

# How the TPP Would Harm the Environment

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposed new trade and investment pact that was negotiated behind-closed doors between the United States and eleven other Pacific Rim countries.

As you would expect from a deal negotiated with hundreds of corporate advisors, while the public and the press were shut out, if enacted, **the TPP would provide corporations with new tools for attacking environmental and consumer protections, while simultaneously increasing the export of climate-disrupting fossil fuels.**

When the text of the secretive TPP was finally revealed to the public in October 2015, the public learned that it is actually worse than we thought:

- The TPP **rolls back environmental enforcement provisions** found in all U.S. trade agreements since the George W. Bush administration, requiring enforcement of only one out of the seven environmental treaties covered by Bush-era trade agreements.
- The TPP's **investor-state dispute resolution (ISDS)** provisions enable transnational corporations to challenge environmental laws, regulations and court decisions in international tribunals that circumvent the U.S. judicial system and any other country's domestic judicial system. Under the World Trade Organization (WTO), portions of the Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act have already been rolled back under similar "trade" provisions that grant this type of power to foreign governments. The TPP would go beyond the WTO by giving individual corporations the power to initiate challenges. Right now, a number of smaller Free Trade Agreements and Bilateral Investment Treaties already grant these powers to transnational corporations — and they are being used to attack clean air rules in Peru, mining laws in El Salvador, a provincial fracking moratorium in Canada and a court decision against the oil giant Chevron in Ecuador, among many other examples. Expanding this system throughout the Pacific Rim would only increase the commonplace of these challenges.
- Under the TPP exports of **fracked natural gas** would automatically be deemed in the public interest, bypassing certain environmental and economic reviews, if going to any of eleven TPP countries throughout the Pacific Rim — including Japan, the world's largest importer of natural gas. The TPP is likely to increase energy costs for U.S. consumers and manufacturers, while simultaneously exposing Americans to the localized environmental consequences of fracking and the world to increased global warming pollution.
- The TPP's much-touted new **conservation rules are extremely weak**, obligating countries to "exchange information and experiences" and to "endeavor not to undermine" conservation programs, rather than requiring them to ban destructive practices.
- The TPP also **fails to mention the term "climate change"** in its thousands

upon thousands of pages.

In addition to just limiting environmental protections, the TPP contains numerous provisions that expand the unsustainable, fossil fuel economy.

- The TPP contains a variety of provisions — including investor-state, quota prohibitions and more — that encourage increased **“rip and ship” export** of raw materials throughout the Pacific Rim, meaning more logging, drilling and mining in some of the most biodiverse ecosystems left on earth.
- The offshoring of production enabled by the TPP would also have direct environmental consequences. The **carbon footprint** and other emissions of overseas factories and mills is often much higher than it is in the United States. While typically not as high as the production-related emissions, the pollution associated with shipping products across the Pacific Ocean to reach U.S. markets is also not inconsequential.
- More so, access to sweatshop labor and lax environmental enforcement overseas also effectively subsidizes the production of certain consumer products — including, particularly, consumer electronics — thus enabling the sale of short lifecycle products that contribute massively to e-waste and **throw-away consumer culture**.

According to **Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune**: *“It’s no surprise that the deal is rife with polluter giveaways that would undermine decades of environmental progress, threaten our climate, and fail to adequately protect wildlife because big polluters helped write the deal... Many provisions in the deal’s environment chapter are toothless and fail to offer any of the protections proponents of this deal have touted. Some provisions even fail to meet the minimum standards of environmental protection established in the ‘fast-track’ law and included in past trade deals negotiated under the George W. Bush administration.”*

According to **Friends of the Earth president Erich Pica**: *“The Trans Pacific Partnership fails President Obama’s pledge to make the TPP an environmentally sound trade agreement. Frankly this is not surprising; the text of this Trans Pacific trade deal was negotiated in secret by Mike Froman, the U.S. Trade Representative, a former Citibank executive and Obama fundraiser. Froman took care of his friends on Wall Street and in corporate board rooms at the expense of sound environmental and climate policy. Congress must reject the TPP deal.”*

According to **Defenders of Wildlife President and CEO Jamie Rapport Clark**: *“Now that the text of the Trans-Pacific-Partnership is available to the public, it is disappointingly clear that this is not the tougher language we had hoped for. The environment chapter is weak and fails to provide the necessary requirements and stronger penalties desperately needed to better fight poaching, protect wildlife habitat and shut down the illegal wildlife trade. The agreement also leaves our own domestic environmental laws vulnerable to legal challenge internationally, outside of our own judiciary system.”*

Urge Congress to stand up for constituents and defend the environment by voting NO on the Trans-Pacific Partnership.