters, and conserve our national heritage of pristine, wild, and sacred places.

**TAKE ACTION!** Read the new RAN report, then tell President Obama: No more coal, oil and gas leases on public lands: Add your voice to the online petition at: [www.ran.org/publiclandsprivateprofits](http://www.ran.org/publiclandsprivateprofits).



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# SUPPORT RAN'S PROTECT-AN-ACRE PROGRAM

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*Our collaboration with Rainforest Action Network is very important for us.*

*Please stand with me and our coalition working for the protection of the Leuser Ecosystem of Sumatra, Indonesia.*

*This is the most important forest region for the local communities, for the wildlife and for the world.”*

*- Rudi Putra,  
2014 Goldman Environmental Prize recipient*



PHOTO: GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

To learn more about RAN's Protect-an-Acre Program, visit our new Community Action Grants webpage at [grants.ran.org](http://grants.ran.org)