

March 23, 2021

To the BlackRock Executive Leadership Board and Investment Stewardship Team:

As community leaders, environmental and land defenders, and civil society activists from around the world, we write to you today about your continued failure to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant peoples, women, and local communities through your investments.

Your firm has made headlines again for pledging action on climate change. However, these renewed commitments do little to ensure that your investments respect human rights, land rights, and the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. While BlackRock makes pledges to ask portfolio companies to cut emissions *in the future*, our forests are being razed, our land is being stolen, and our people are being killed, *today*.

BlackRock has received praise for stating that it will place climate change at the center of its investment approach and for acknowledging the need to consider stakeholders -- not just shareholders -- as part of a just and equitable transition. We would like to think that your concern about social responsibility includes respecting the fundamental human rights, land rights, and livelihoods of communities, like ours, that stand on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Yet, your investments continue to threaten our health, our security, and our very future.

The current crisis is the result of centuries of racism, exploitation, and colonization. As the world's largest investor in fossil fuels and deforestation-linked agricultural commodities, your investments are tied to gross environmental and human rights violations: land grabbing and dispossession, increased deforestation and carbon emissions, and violence and criminalization. Climate change is not simply a risk to be calculated in terms of profit margins. It is a constant stream of risks to our peoples and our planet, which we face every day.

Communities around the world are facing an epidemic of violence, murder, and criminalization at the hands of extractive industries. In 2019, more than four land and environmental defenders were murdered *each week* for protecting their traditional lands.<sup>1</sup> Frontline communities and activists are often the first responders to the destructive – and deadly – impacts of the climate crisis as they confront companies that destroy forests, pollute water sources, and drive species into extinction.

What action has BlackRock taken to ensure respect for our rights and uphold international standards of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent? When has BlackRock ever sought to hear the voices of the peoples impacted by your investments? What will you do to stop the companies you finance from violating our rights and attacking our communities, redress grievances, and ensure that these violations do not continue in the future?

There is no way to address the climate impacts of your investments without respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We challenge BlackRock to stop financing companies that destroy the planet and violate communities' rights. What you do – or fail to do –

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.globalwitness.org/documents/19938/Defending\\_Tomorrow\\_EN\\_high\\_res\\_-\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://www.globalwitness.org/documents/19938/Defending_Tomorrow_EN_high_res_-_July_2020.pdf)

will make your intentions clear. We look forward to an honest and public response to this letter.

The world is watching,

Abdul Haris, WALHI Sulawesi Tengah, Indonesia  
Agung Wibowo, Perkumpulan untuk Pembaharuan Hukum Berbasis Masyarakat dan Ekologis (HuMa), Indonesia  
Alberto Terena, Terena People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Alejandra Parra Muñoz, Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales, Chile  
Alfred Brownell, 2019 Goldman Prize Recipient, Liberia  
Anabela Lemos, Justiça Ambiental! (JA!), Mozambique  
Andreia de Matos, Operação Amazônia Nativo (OPAN), Brazil  
Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia  
Anildo Lulu, Guarani People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Bernadette Demientieff, Gwich'in Steering Committee, United States of America  
Bestang Dekdeken, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines  
Bharati Pathak, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal  
Célia Xakriabá, Xakriabá People, Brazil  
Charles Trocate, Movimento pela Soberania Popular na Mineração, Brazil  
Clayton Thomas-Muller, Pukatawagan Cree Nation, Canada  
Daniel B. Krakue, Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development (SESDev), Liberia  
David Alberto Hernández Palmar, Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Cine y Comunicación de los Pueblos Indígenas (CLACPI), Venezuela  
Devi Anggraini, PEREMPUAN AMAN, Indonesia  
Diego Oyarzo, Colectivo VientoSur, Chile  
Dimas Novian Hartono, WALHI Kalteng, Indonesia  
Dinamam Tuxá, Tuxá People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Don Tom Chief, Tsartlip First Nation Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Canada  
Donna Chavis, RedTailed Hawk Collective, United States of America  
Eloy Terena, Terena People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, Indigenous Climate Action, Canada  
Erwin Basrin, AKAR Foundation, Indonesia  
Ferry Widodo, Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria (KPA), Indonesia  
Gam Shimray, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Thailand  
Inés Franceschelli, Centro de Estudios Heñói, Paraguay  
Ivette González, Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER), Mexico  
James Otto, Oil Palm Working Group, Liberia  
Joan Carling, Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), Philippines  
Judy Wilson Kukpi7, Neskonlith Indian Band-Secwepemc Nation -- Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Canada  
Juana Vera Delgado, Gender and Water Alliance, Peru/Netherlands  
Kerexu Guarani, Guarani People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Kretã Kaingang, Kaingang People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Kwami Kpondzo, Les Amis de la Terre Togo, Togo  
Jane Elizabeth Dwyer, Comissão Pastoral da Terra, Brazil  
Jonathan Yiah, Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia  
Lizardo Cauper, Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSEP), Peru  
Lucie Pinson, 2020 Goldman Prize Recipient, France  
Luís Donisete Benzi Grupioni, Institute for Research and Indigenous Education (IEPE), Brazil  
Manja Bayang, Indigenous Peoples Rights International, Philippines  
Maria Di Paola, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina  
Marlon Vargas, Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana

(CONFENIAE), Ecuador  
Martje Leninda, Bantaya Association, Indonesia  
Matt Remle, Mazaska Talks, United States of America  
Maurits Rumbekwan, WALHI Papua, Indonesia  
Meenakshi Raman, Sahabat Alam Malaysia, Malaysia  
Mirta Pereira, Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas (FAPI), Paraguay  
Natalia Salvatico, Amigos de la Tierra Argentina, Argentina  
Nema Karika Grefa Ushigua, Nación Sapara del Ecuador (NASE), Ecuador  
Nemonte Nenquimo Pauchi, 2020 Goldman Prize Recipient, Ecuador  
Nine, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Malaysia  
Nora Bowier, Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia  
Norman Jiwan, TuK Indonesia, Indonesia  
Nur Hidayati, WALHI National, Indonesia  
Patricia Zuppi, Rede de Cooperação Amazônica (RCA), Brazil  
Paul Sein Twa, 2020 Goldman Prize Recipient, Burma/Myanmar  
Prafulla Samantara, National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), India  
Prabindra Shakya, Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ), Nepal  
Rita Uwaka, Environmental Rights Action, Nigeria  
Rodrigue Mihindou, Muyissi Environment, Gabon  
Rudi Putra, 2014 Goldman Prize Recipient, Indonesia  
S. Bobby Peek, 1998 Goldman Prize Recipient, South Africa  
Sara Omi Casama, Congreso General Embera de Alto Bayano, Panama  
Silas Siakor, 2006 Goldman Prize Recipient, Liberia  
Simone Lovera, Global Forest Coalition, Paraguay  
Sinan Ouattara, Alliance pour le Développement Durable et pour l'Environnement (ADDE), Ivory Coast  
Sonia Guajajara, Guajajara People — Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB), Brazil  
Stewart Phillip, Grand Chief, Penticton Indian Band Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Canada  
Sviatoslav Zabelin, Socio-Ecological Union, Russia  
Tara Houska, Giniw Collective, United States of America  
Tarcísio Feitosa da Silva, 2006 Goldman Prize Recipient, Brazil  
Tupac Viteri, Pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku, Ecuador  
Tom BK Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network, United States of America  
Vanessa Cabanelas, Justica Ambienta!, Mozambique  
Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Tebtebba, Philippines  
Wahyubinatara Fernandez, Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment (RMI), Indonesia  
Wirya Supriyadi, WALHI Papua, Indonesia  
Wrays Perez, Wampis Nation, Peru

This letter was facilitated by Amazon Watch, Friends of the Earth US, and Rainforest Action Network