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Top 20 banks 'bankrolling' coal mining sector

Publishing Date 18 Nov 2013 10:43am GMT Author

The top 20 banks that have "bankrolled the coal mining boom since 2005" have been revealed in a report published this week.

The report, 'Banking on coal', reveals the names of the 20 banks that have been identified as contributing the most money to the coal sector between 2005 and August 2013.

US banks Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase lead the pack, but the list also includes European banks such as Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse and Asian entities such as the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group.

The report, which is published by the German environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) Urgewald, the Polish Green Network, the international NGO network BankTrack and the CEE Bankwatch Network, criticises the banks' role in funding the coal sector, since coal is the largest fossil fuel contributor to [carbon dioxide emissions](#).

"Almost all of these banks have expressed their concern about global warming and have made far-reaching statements regarding their commitment to a "low-carbon economy." They are obviously not putting their money where their mouth is," says the report.

The report is based on data from some of the most active companies in the coal mining sector, and analyses their financial relationships with around 100 commercial banks.

The total sum of 'coal finance' attributed to individual banks is equivalent to €117.9 billion (US\$ 158.5 billion) over this period. This includes €60.1 billion through direct lending via [corporate](#) loans and revolving credit facilities and €57.8 billion via underwriting bond and share issues.

However, it is worth noting that the study does not encompass many of the large infrastructure projects related to coal transportation, which also receive a large amount of financial support from banks. As the report warns, this could mean that "banks' contribution to the entire coal mining sector could easily be two times as high as the figures we present."

The financial analysis for the report was provided by [Profundo](#), an economic research consultancy that specialises in the analysis of commodity chains, financial institutions and corporate social responsibility issues.

For the Top 20 list and the full report, see [here](#).

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