



FIRST PEOPLES WORLDWIDE CORPORATE MONITOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Green Money Journal Spotlights Indigenous Peoples and SRI

The August 2015 edition of [Green Money Journal](#) is devoted to Indigenous Peoples and SRI, and includes an [article](#) by First Peoples Worldwide's Founder and President Rebecca Adamson on the link between extractive industries and violence against women, and the need for bottom up approaches to measuring corporate social performance.

There are also articles by Susan White, Director of Oneida Trust and Enrollments, on responsible stewardship of Native American assets, and Jason Campbell, Founder and CEO of Arete Development Group, on the Spokane Nation's use of shareholder advocacy and integration of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into its tribal law. Additionally, there is a detailed timeline of the history of Indigenous Peoples and SRI, a list of resources for impact investing in Indian Country, and an interview with Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Native Response to Environmental Disasters

Recent environmental disasters in the US and Canada have sparked heated responses from Native communities. The massive EPA wastewater spill in Colorado could cripple the Navajo Nation's agriculture based economy, and contaminate the only source of drinking water for thousands of residents. Outraged tribal leaders are refuting the US government's claim that the ecosystem is "restoring itself" and urging residents not to sign reimbursement forms that could limit future avenues for legal redress. A few weeks prior, an oil sands pipeline owned by [China National Offshore Oil Corporation](#) ruptured and spilled more than 1.5 million gallons of diluted

bitumen into the Athabasca River, triggering protests from Alberta to South Dakota, and reinforcing tribal opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline.

Sources: [Fox News](#), [Navajo Times](#)

Vale Mine Suspended

In August 2015, a Brazilian court ordered [Vale](#) to halt operations at the Onca Puma mine until it resolves outstanding issues related to compensation of Indigenous communities. The company was told to disperse cash payments equaling \$287,000 to each affected village, in addition to establishing a more permanent compensation plan. The company laments that it is being asked to finance programs and services that are the government's responsibility.

This shows the need for better public private collaboration in support of Indigenous Peoples, as well as stronger integration of country risk into corporate decision making. When companies operate in areas that are underserved by governments, they are more likely to encounter requests from communities which they perceive to be unrealistic or unattainable.

Sources: [Reuters](#)

Blackfoot Tribe Opposes Drilling

In July 2015, the [Blackfoot Tribe](#) broke off talks with the US government and Solonex LLC regarding the latter's plans to drill for oil and gas near Glacier National Park in Montana. The tribe is taking a hard stance against development as the area in question is the site of their creation story. According to a spokesperson for the company's law firm, "[drilling] is something that the tribe cannot stop. This land belongs to the US government, the American people, and our client has a property right to it."

Solonex acquired the lease in 1982, but has been unable to start drilling due to community opposition and other regulatory holdups. There are seventeen other leases in the region, so if the company is given the green light it is likely that further development will follow. Fifteen of the seventeen leases are held by [Devon Energy](#).

Sources: [The Missoulian](#)

Oak Flat Campaign Continues

Members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe continue to mobilize against the US government's transfer of their sacred land to Resolution Copper, a subsidiary of BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, for mining development. Demonstrations have taken place at the Oak Flat site, as well as in New York, Washington, and other cities. The Save Oak Flat Act has been introduced to the House of Representatives, a bill that would repeal the provision of the National Defense Authorization Act that authorized the transfer. The bill cites the US government's responsibility to hold "meaningful consultations with affected Indian tribes before making decisions that will impact [them]."

Additionally, Oak Flat has been added to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. According to an article in Indian Country Today, the list "annually spotlights important examples of the nation's architectural, cultural and natural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage...The list, which has identified more than 250 such places to date, has been so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts that only a handful of sites have been lost."

Sources: Indian Country Today

Documentary Exposes Sarawak Dams

The Borneo Project is producing a series of short documentaries exposing the devastating effects of hydroelectric dams in Sarawak, Malaysia. The latest video tells the story of 10,000 Indigenous Peoples who were relocated to make way for the Bakun dam in 1998, with promises of better schools and housing, access to healthcare, and adequate farmland. These promises were not met, and the dam's negative impacts were far greater than anticipated. Now the communities are opposing twelve more dams from being built in the region as part of the Malaysian government's Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy initiative. Since October 2013, they have maintained two continuous blockades to prevent construction of the Baram dam, and successfully garnered international attention and support for their campaign.

Sources: The Ecologist

Trafficking and Slavery Legislation Reintroduced to Congress

In July 2015, the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act was reintroduced to the House of Representatives. The bill would require companies to disclose to the SEC whether they are identifying and addressing the risks of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor in their supply chains. The same bill was put forth in 2011 and 2014. Although the bill primarily addresses hiring practices and working conditions, some provisions relate to community impacts such as the requirement that companies report whether they maintain policies prohibiting their employees from engaging in commercial sex with minors.

According to the Foley Hoag blog, “ultimate passage of [the bill] is unlikely at this time, but its reintroduction reflects a broader trend towards regulated transparency with regard to corporate efforts to address human rights related risks in their supply chains...Companies should expect to encounter more and more regulation in this area.”

Sources: Foley Hoag