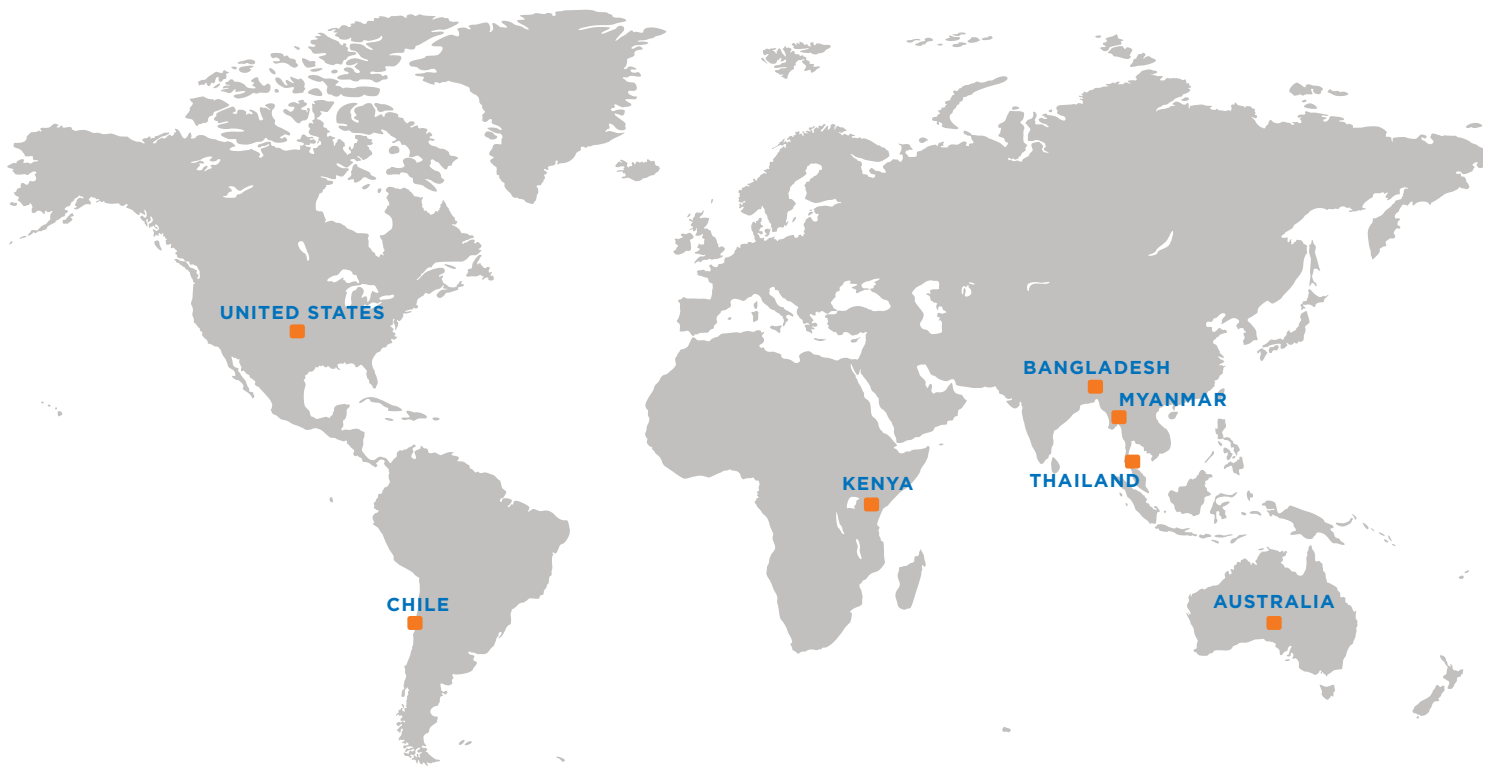


# MOVE BEYOND COAL

THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT IN 2015





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Cover Photo: Andin community in Myanmar rallies against coal  
Credit: Hong Sar Ramonya

Opposite Page: Peoples Climate National Day of Action  
Credit: Sierra Club

## INTRODUCTION

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This year, we witnessed an ever-changing landscape of communities, governments, and companies, committed to transitioning the world from dirty, expensive, dangerous coal to affordable, clean energy. Here are just a few highlights from 2015:

- China's coal consumption continued to decline;
- The US reached a milestone—the 200<sup>th</sup> coal plant to announce retirement since 2010—driving the nation's carbon emissions to the lowest level in two decades;
- International financial institutions such as the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Investment Bank adopted policies to restrict or eliminate support for coal plants;
- International Finance Corporation will no longer fund coal in India;
- France ended export credit agency support for coal;
- India will set pollution standards for new coal power plants;
- There were numerous commitments to the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- UK ended overseas coal finance and use of unabated coal for electricity.

Grassroots communities from around the world have dramatically grown and continued to prove they are a force to be reckoned with. Thanks to their resistance, the false inevitability of coal expansion the coal industry has sought to promote is far from a reality.

This report annually highlights the unsung heroes of the global anti-coal movement—those standing up and defending their rights against a deadly, dangerous, and corrupt industry. This report tells the stories of various communities and their victories in 2015. If anything has become clear, it's that the growing resistance to dirty energy is demanding—and succeeding—in protecting their environment, health, and way of life from the rampant devastation of a destructive industry.







## AUSTRALIA

# A Year In Review: Galilee Coal Madness

Krista Collard, 350.org

When you think about the Great Barrier Reef, what comes to mind? Maybe vibrant images of a majestic underwater world dance through your head. Or maybe you're amazed at how it's the planet's largest living thing or that you can actually see it from space. For some reason, coal companies have something entirely different in mind when they think about this amazing World Wonder.

In recent years, India-based mining giant Adani has proposed plans to build the Carmichael Mine—a massive open-pit coal mine in Australia's Galilee Basin—accompanied by the expansion of the Abbot Point terminal on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef. If successful, Adani stands to create the world's largest coal export terminal and turn the precious Heritage-listed world treasure into a fossil fuel superhighway.

Nobody in their right mind would think this a good idea, but when you have a leader that makes public statements like “coal is good for humanity,” as former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said in defense of the project, you get a better understanding of what we're up against.

A groundswell of opposition against the Carmichael Mine has spread like wildfire, and now the chances of Adani moving forward with its plan to detonate one of the world's largest carbon bombs is looking ever so slim.

Every week, community groups in Australia design creative and hard-hitting actions to demonstrate that they won't let the project see the light of day. There are too many to recount them all, so here's just a few

of the major milestones that are turning the tables on a project that seemed all but unstoppable just three years ago when it was first proposed.

Thousands of people went straight to the source: Adani's financial backers. Commonwealth Bank of Australia is the only major Australian bank to publicly admit to considering financial backing for the proposed Adani mega coal mine and coal port expansion on the Great Barrier Reef. In May, protesters all over the globe gathered at CommBank locations to close their accounts—and in many instances, closed their local branch—in protest over CommBank's potential involvement.

During a three-day period, over 150 CommBank locations saw protests and peaceful occupations. This got the attention of bigger bank executives, and by the start of the following week, CommBank was eager to meet the organisers of the occupations.

Over 150 protesters led by Traditional Owners Raised the stakes. When activists marched onto the property of the Abbot Point Terminal in June, they were risking arrest and pledging to continue to do more civil disobedience until Adani was sent packing.

The Port of Abbot Point pledge ceremony inspired others across Australia to act. Thousands signed online pledges to risk arrest in order to stop Adani's project from moving ahead. Then in July, hundreds of the Queensland residents flooded the Adani offices in Brisbane to deliver the civil disobedience commitments. A delegation led by indigenous Traditional Owner, Aunty Carol Pryor, handed over the pledges to a shaky lawyer representing Adani.

Opposite: A flotilla for the Reef, highlighting its beauty and the need to protect it from mega coal expansion.  
PHOTO: 350 Australia



Over 120 people peacefully protest at the Abbot Point Convergence against mining company Adani's proposed Abbot Point and Galilee Basin coal projects. PHOTO: Jeff Tan

Back in India, word was spreading that the Adani family was growing increasingly nervous about the pendulum swing in Australia. The realities started to sink in when Adani began dismissing contractors from the project—a total of six engineering firms, project managers, and contractors have been let go from the project to date—and then news hit that the Indian mining giant was firing its own Brisbane-based staff.

August saw Adani's house of cards really start to topple. First when a small conservation group and its pro-bono legal team won a court case against the federal approval of Adani's Carmichael mine then later that afternoon, Commonwealth Bank announced it was no longer involved in the project. Five days later, the only other bank actively advising on the project—the UK's Standard Chartered—declared that they were out, too. Most recently, National Australia Bank (NAB) publicly ruled out financially backing the project, making it the 14th international bank to do so.

It is amazing what a difference a few months can make. A concerted grassroots campaign that has thought globally, acted locally, and fought creatively, now has the big bad coal industry against the ropes. The fight's not over yet, but in this David vs. Goliath battle, our bet is on underdog to come out on top.



300 Queenslanders join Reef town locals and Traditional Owners at Adani's Australian HQ to deliver pledges to take action to stop the Galilee coal mines, protect country, climate and Reef. PHOTO: Jeff Tan



## BANGLADESH

# Sundarbans: It's The Government's Call Now

Mowdud Rahman, Southeast Asia Renewable Energy People's Assembly

No one would even think that the world largest mangrove forest could possibly be caught in the crosshairs of industry. This unique forest is not only a UNESCO world heritage site, but it is also of great importance to the country's economy, with more than half a million people depending directly on this forest for their livelihoods. Moreover, the Sundarbans are a significant natural safeguard for low-lying Bangladesh against storms, cyclones, and water surges. But unfortunately, the forest may not continue to exist as it has for much longer. The alarm bells started ringing with the proposal to build the 1320 megawatt Rampal coal plant, which could mean the end of the Sundarbans as we know it.

However, there is hope. Some prominent investors, like Crédit Agricole, BNP Paribas, and Société Générale, have recently declared they will not finance Rampal. These major companies have cited a lack of assurances that the forest will remain

intact, as no report has yet ensured that the forest will remain unscathed and there are major flaws in the government-backed Environmental Impact Assessment—including manipulation and underestimation of the real impacts. The Norwegian pension fund went so far as to pull out their investments from projects under India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) due to their involvement in Rampal. Researchers have already warned about the impacts of carbon emissions, flue gas, and hot water discharge on the Sundarbans, as well as the transportation of tons of coal through the forest. Last December, we even saw a preview of that destruction when a ship sank in one of the Sundarban rivers, unleashing more than 0.3 million liters of crude oil.

Recently, South Asian for Human Rights (SAHR) also expressed their concern over energy development in the Sundarbans, and UNESCO



Oil is spreading drastically with everyday's tidal surge and has already reached over 350 square kilometers area inside the forest.  
PHOTO: Kallol Mustafa



Due to lack of governmental and authoritative initiative local people are removing oil with whatever they have which might cause serious health injures to them.  
PHOTO: Kallol Mustafa

is closely monitoring this issue, having already asked at least twice for detailed reports from the government. But the government of Bangladesh is still trying to justify this devastating project. What others are calling “devastation,” the government has tagged “development.” And under this name, the government has already given the greenlight to another power plant named Orion even closer to Sundarbans. But the question remains: is this really necessary? There are alternative, clean ways to produce electricity, but can we ever replace a unique forest like the Sundarbans?

The Sundarbans are not only a forest for the people of Bangladesh; its roots lie deep in everyone’s heart. That’s why a wave of protests started by National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Natural Resources has spread throughout the country, especially after the historic five day “Long March” in 2013 from the capital city of Dhaka to Rampal. Many organizations have come together to support this movement, and many international organizations, groups, and research institutions have expressed their solidarity with the demand to protect the forest. The people’s

call is clear. With clean energy alternatives readily available to meet Bangladesh’s growing energy needs, no one believes the Sundarbans is the place set Bangladesh’s largest coal plant. The November oil spill disaster has already shown what might happen if the plant is built. The alarms are sounding, and people are calling on the government to save the mighty Sundarbans.



Oil is spreading drastically with everyday’s tidal surge and has already reached over 350 square kilometers area inside the forest.  
PHOTO: Kallol Mustafa





## CHILE

# Saving Patagonia

Francisco Campos-Lopez, #RealChile

In Chile's collective imagination, speaking about coal translates to epic acts by miners in the southern, silent mines, disturbed only by the primal rumbling from the core of the Earth. One of Chile's greatest authors, Baldomero Lillo, magnificently narrated stories about human lives amid Chile's own "coal rush" in the the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in his book "Subterra."

Chileans understand coal's importance in boosting the economy back in the 19th century, when the the world was almost entirely powered by this fossil fuel. But today, that's ancient history.

Nowadays, coal mining in Chile means destruction, long disputes in court between communities, and environmentalists fighting against mega corporations, and sometimes against the Government itself. And yet, a new coal rush threatens to blossom in the country in order to fuel the nation's northern electric grid.

For Chileans, wild Patagonia represents their last frontier; their own fortress of solitude. It also adds to Chile's "wage," serving as a profitable asset, as thousands tourists flow every year to the Torres del Paine national park, named one of the eight Wonders of the World. However, the whole Magallanes Region is also notorious for its huge amount of coal. In some cases the coal is so close to the surface that locals say even the bunnies turned black due to sharing their burrows with coal mantles.

The most important coal mantle, the Manto Loreto, runs through the Magallanes area. This mantle is 12 meters high, starts 40 meters below the surface, and reaches a total of 180 meters of depth. Loreto is inside the Riesco Island—the fourth largest island in Chile, where fifty percent of the land remains virgin and unexplored. The other half was used for Estancias (ranches), and farms were started. It is here, among the pristine land and historic Estancias, that we have the Invierno Mine, the largest open pit

mine operating in Chile. It began operations in 2012 after major opposition from Chileans and the people of Patagonia. In fact, the most iconic activist family of the struggle, the Stipicic family, lives right next door to the mine on their old Estancia, Anita Beatriz. These Croatian descendants—as many are in that area—fought hard against the Invierno Mine. They gained national exposure with the creation of Alerta Isla Riesco, a non-governmental organization (NGO) aiming to keep pristine Patagonia free of mega mining and also fighting for developing sustainable activities and ecotourism as an economics model for the region.

This is a special moment in Chile's recent history, with the people standing for Patagonia against the gigantic mega-dam HidroAysen project and students rioting from north to south. In the midst of this, Alerta Riesco is fighting, hard. Battles in court, battles against the local government's Environmental Agency, and battling to build the anti-coal message for the media and expose the severe impacts of coal mega mining in pristine Patagonia. Seemingly, the battle came to a disappointing end when the Environmental Agency granted permits for the Invierno Mine and its shipping port, followed shortly by the commencing of operations. But it turns out this was only the beginning of the struggle.

"This whole area sits over a major coal mantle, ready to be extracted somehow," said Gregor Stipicic, one of the leaders of Alerta Isla Riesco. Gregor can't really comprehend how the Invierno Mine can operate on the land where he grew up helping his father shepherd thousands of sheep and scuba diving in a quest for king crabs on the cold beaches full of calafate berries and endemic flora. And now all of this could be lost for a project that may not even be financially viable, leading the company to push for even more destructive mining practices in an effort to save money.



PHOTO: Francisco Campo-Lopez

“Now that the coal prices have dropped internationally and China is trying to stop the use of coal, these guys need more carbon to fire power plants and trade it. They are currently trying to add the use of explosives right here, next door, in Patagonia! To get the same amount of coal out but at a lower price. Can you imagine explosives all the time in one of the world’s paradises?” vented Gregor, with a slight sense of anger during my second visit to the Island.

And Gregor is right in pointing out the drop of the global price of coal. Recently, Invierno Mine publicly assumed its major deficit and crisis, declaring a drop in its 3.2 million tons per year of production. That’s in addition to the lack of international buyers for their nearly 1 millions tons destined for exports.

Invierno Mine was already sanctioned by the Chilean Government in December 2014 with a million dollar fine for severe pollution in pristine creeks nearby the mine. High levels of heavy metals and coal were found during inspections, the result of delivering residual water from mining operations without treatment. This victory was made possible by the dedicated work of the Stipicic Family and the Alerta Isla Riesco, which refused to give up, and as a result forced the Government Agencies to visit this remote

area and see for themselves the pollution being released day after day from the open pit coal mine.

But while we might think this should lead to activities at the Invierno Mine being curtailed, the mine is instead attempting to obtain legal permission to continue even more destructive practices. In Chilean environmental law, a RCA (Resolution of Environmental Qualification) is assigned once a project is approved. This basically becomes the Ten Commandments of any project. What is stated in this official document needs to be absolutely respected and rendered. In the Invierno Mine’s case, their RCA states specifically that they are not permitted to use explosives at any stage of the productive life of the mine, projected to be only 12 years long.

They first attempted to save money in the face of falling coal prices by attempting to get approval for blasting in 2015 but were denied by the Chilean Government’s environmental agencies. Now they are trying again. And the Invierno Mine is not the only one. There are proposals for four more open pit mines on Riesco Island: Río Eduardo, Elena, Área Oeste and dela—all in the middle of millennial forest and Patagonian flora and fauna.

But, Alerta Isla Riesco stands ready to protect the pristine land and the livelihoods it supports.



## KENYA

# Reconsidering Investment In The Lamu Coal Power Plant

Mark Hankins, African Solar Designs

“Notably, our power generation mix is overwhelmingly green, positioning us among the global leaders when it comes to the nexus between climate change and sustainable development. [...] I call upon all Kenyans to embrace the promise of green energy for sustainable development.”

- Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya  
During the State of the Union on 26th March 2015.

During his State of the Union address, President Kenyatta’s assertion about the country’s green power grid was a veiled message to the west. He rightly pointed out that, at 65 percent clean energy, Kenya’s electricity supply is greener than most developed countries. He also alluded to deliberate efforts to foster a sustainable energy path with hydropower, wind, and geothermal, something that has earned the country kudos from many quarters. Embedded in the statement, however, was a jab which highlights a growing ideological rift emerging between environmentalists in the north that want Africa to follow a carbon neutral path and African industrialists that see coal as a cornerstone for economic development.

The rhetoric has much to do with the two billion dollar 980 megawatt coal-fired plant planned for Lamu County. At a time when coal is increasingly less desirable among western countries, there is now a push back from investors and bureaucrats intent on growing Kenya’s coal-powered energy supply.

But what the opponents of clean energy development in Kenya fail to acknowledge is that the world has advanced beyond the dirty and polluting energy sources of centuries past. No longer should we hinge our future on a power supply that has proven itself to be increasingly expensive, wholly dangerous, and unjustifiably dirty. In fact, while coal proponents point to the existing coal supply in the region, with South Africa and Mozambique ready to sell and mineable deposits in Kenya, Tanzania and other SADC members, coal is finding it increasingly difficult to compete with renewables, as evidenced by Oxfam and others that coal has largely failed at alleviating energy poverty in Africa. Despite the overwhelming evidence and ever-growing support for clean energy the pro-coal camp continues to push the disproven rhetoric about cheap coal for poverty alleviation.

At 980 megawatts, Lamu Coal will be the largest single power plant in the country, and it will put a serious dent in the country’s green power credentials. It will be built, according to the robust assertions by proponents, by Chinese contractors to so-called “American clean coal standards”—standards that do not exist. And upon completion, the plant will import and burn upwards of 6,000 metric tonnes of coal per day, largely from South Africa in the initial stages.

But there are many who don’t want to see the same country that hosts the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) install the largest coal plant in the region. A coal plant is a 20 year commitment and a major environmental statement. Clean coal is a slogan, not a specific technology, and given absurd claims that the project will emit nothing but “water vapor,” questions are being raised about the plant’s impact.

Indeed, there is serious global backlash against coal-caused pollution. China's coal use has peaked and the country is shifting to renewables in a big way. Australia's largest power supplier has committed to get off coal by 2030. Last year, the U.S. decommissioned more coal-fired power plants than it commissioned, and the U.S. Energy Information Agency predicts a 10 percent drop in national coal demand.

Why is coal so dangerous? First is the smoke and sulphur dioxide emissions laden with heavy metals that, unscrubbed, cause smog, acid rain, and contamination of water sources. Just look at the pictures of Chinese cities. Second are the thousands of tonnes of coal ash that must be disposed of each day. Third is the environmental degradation of coal mining sites that take place wherever the fuel is dug



The recent 8.5 MW Gigawatts PV system in Rwanda.  
PHOTO: Tom Gilks courtesy Dan Klinck

out of the ground—South Africa, Mozambique or Kenya, should it invest in a coal mine in Kitui. These three, however, are not even the biggest threat.

The most harmful product of burning coal is carbon dioxide emissions. Even if the investors solve the first three problems and succeed in installing a plant that meets the highest international standards, they will not be able to remove CO<sub>2</sub> produced when coal burns. Indeed, burning coal is among the largest global atmospheric contributors to increased CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change.

As The Guardian's "Keep It In the Ground" campaign expounds, several simple truths about climate change keep global planners awake at night. First, scientists agree that, to avoid catastrophic climate change, we must limit temperature increases to a maximum of 2°C. Secondly, to stay within this 2°C temperature increase, the world must limit carbon emissions to an agreed quantity of burnable tonnes. The problem is reserves of coal, natural gas, and oil already designated for extraction and use by companies contain as much as five times the allowable carbon. In other words, the planet is headed for disaster unless those planning to extract fossil fuels keep a large portion of their discovered coal and oil assets in the ground.

It's clear that the answer to the world's growing energy demands is not 20<sup>th</sup> century technology, but instead, they must turn to green energy. This is no longer science fiction—global renewable energy investment and use is growing faster than most had predicted 10 years ago. A 2015 Africa Progress Panel Report argues that climate change presents an opportunity for Africa's energy-poor countries to leapfrog straight to clean energy and avoid the mess of fossil fuels. With electricity generation, alternatives are quickly emerging. And as the president stated, Kenya, with ample wind, geothermal, solar and hydro power available, has more renewables than most countries. The energy future of Africa does not need to look like the dirty energy past of China, India, Europe, and the U.S.

To be a "leader" in green energy, Kenya must look to the future and take on board global thinking about carbon and climate change. It must be the first in this region to develop a green infrastructure—and reap the economic rewards.



## MYANMAR

# Myanmar Villagers Stand United Against Coal Plant

Mi Chan Aie, Paung Ku

It is a 10 hour drive from Yangon to Andin Village, ending on red dirt roads from which you can see signs reading “No Coal” in Burmese, English, and Mon. This past May, a now empty football field hosted the latest in a series of protests against a proposed 1,280 megawatt coal-fired power plant from a Thailand-based Japanese company, Toyo-Thai Corporation (TTCL). The proposal also included a massive new deep sea port to bring in coal from Indonesia and Australia to fuel the boilers. And nearly every house in the village has a “No Coal” sticker in the three languages—distributed as part of a survey of local opinions about the project. Out of 1,300 households, we are told only one refused to place a sticker on their home. The rest display their opposition to coal on their homes, cars, and

motorbikes. More than 6,000 people joined the protest on May 5, 2015 as organizers.

Andin is part of Ye Township in Mon State, which sits in the narrow southern strip of Myanmar, bordered by Thailand on the east and the Bay of Bengal on the west. Peace in Mon is relatively new. The state was blacklisted by the former military dictatorship, and the Mon language and history were banned in schools. In 2010, the new government signed a ceasefire with the armed Mon group, opening the door for infrastructure and development. Now the people in Andin can openly teach their culture at a Mon language school in the village. But some are worried the coal plant will bring new conflict to the village, pitting the Mon people against Burmese immigrants who came to the area looking for work.



Andin community in Myanmar rallies against coal.  
PHOTO: Hong Sar Ramonya



Andin community in Myanmar rallies against coal.  
PHOTO: Hong Sar Ramonya

Andin Village is relatively prosperous. In a country with only 33 percent electrification, residents have access to electricity and the village has private business wifi for public use. But even if this wasn't the case and the village was not electrified, it is very possible that the people would not benefit from power generated from a new power plant. It is more profitable to sell electricity to nearby Thailand than to keep the power in Myanmar. This is why many foreign companies looking to build coal plants in Myanmar plan to send the vast majority of the electricity over the border.

While the people of Andin village mostly rely on agriculture to make their living, fishing is the business of choice in nearby Andin Thif. There, locals hang fish to dry, while small boats bob up and down in the bay. The villagers say they are committed to sustainability and have agreed to forgo more destructive fishing techniques common in Thailand and to preserve dolphins rather than catching and selling them. The livelihoods of the local people

living near the proposed coal plant depend on clean water and land, and they estimate farming, fishing, and orchard cultivation generates \$5.8 million every year. It's no wonder that the coal project has united locals in opposition. Andin community youth spent for six months to get annual income and TERRA, an environmental justice organization closely supports Andin community the whole process.

The process for public engagement has been marred by misinformation and coercion. When the first public hearing took place in April 2014, no Myanmar companies were involved in the project. Afterwards, a domestic company began purchasing land, claiming they would use it for fish breeding. It was only at a second hearing in December 2014 that the people learned this land was actually for the coal plant. If they had known, many would not have sold. Because of the strong opposition to the project, the companies held this second meeting a long way from Andin. A poorly worded notice led locals in the new meeting location to believe the hearing would be

about electricity. When they found out it was about a coal plant, many joined the opposition. Those in favor of the plant were largely brought in by the company from Ye.

When representatives from TTCL and the Myanmar-based company visited the Andin Village monastery to show their respect to the monks, they claimed that if the people opposed the project the companies would withdraw. Word spread like wildfire through the village. Soon, the compound was filled with protesters who poured out into the street. The monks had to ensure the safety of the representatives as they made their way back to their vehicles. Even so, the voices of local people were not officially recorded. When asked why the federal government signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with TTCL in April 2015, officials cited the two supposedly successful public hearings. The truth of the overwhelming opposition at the hearings is only recorded in the monks' detailed notes.

While the federal government is eager to move forward with the project, the Mon State Parliament, led by veterinary doctor Member of Parliament Dr. Aung Naig Oo, has attempted to put on the brakes. Dr. Aung Naig Oo knows the devastating effects pollution has on public health. When he visited Andin last year, he was struck by the united front the villagers and monks presented. When he returned to Parliament, he brought their message that the project is unsustainable. In September, the state government announced it will not allow a feasibility study for the project to proceed. With momentum building, Aung Naig Oo proposed a controversial measure to cancel the project entirely. In April, the state parliament agreed. The following day, the federal government signed the MOA. However, Dr. Aung Naig Oo is not deterred: "We are strong. We have the strength to oppose the coal plant."

In the face of similar local opposition to coal projects across the country, Japanese companies like TTCL have scrambled to drum up support. Several people from Andin were invited to join a tour to visit a Marubeni plant in Japan using so-called "clean coal" technology. Since there is no such thing as "clean coal," companies in Myanmar can claim to have "clean coal" technology without being tied to any

specific pollution controls. In general, they use the term to refer to ultra-supercritical coal plants (USC). However, USC refers to the efficiency of a coal plant, not to any of the pollution control measures that can reduce some—never all—of the deadly particulate, sulfur, mercury, and other emissions. USC also has nothing to do with the operation of a coal plant, including the storage of toxic coal ash. Coal ash can contaminate local water supplies, a particularly dangerous possibility in places like Andin where people rely on well water. And as Myanmar does not have set policies for air emissions, water emissions, or ongoing monitoring, foreign companies are eager to line their pockets while freely dumping pollutants into the air and water.

Dr. Oo declined to join the trip to Japan, but locals Min Zaw and Seik Rot did, and they were not convinced. Min Zaw was concerned that the coal project would impact his fish wholesale business, and was eager to meet Japanese fishermen, but he was never given an opportunity to do so. Similarly, the tour did not assuage Seik Rot's fears for his orchard.

With opposition to the project only growing, officials are resorting to more drastic measures. In June, 26 locals, including the village chairman, were intensively investigated and accused of committing a crime after police received a letter complaining of harassment by those opposed to the project. But these actions by the coal plant's backers look like they have backfired. When the villagers learned that 26 people are facing a lawsuit and arrest, 350 people from Andin and the neighboring villages of Hnit-Kayot, Ywa Thit (Kwan Tamort Pea), and Thar-Karan (Saigram) traveled to Ye, with many asking to be involved in the case as well in solidarity.

Seik Son exemplified the community solidarity. After leaving home to study, she returned to Andin to protect her village. She is concerned about the effect the proposed coal project will have on agriculture, and plans to research the social and environmental impacts. When asked what gives her hope, she said the community is very strong and is supported by nearby communities and non-governmental organizations who can help prepare information and support the effort to protect Andin.



## THAILAND

# Krabi, The Fight Continues

Chariya Senpong, Greenpeace

Even as the global trend of coal investment is decreasing, Southeast Asia stands in contrast where the growth of coal consumption ignores the high and proven potential of renewable energy. The Thai government is an important key player among ASEAN governments (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), leading to the assumption that coal demand is up to 7,300 megawatts, all of which is imported from Indonesia and Australia. Moreover trans-boundary energy projects significantly invest in coal and are planning to transfer electricity into the grid from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. This

is despite the fact that the country has an energy reserve of more than 30 percent that can last the next 10 years.

As we approach to the fourth anniversary since derailing the Krabi coal-fired power plant and coal sea port project, the isolation of the Krabi anti-coal network is growing and branching out to local communities under the threat of the future chimney of the coal power plant project, including local fishery folks, the provincial fishery association, the Southern local fishery network, the Krabi tourism and hotel association, the Krabi Chamber of Commerce,



Hunger Strike in front of Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Government House.  
PHOTO: ASTV Manager





Hunger Strike in front of Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Government House.  
PHOTO: ASTV Manager

the Southern Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Council of Andaman, the Tourism Council of Thailand, and also academic and expert groups on energy, economic and environment, together which support more than 200 civil society groups in country.

The anti-coal movement has reached the tipping point on the national agenda as a hunger strike has been emerging under the army government and martial law ever since. The pressure is being put on the government's shoulder to step back from green-lighting coal projects by elevating the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) reports, the disaster of coal, the catastrophe on climate change, and the switch from coal to 100 percent renewable energy investment in Krabi.

Prasitchai Nunuan and Akradej Chakjunda engaged in a two week long hunger strike, which only ended when Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha agreed to put the proposed 800 megawatt Krabi coal-fired power plant on hold and set up a joint committee with stakeholders to investigate the project. They are part of the Save Andaman from Coal Network, a coalition of groups working to protect Thailand's southern coast, where local communities rely heavily on the Andaman Sea for their livelihoods. This includes a thriving tourism industry that draws on

the region's famous, pristine beaches and brought in an estimated \$11 billion last year. Instead of a dirty coal plant, the Save Andaman group wants to see Krabi turned into a 100 percent clean energy province. But despite the danger a posed by coal, the government was prepared to allow the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) to start the bidding process for the coal-fired power plant and sea port before completing an environmental impact assessment. This spurred the network to take action. Petitions circulated that challenged the coal plant, and community members traveled to Bangkok to protest the government's position. In total, the 14 day hunger strike was a concentrate signal to the Prime Minister at White House Government and called on the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and the government to commit to good governance, transparency, accountability without conflict of interest, and an influential relationship on coal mining concession and coal technology businesses.

The fight to protect Krabi and new coal projects in the country is far from over, but local people made it clear that they will not be silenced. They even forced the Prime Minister to make concessions to their demands. A larger movement is brewing, and it is clear that the people are willing to stand up to fossil fuel interests, despite the risk.



## UNITED STATES

# A Beyond Coal Milestone

Mary Anne Hitt, Sierra Club

On June 15, 2015, Alliant Energy committed to phase out coal use at six of its plants in Iowa, marking the 200<sup>th</sup> coal plant to retire in the United States since 2010. The retirement of 200 coal plants nationwide represents the phase out of nearly 40 percent of the 523 U.S. coal plants that were in operation just five years ago. The work of 100 allied organizations along with the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, to retire these plants and replace them with clean energy, has enabled the United States to lead the industrialized world in cutting global warming pollution, and has put the White House on firm footing to push for a strong international climate accord in Paris at the end of this year.

### GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM FUELING VICTORIES

At the heart of this momentum is the unyielding drive and commitment of thousands of grassroots leaders and activists. One of the activists who was crucial to achieving the 200<sup>th</sup> coal plant retirement in Iowa was, Patricia Fuller, a retired nurse in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

"You haven't seen fear until you've seen a patient fighting to breathe, and their loved ones powerless to help," said Patricia. "After the coal plant in my own community retired, I became very active in the fight for cleaner air across the state line in North Omaha, Nebraska," said Patricia, who is also a lead volunteer with the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign. "We



Actor Ian Somerhalder joined the 2013 rally to move Asheville, NC beyond coal. The campaign succeeded earlier this year. PHOTO: Sierra Club

urged Nebraska to ‘get in the game’ like Iowa on clean energy, and now Omaha is on the path to tripling its share of clean, renewable energy. I’m proud that Iowa’s clean energy success inspires other communities to take action.”

Thanks to the hard work of Patricia and thousands more like her, retirement announcements have been made for over 200 of the 535 coal-fired power plants in the United States, nearly 40 percent of America’s coal plants. This 200<sup>th</sup> retirement is happening right in the heart of America, in the great state of Iowa. Alliant Energy, a major Iowa utility, will be retiring or retrofitting eight coal plants, which were emitting more pollution than was allowed by the company’s air permits, contributing to an estimated 32 deaths and 541 asthma attacks annually, and costing local residents \$15.3 million in healthcare bills each year according to plant-level 2010 estimates by Clean Air Task Force (CATF).

Iowa won’t have any trouble replacing that coal power with renewables—the state has long been a leader in the transition to clean energy. Nearly 7,000 Iowans are employed in the wind industry, and the state is poised to blow past meeting 40 percent of its electricity needs with wind power. The state is leading the way to a 100 percent clean energy future and—as Patricia had hoped—is inspiring others to get in the game. This announcement is just the latest example of how the Beyond Coal campaign and more than 100 allied organizations across the country are building clean energy solutions, state by state and community by community.

Patricia is excited to see clean energy continue to expand in Iowa and Nebraska because it means cleaner air and water, and healthier communities. Back in 2009, the pollution from the 200 coal plants now slated for retirement caused 6,000 heart attacks, 60,000 asthma attacks and 3,600 premature deaths each year. Patricia, who has worked extensively with the Iowa Nurses Association and the Beyond Coal Campaign on holding polluters in her state accountable, has been working to reduce those numbers for years.

Patricia hopes this latest victory continues to inspire more activists to take action in their own communities. “Once we become aware of climate change and realize that it is the greatest moral issue of our time, I think we are obligated to try to do something about it.”



Activist Anna Jane Joyner joined the 2013 rally to move Asheville, NC beyond coal. The campaign succeeded earlier this year. PHOTO: Sierra Club

Every week, the transition from coal to clean energy is moving from the improbable to the inevitable. Over the past five years the Beyond Coal campaign has phased out a coal-fired power plant every 10 days.

This big shift in how America makes energy is being driven at the local level, but it’s moving needle on carbon reduction at a global level, too. Community solutions built by leaders like Patricia have enabled the United States to lead the industrialized world in cutting global warming pollution, and they’ve even put the White House in a position to lead during international climate negotiations in Paris later this year. Everyday, we celebrate Patricia and the thousands of fellow supporters out there who made all this possible.

## A GROWING MOVEMENT

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The anti-coal movement has continued to grow immensely worldwide. As seen in the narratives of this report, public opposition to coal has driven crucial victories to dismantle the power of the industry. Communities are seeking answers to their energy needs where investment in coal has only provided them with more pollution, lands rights abuses, and inefficient sources of power. As clean alternatives that don't threaten communities continue to expand, the dark days of coal power will soon be behind us. When they are, we will all look back and thank the courageous activists who fought for the future they deserved.



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Opposite: Coal burns outside of a mine.  
PHOTO: Nicole Ghio



