



To the Bank Manager of Bank of China,

This is a call to the Bank of China to immediately withdraw its funding for a hydroelectric power plant and dam in Sumatra's Batang Toru Forest highlands.

Protests, worldwide, are increasingly now taking place at Bank of China branches all over the world. The Bank of China headquarters has been informed that there is serious social and environmental concerns about funding the Batang Toru hydro dam project, and in Indonesia, legal action is taking place to stop the destructive project from taking place. We hope that you will inform your senior staff and pass the message through all management at Bank of China to please ensure immediately stop all finances for a planned project for the construction of a hydrodam in the Batang Toru forest.

Experts say the project will push the world's rarest ape, the Tapanuli Orangutan, into extinction. Forest clearing has already begun, and Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry reported that pre construction activity for the dam and power plant in northern Sumatra had driven a group of Tapanuli orangutans (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) out of their habitat in the Batang Toru forest (1). This Bank of China funded project is already causing damages to the population of the world's most endangered great ape species, but with quick action, and your support, together we can prevent the extinction.

Early phases of construction is already underway in Indonesia, the area where the new Tapanuli Orangutan species was described only last year. This species has less than **800** individuals remaining and is declared as **world's most endangered ape**. **The issue of Bank of China funding the Batang Toru dam is globally important.** The hydrodam project will cause enormous damage in the most important area for the Tapanuli Orangutan, where they will lay a 10-meter diameter tunnel, roads and electricity lines 15 kilometers straight through primary rainforest. Last July 25, scientists appealed directly in a hand-delivered letter to Indonesian President Joko Widodo to halt the hydropower project and protect the Tapanuli orangutan habitat. Avaaz, a global activist organization, has more than 1.2 million signatures on an online petition asking President Widodo to cancel the project in order to protect the orangutans (2).

The last Tapanuli Orangutan populations will be fragmented and many other species will not survive the project! The local people are also becoming victims of this project because their agricultural land will also flood, it is also for this reason they are now testifying in court against the Batang Toru hydro dam. The community strongly oppose the dam, and also wish to see Bank of China withdraw from this destruction.

There is now becoming increasing global media about this problems with the Batang Toru dam, and the growing opposition to the project from Indonesia and around the world. We urgently request that you support the the Tapanuli Orangutan and urge all relevant staff at Bank of China to also urge management **to stop all finances** for the construction of a hydrodam in the Batang Toru forest of Indonesia.

Kindest regards,

People for the protection of the Tapanuli Orangutan.

More information: SAVE TAPANULI ORANGUTAN @orangutan_tapanuli

