



Civil Society Organizations urge financial institutions to adopt strict no fire policies, ahead of expected strong El Niño

13 July 2026

Dear CEO,

We, representatives of social movements, non-governmental organizations, organized collectives, organizations of indigenous peoples, traditional communities, Afro-descendant peoples, socio-environmental and climate researchers and activists, express our concern regarding the reports and mathematical projections that point to extreme climate events associated with the El Niño phenomenon in the 2026/2027 period. According to news released by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)¹ and the UN World Meteorological Organization,² El Niño is predicted to intensify to a moderate/strong level this year and could cause extreme weather conditions.

Over the last decade (2016-2025), banks have provided 429 billion dollars in credit to activities related to the exploitation of timber, soy, rubber, pulp and paper, palm oil and beef. Sectors which are responsible for commodity-driven deforestation of tropical forests.³ It is well established that these agricultural and forestry activities contribute to the risk and impact of fires and haze through the use of fire in their land management systems, deforestation and draining peatlands.⁴ These practices induce vicious feedback loops by drying out the forests and peatlands, creating tinder-box conditions which enable fires to spread rapidly.

As a result, tropical forest countries are facing increased vulnerabilities as climate change exacerbates extreme weather events and the El Niño cycle. The disruptions from the El Niño cycle are expected to be most severe in the tropics, with predictions that increased wildfires and drought could hit agriculture and food production. When forests and peatlands burn, the consequences reach far beyond the fires or even the country borders. In Southeast Asia and South America, peak fire seasons produced harms that have accumulated over years. The most severe and well-documented impacts are:

- Forest and peatland fires are a significant driver of climate change.⁵

¹ <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/el-nino-forms-expected-to-strengthen-say-noaa-forecasters>

² <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-prepare-el-nino>

³ <https://forestsandfinance.org/banking-on-biodiversity-collapse/>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c75ylx7g00xo>

⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature01131>; <https://essd.copernicus.org/articles/9/697/2017/>;
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03629-6>



- Toxic haze kills people and overwhelms public health systems.⁶
- Biodiversity loss from fire is severe and largely irreversible.⁷
- The economic losses are enormous and chronically underestimated.⁸
- Forest and peatland fires destroy food systems and livelihoods of forest dependent communities.⁹

We would recommend that your financial institution takes immediate action to address the risk of forest fires linked to your financing by:

- Strengthening No Deforestation or Conversion, No Peat and No Exploitation policies to reduce deforestation and degradation in tropical ecosystems. This includes the prohibition of the use of fire in any activities.
- Engage clients in forest-risk sectors to confirm they do not use fire in their activities, or allow it within their supply chain.
- In cases where clients do not comply, restrict financial services or terminate the relationship.
- Advise its clients and companies linked to agricultural economic activities to increase care, adding support to fire brigades in their regions;
- Encourage credit and financing for sustainable activities such as agroecological production and agroforestry systems intended for food;
- Refrain from providing new finance, from refinancing or underwriting services to companies or corporate groups that have been held legally responsible for forest and peatland fires, until all court-ordered obligations, restoration commitments, and compensation measures have been fully implemented.

Respectfully,

1. 350 Indonesia
2. ADDH - RJ ASSOCIAÇÃO DA DIVERSIDADE EM DIREITOS HUMANOS DO RIO DE JANEIRO/ PÓLO CULTURAL LGBTQIA+ GASTRONÔMICO DA GAMBOA...
3. AEER (Action for Ecology and People Emancipation)
4. Agro é Fogo
5. AGROBIOFLIRESTAL
6. Alternativas para Pequena Agricultura no Tocantins - APA-TO
7. Amazon Watch
8. Apremavi

⁶ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecon.2025.06.003> ; <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/11/9/094023>; <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/haze-500000-indonesians-suffer-acute-respiratory-infection/>; <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/26/air-unbearable/health-impacts-deforestation-related-fires-brazilian-amazon>

⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03876-7>;

⁸ <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-27353-x>; <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/when-the-river-runs-dry-how-amazon-deforestation-threatens-the-brazilian-economy/>

⁹ Household vulnerability due to land fires, <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/5/642?utm>



9. Articulação das CPTs da Amazônia
10. Associação Alternativa Terrazul
11. Associação Ambientalista de Marília - ORIGEM
12. Associação de brigadistas comunitários de Terra Ronca
13. Associação dos produtores e produtora rainha do lar de São Gabriel endereço nas
14. Associação dos Servidores da Área Ambiental Federal no Rio de Janeiro
15. Associação Folclórica Lenda do Apurinã - O Guerreiro Cobra
16. Atingidos pelas Energias Renováveis.
17. Ativista - brigada feminina comunitária, associação das mulheres indígenas Krikati, associação dos brigadistas, agente ambiental
18. Brigada Cipó
19. Campanha Nacional em Defesa do Cerrado
20. Casa dos Saberes
21. Center of Economic and Law Studies (CELIOS)
22. Cfsk
23. Cimi-Ma
24. Coletivo
25. Coletivo de Mulheres Trabalhadoras Rurais do Maranhão
26. Comissão Pastoral da Terra
27. Comissão Pastoral da Terra - Articulação do Cerrado
28. Comissão Pastoral da Terra Regional do Piauí
29. CONAQ
30. Conselho Indigenista Missionário regional MT
31. Coordenação do conselho Indígena T Kumaruara
32. COORDENADORIA ECUMÊNICA DE SERVIÇO
33. CORRENTE SINDICAL VERMELHA
34. cosmopolíticas
35. CPT
36. CSAA Jardim das Delícias
37. Dívida pelo Clima
38. ECO - UFRJ
39. ECOAR
40. Environmental Paper Network (EPN) - International
41. EULAT Network
42. Forests & Finance Coalition
43. FSPMI
44. Global Justice Ecology Project
45. Greenpeace
46. HUTAN Group
47. Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL)
48. Instituto Afro Religioso e Cultural Imaculada Conceição
49. Instituto Embaúda



50. International Rivers
51. IPEASA11
52. IRMANDADE DOS DEVOTOS DO GLORIOSO SÃO SEBASTIÃO
53. Japan Tropical Forest Action Network (JATAN)
54. Jaringan Advokasi Tambang (JATAM)
55. Kaoem Telapak
56. Lagartixa na Janela
57. LBH Marimoi
58. MADANI Berkelanjutan
59. MAM - MOVIMENTO PELA SOBERANIA POPULAR NA MINERAÇÃO
60. Movimento pela Soberania Popular na Mineração/ MAM
61. Movimento Urbano de Agroecologia MUDA
62. Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre
63. Movimentos das mulheres trabalhadores PB
64. MST/CPT
65. Painel Científico para a Amazônia-SPA
66. Pantau Gambut
67. Pastoral da Aids - CNBB Norte 2
68. Perhimpunan Pembela Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (PPMAN)
69. Perkumpulan HuMa Indonesia
70. Perkumpulan Rawang
71. PRAKARSA
72. Prosjup - Programa de apoio jurídico popular
73. Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia
74. PUSPAHAM
75. Rádio Educativa Católica São Francisco FM
76. Rainforest Action Network
77. Rede Ambiental do Piauí -REAPI
78. Rede Cerrado
79. Rede de Agroecologia do Maranhão-RAMA
80. Rede de Apoio às Mulheres Agroflorestoras_RAMPA/PA
81. Rede de notícias da Amazônia
82. Reforma agrária MST
83. Research Centre for Crisis and Alternative Development Strategy (INKRISPENA)
84. Sahita Institute (HINTS)
85. Satya Bumi
86. Tapajós de Fato
87. Transformasi untuk Keadilan Indonesia (TuK INDONESIA)
88. UFPA
89. UFRRJ
90. Umgrauemeio
91. Universidade Estácio de Sa



- 92. Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro
- 93. WALHI Nasional
- 94. WALHI Kalimantan Timur
- 95. WALHI Kalimantan Barat
- 96. WALHI Kalimantan Tengah
- 97. WALHI Kalimantan Tengah
- 98. WALHI Riau
- 99. Waterkeepers Bangladesh
- 100. Yayasan Indonesia CeraH
- 101. Yayasan Masyarakat Kehutanan Lestari
- 102. Yayasan PIKUL
- 103. Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat