

BANKTRACK

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA

MR. YADUVENDRA MATHUR, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EXIM BANK OF INDIA
CENTRE ONE BUILDING, FLOOR 21, WORLD TRADE CENTRE COMPLEX, CUFFE PARADE
400 005
MUMBAI
INDIA

SUBJECT: A GLOBAL CALL TO DROP SUPPORT FOR THE RAMPAL COAL POWER PLANT

10 MAY 2016

Dear Mr. Yaduvendra Mathur,

We, the undersigned organisations from around the world, have learned that your institution intends to finance the construction of the 1,320 MW Rampal coal power plant in Bangladesh via the extension of a 'buyer's credit' of [USD 1.6 billion](#) to the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd.

We have received this news with great concern, as we consider the Rampal coal power plant a severe and direct threat, not only to the livelihoods of the local population and to the world renowned Sundarbans wetland adjacent to the project site, but also to the world's climate.

Exim Bank of India is supposed to be an institution that takes its responsibility for the social and environmental impacts of its operations very seriously. After all, your '[Citizen's Charter](#)' states that "the bank [...] recognizes its obligations as a *citizen of the world*" and considers citizens of India and the global community stakeholders of the bank", while the '[Export-Import Bank of India Act](#)' reassures us that "the board [...] shall act on business principles with due regard to *public interest*".

Our organisations fail to see how Exim Bank of India, a self-declared responsible 'citizen of the world' acting 'with due regard to public interest' could support a project as destructive as the Rampal coal power plant. As 'global community stakeholders of the bank' we would like to point out to your bank that this project:

THREATENS THE LIVELIHOOD OF OVER TWO MILLION OF OUR FELLOW WORLD CITIZENS

A total of [two million](#) people from surrounding villages depend on the Sundarbans forest's resources in a direct manner to fulfill their basic needs, or indirectly by making use of products to earn a living. The vast majority relies on aquatic resources such as shrimp cultivation or fisheries. Wood is collected for the construction of houses and boats but also for export. Acres of land acquired to build the coal plant were previously used for agriculture and farming activities. With increased river erosion, noise pollution, health hazards and a decrease in the groundwater table as a result of the Rampal coal-fired power plant, there will inevitably be a loss of culture fisheries, social forestry and major destruction of agriculture.

THREATENS TO DESTROY THE UNIQUE, EXTRAORDINARY RICH SUNDARBANS FOREST, A RECOGNIZED UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Climate, topography, land use patterns, air and water (both surface and ground) quality, floral and faunal diversity, wetlands and tourism will be [permanently affected](#) by the proposed coal fired power plant. The Rampal plant will pollute the air by releasing toxic gases which will impact people, animals, trees, plants and land. The coal plant will contaminate rivers by discharging used, warm water into the Passur River daily, for at least 25 years. Additionally the rivers of the Sundarbans will be used as shipping routes to carry coal to the



Rampal site. The four recent incidents involving [sunken vessels](#) which dumped oil, fertilizer and coal in the rivers stand as clear warnings of the accidents that will take place if the Rampal coal plant plans proceed.

THREATENS TO WIPE OUT THE BENGAL TIGER AND OTHER ICONIC SPECIES

Sundarbans is home to some of the last remaining iconic [Bengal tigers](#), as well as the estuarine crocodile, the Irrawaddy and Ganges dolphins, the Indian python, some 260 bird species and around 120 aquatic species. If the coal power plant becomes operational, the toxic discharged water and polluted air, as well as the constant coal transport, will have a destructive effect on all life in the forest. It is not possible to protect high profile animals in the Sundarbans without a true balance between various ecosystems. Tigers will not be there without the deer, and deer will not be there without the keora tree. If the Sundarbans degenerate we will be forever losing the animals which dependent on it, with future generations no longer able to enjoy the splendid sight of these animals.

THREATENS TO ADD FURTHER HAVOC TO AN ALREADY DEEPLY DISTRESSED GLOBAL SYSTEM

The Rampal power plant, once in operation, will emit [7.9 million tons of CO2 per year](#) for the next 25 years, therefore adding a major load to an atmosphere that is already saturated with greenhouse gases. If the world is to have any chance to limit the global temperature rise below the critical 2 degrees Celsius threshold agreed upon by the countries of the world last year in Paris, let alone the 1.5 degrees threshold considered crucial to keep life on earth more or less as we know it, there must be an [immediate end](#) to the construction of all coal plants.

There is an urgent need for institutions such as Exim Bank of India to put their full weight behind financing the energy transition that the world urgently needs to meet the challenge of rapid climate change, away from the burning of fossil fuels and towards the full realisation of the potential of renewables.

For all of these reasons we, as fellow world citizens, call upon you, a responsible financial institution acting in the public interest, to act for the common global good and refrain from financing the Rampal coal power plant.

As global stakeholders to your bank [all of us](#) thank you in advance for changing course.

Yours sincerely,



Johan Frijns
Director of BankTrack

On behalf of:

Australia:

Market Forces
Mackay Conservation Group
Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Doctors for the Environment Australia
Whitsunday Residents Against Dumping
Lane Cove coal and gas watch
350.org Australia

Austria:

Finance & Trade Watch

Bangladesh:

NCBD

Belgium:

Fern

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

SEE Change Net Foundation

Czech Republic:

CEE Bankwatch Network

Finland:

EKOenergy

France :

Les Amis de la Terre

Germany:

urgewald
projekt21plus
energie neu denken
Bürgerforum gegen Atomausstieg Landshut
Rainforest Rescue / Rettet den Regenwald

Ghana:

Abibiman Foundation

India:

Human Rights Forum
Conservation Action Trust
India Climate Justice platform
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha
Environics Trust
Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF)
Himalaya Niti Abhiyan
People Voice for Democratic Rights
International Rivers
NAPM (National Alliance of People's Movements)
Environment Support Group
The Research Collective
Equation



Kerala Swatantra Malsya Thozhiali

Indonesia:

Jikalahari
TKPT/JATAM

Japan:

Friends of the Earth Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)

Kenya:

Coast Rights Forum

Mexico:

Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)

Nigeria:

Climate Change Network Nigeria
Foundation for Education and economic Empowerment Development (FEED)

Philippines:

NGO Forum on ADB
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice
Bantay Kita-PWYP Philippines
Panrehiyon Katibuan Ku Kabaheyan Organization

Poland:

Foundation Development YES-Open-Pit Mines NO

Qatar:

EcoMENA

Korea:

Korea Federation for Environmental Movements

Russia:

Friends of the Siberian Forests

Slovenia:

Alpe Adria Green

South Africa:

Groudwork
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Sweden:

Fair Finance Guide Sweden

Switzerland:

fossil-free.ch
Zukunft statt Kohle (Future instead of coal)
Association Climat Genève
Alliance Sud
Swiss Working Group on Colombia (Grupo de Trabajo Suiza Colombia)



The Netherlands:

BankTrack
Greenpeace International
XminY het actiefonds
Both ENDS
For Global Sustainability

Turkey:

350Ankara.org
Çevre Tüketici Koruma Derneği

United Kingdom:

War on Want
The Corner House
Phulbari Solidarity Group
Grandparents For A Safe Earth
Move Your Money
Help for All Trust
FoE Scotland

United States:

Friends of the Earth U.S.
Rainforest Action Network
Earthjustice
Center for International Environmental Law
National Algae Association
World Team Now
Re-nourish
WildEarth Guardians
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network

