

Major Rainforest Destroyer in Indonesia Pledges to Address its Deforestation Legacy

Alex Armstrong <alex@mightyearth.org>

Mon 3/2/2020 9:54 AM

Hello –

POSCO International, South Korea's largest trading company, just announced a zero deforestation policy for its global palm oil operations. Mighty Earth provided input into a draft version of the policy; we believe it broadly sets out worthy standards and goals, but that these are just words on paper until we see substantial positive changes on the ground in Papua, Indonesia.

Our full statement -- and some new deforestation analysis -- is available below.

Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in speaking to someone here.

Best,
Alex

Major Rainforest Destroyer in Indonesia Pledges to Address its Deforestation Legacy

Long-awaited palm oil policy by POSCO International sets the stage for action on deforestation

South Korea's largest trading company, POSCO International, has published a long-awaited zero deforestation policy for its global palm oil operations. The ['No Deforestation, No Peatland, No Exploitation' \(NDPE\) policy](#) includes measures to protect rainforests, safeguard the rights of local indigenous communities, and a pledge to compensate for the group's deforestation legacy in Papua, Indonesia.

Mighty Earth, which provided input into a draft version of the policy, has been campaigning with allies for over three years to stop the surge of palm oil driven deforestation by POSCO International and other major players in Papua, Indonesia.

"Papua, the third largest rainforest in the world and one of the most biodiverse forest regions on Earth, was largely untouched by the palm oil industry until recent years, but has quickly become the next frontier for palm oil and agribusiness expansion in Indonesia," said **Deborah Lapidus, Senior Campaign Director at Mighty Earth**. "POSCO International's new policy reflects a growing understanding that this magnificent region is worthy of conservation, not destruction."

"It is encouraging that POSCO International's new policy includes a commitment to compensate for its legacy of forest destruction - such a pledge is, unfortunately, still rare in the industry, and could set an important precedent if POSCO International follows through. Indeed, the policy broadly sets out worthy standards and goals, but these are just words on paper until we see substantial positive changes on the ground in Papua. Given that most of the concession area has already been cleared, it is critical that the company genuinely remediates for the impacts of its deforestation. It must also prioritize responding to the

concerns raised by affected local communities, including issues of land rights and water pollution.”

Using data published by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Mighty Earth [mapping analysis](#) indicates that:

- In 2011, before POSCO International started developing its PT Bio Inti Agrindo (PT BIA) concession in Papua, over half (~19,000 hectares) of the area was covered by ‘primary forest’;
- Between 2012 and 2018, an estimated 27,000 hectares of rainforest were cleared within PT BIA, nearly 80% of the total concession area: Over half of this deforestation (nearly 15,000 hectares) was ‘primary forest’.

POSCO International’s destruction of Indonesia’s last remaining forests has been exposed and challenged in numerous [reports](#), field [investigations](#), and campaigns by Mighty Earth and other organizations around the world, including Pusaka and SKP KAMe Meruake based in Indonesia, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements and APIL based in South Korea, Milieudefensie based in the Netherlands, and Friends of the Earth US. In January 2018, POSCO International declared that it had issued a temporary [moratorium on deforestation](#) in its Papua palm oil plantation. In June 2018, the world’s fifth largest pension fund, the Dutch ABP, [divested](#) from POSCO International over its failure to address its deforestation. In 2015, the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund, the Norwegian Pension Fund, [divested](#) its shares in all POSCO companies, following an investigation into its deforestation in Papua.

<http://www.mightyearth.org/major-rainforest-destroyer-in-indonesia-pledges-to-address-its-deforestation-legacy/>

About Mighty Earth

Mighty Earth is a global environmental campaign organization that works to protect forests, conserve oceans, and address climate change. We work in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and North America to drive large-scale action towards environmentally responsible agriculture that protects native ecosystems, wildlife, and water, and respects local community rights. Mighty Earth’s team has played a decisive role in persuading the world’s largest food and agriculture companies to dramatically improve their environmental and social policies and practices. More information on Mighty Earth can be found at www.mightyearth.org/.

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Cargill's disputed grievances

Rapid Response <rapidresponse@mightyearth.org>

Mon 3/2/2020 5:59 PM

To: Nasuha Thaha <Nasuha_Thaha@cargill.com>

Cc: Sarah Brickman <sarah@mightyearth.org>; Phil Aikman <phil@mightyearth.org>; marie_lavialle-piot@cargill.com <marie_lavialle-piot@cargill.com>; nick_martell-bundock@cargill.com <nick_martell-bundock@cargill.com>; alexandra_experton@cargill.com <alexandra_experton@cargill.com>

Dear Nasuha,

I'm writing in regards to Cargill's new addition to its grievance log, "Grievances not within the scope of Cargill's Palm Grievance Procedure." The grievances included in this document do not include sufficient evidence for Mighty Earth to consider them "Closed with Resolution." For these cases to be considered closed by our organization, there needs to be further explanation within Cargill's "reason for ineligibility" column. For example, Cargill considers a number of the Rapid Response cases to be invalid due to a boundary dispute, but no evidence is provided regarding the correct boundary or further deforestation analysis that Cargill has performed to make this determination. We recommend that Cargill adds further detail to each case to explain how it made its determination so that we may consider moving cases from the "Disputed" to "Closed with Resolution" category. Links to official company statements, updates to the geoRSPO portal, and audit results are all valid pieces of evidence.

Please let me know if you would like to arrange a call so that we can talk further about Mighty Earth's recommendations on this matter.

Best,

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