

What we Did

In 2009

Summary of BankTrack activities

BANK*Track*

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Introduction

It has been six years now since a number of NGOs working on commercial banks founded BankTrack. Back in 2003, when thinking of a good name for our new network we considered many options. The name we ended up with, BankTrack, was partly inspired upon that other great brand name; Amtrak. A sturdy, solid name, provoking images of a robust train heading straight towards its destination, and therefore an appropriate reference for our new ambitious network.

What we did not have in mind when choosing our name was that other joint characteristic; As with Amtrak, BankTrack feels like a train forever on the move, allowing little time for those involved to descend the train for a while and quietly reflect upon our activities and our achievements in the past year. There are always too many interesting developments and pressing challenges awaiting us on the tracks ahead.

As a result of this being forever on the move, our annual reports are not extensive publications, describing every single achievement and activity of the past year. Instead, we present only a brief summary of what we have done in our five main areas of work. (the colours are corresponding with the similarly coloured sections on our website):

- 1. Bank monitoring and engagement ('Banks')**
- 2. Project/company focused campaigning ('Dodgy Deals')**
- 3. Network focus activities/campaigns ('Focus')**
- 4. Member activities ('Members')**
- 5. Network development, training and outreach**

We hope this summary provides you with a good idea of what we have been doing in 2009 and makes you curious about what we are doing right now, halfway 2010. If you want to know more on our activities please visit our website, or give us a call; we are happy to answer every question you may have.

June 2010



Johan Frijns, coordinator

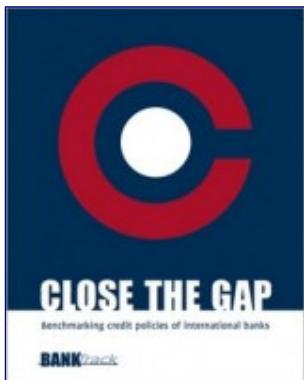
1. Bank monitoring and engagement

BankTrack being BankTrack, this work area encompasses all our efforts to systematically monitor both policy developments and investment decisions of the largest international operating commercial banks, and to keep close track of a number of voluntary initiatives such as the Equator Principles and the Climate Principles. This monitoring effort is at the basis of our continuous engagement with these banks, aimed at raising the quality of their investment policies.

Within the secretariat, the communication and research officer (Jora Wolterink) is responsible for coordinating the monitoring of policy developments. Our campaign officer (Sonja Willems) focuses on tracking investment decisions of banks in controversial projects and companies (see next section on dodgy deals).

The result of this work can be found at the 60+ bank profiles and a number of designated focus sections of our website. In 2009, we conducted the following activities aimed at monitoring banks:

Close the Gap



A grant from the Dutch ministry for the environment (VROM) allowed BankTrack to undertake an ambitious research project aimed at mapping out the scope and quality of investment policies of 49 internationally operating banks.¹

After a research and engagement process with all banks included in the project, which took up the better part of 2009, we published in April 2010 'Close the Gap; benchmarking credit policies of international banks'

The report provides a detailed assessment of the quality of bank policy for seven business sectors and nine sustainability issues², this based on what BankTrack considers best practice in these areas. In addition, the report also assesses bank procedures on transparency and accountability.

¹ ABN Amro, ANZ, Banco Bradesco, Banco do Brasil, Bangkok Bank, Bank of America, Bank of China, Bank of Tokyo- Mitsubishi, Barclays, BBVA, BNP Paribas, China Construction Bank, Citi, Commonwealth Bank, Crédit Agricole, Credit Suisse, DekaBank, Deutsche Bank, Dexia, Fortis Bank Nederland, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, China Industrial Bank, ING, Intesa Sanpaolo, Itaú Unibanco, JPMorgan Chase, KasikornBank (Thailand), KBC, Mizuho, Morgan Stanley, National Australia Bank, Natixis, Nedbank, Nordea, Rabobank, RBC, RBS, Santander, standard Chartered Bank, Scotiabank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Société Générale, Standard Bank, UBS, UniCredit, WestLB, Westpac.

² agriculture, fishery, forestry, military industry and arms trade, mining, oil and gas, power generation, biodiversity, climate change, corruption, human rights, indigenous peoples, labour, operation in conflict zones, taxation, toxics.

All results of the research project were published in the paper version of the report, on the bank profiles of the 49 banks included in the research and on a dedicated section on our website.³

The Equator Principles

In 2009, BankTrack resumed its engagement with the Equator Principles Financial Institutions (EPFIs, Equator banks) in order to try to improve the quality and implementation of the Equator Principles. This process was on hold since end of 2007 but in May 2009 we managed to organise a NGO-bank consultation meeting at the offices of BankTrack partner WRI in Washington.

The meeting brought together over twenty Equator banks and 15 BankTrack member groups to discuss numerous outstanding issues related to the Equator Principles. Disappointed by the lack of progress during this meeting, BankTrack launched an 'open appeal to the Equator Banks'⁴ that was delivered to the banks on a follow up meeting in Zürich in February 2010. Unfortunately, we had to conclude after the meeting that after seven years of fruitless talks there is no basis for continued dialogue with banks, until they come forward with substantive proposals on a number of outstanding issues.⁵

Monitoring Chinese banks

Friends of the Earth US and our Chinese member group Green Watershed are leading the BankTrack project on monitoring Chinese banks. For FoE US, this included assistance to international communities with their campaigns on Chinese bank financed resource projects, raising issues of Chinese overseas investments directly with China Export-Import Bank, and educating Chinese NGOs about financial advocacy for their domestic campaigns on Chinese banks. Green Watershed coordinated nine Chinese NGOs in investigation and selection of the candidate of Green Bank Innovation Award (2008) and published an Environmental Report on Chinese Banks (2009). It also organized in collaboration with BankTrack and FoE US two workshops for Chinese NGOs on bank campaigning. Over 50 NGOs participated in the training workshops in Chongqing and Guangzhou.

Policy engagement

BankTrack, either through the secretariat or through member groups, maintains constructive working relation with most banks that are the focus of our campaign attention. This relation is based on a clear mutual understanding of the respective roles of NGOs and banks and a commitment of BankTrack to fair play and accountability, without ever compromising on our core mission of steering the banking sector towards sustainability

³ http://www.banktrack.org/show/focus/close_the_gap

⁴ For NGO demands to Equator banks see:

http://www.banktrack.org/download/bold_steps_forward_towards_equator_principles_that_deliver_to_people_and_the_planet/100114_civil_society_call_equator_principles.pdf

⁵ For an overview see:

http://www.banktrack.org/download/going_around_in_circles/100210_going_around_in_circles_post_mtg_version.pdf

This implicates that despite our differences, banks generally appreciate the contribution BankTrack can make to the development of their own bank policies and practices. Throughout 2009, BankTrack –member groups- have engaged with banks on their policies. To provide only a few examples (see also section 4; member activities):

- SETEM engaged with Banco Santander on various policy issues. In April 2009, Santander adopted its Global Social and Environmental Policy and created a Sustainability Committee.
- Berne Declaration met with UniCredit to discuss elements of their draft dam policy and was consulted by Credit Suisse on their draft mining policy.
- CounterCurrent met with DekaBank to discuss lessons from their engagement in the Ilisu dam project resulting in DekaBank's announcement to sign the Equator Principles and to establish a sustainability department.
- WRI engaged with IFC to improve its environmental and social policies that are linked to the Equator Principles.
- Amigos da Terra – Amazonia Brasileira provided critical input to Itau-Unibanco on sustainability-related aspects of their policies and practices. Furthermore, they suggested concrete ways forward on how the Brazilian Central Bank could promote social and environmental responsibility in the national financial system.
- Rainforest Action Network advised Bank of America, Citi and JPMorgan Chase on their new policies on mountaintop removal coal mining and coal-fired power plants. RAN also advised Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto Dominion, CIBC, Bank of Montreal and Scotiabank on water, climate and Indigenous rights policies related to Canada's tar sands.
- Les Amis de la Terre France met with Crédit Agricole and BNP Paribas to discuss their climate/energy policy -not yet adopted-.
- Milieudefensie had numerous meetings with Dutch banks on various aspects of their policies, this as part of the fair bank guide initiative.
- Urgewald continued to engage with WestLB on the implementation of their macro policy

2. Project focused campaigning

BankTrack supports civil society organisations worldwide whose rights and interests are being violated as a result of the negative impact of projects, activities or companies financed by commercial banks. We also monitor bank financed activities with a large negative impact on the environment. BankTrack confronts banks with those impacts and seeks a proper response from them, for example by ensuring effective implementation of bank policies and commitments, exercising pressure on clients and sponsors to respect rights of communities, or in some cases a withdrawal from activities and clients altogether.

Within the secretariat, our campaign officer (Sonja Willems) is responsible for coordinating this section of our work.

Web tools

All controversial deals can be found on the 'dodgy deal' and 'company' sections on the BankTrack website, and on the bank profiles of each bank listed there. These files feature case summaries of controversial projects or activities, which are then further presented with pictures, video material, links, contacts, documents etc. Furthermore, the website provides all banks with the opportunity to publicly respond on the information presented on the website.

As of May 2010, the number of Dodgy Deals on our list has increased to 69. The site distinguishes between active campaigns and deals that are on record, further sharpening the quality of information on the site. A number of deals are only visible for BankTrackers with a log in to the site.

The site contains 46 active dodgy deals (30 public, 16 private) and 23 on record profiles (11 public, 12 private). The 46 active dodgy deals include 16 profiles of nuclear power projects that also appear on the 'Nuclear Banks' website. For the latest update on the state of affairs with all Deals we refer to the relevant section on our website.

Next to dodgy deals, the site also contains profiles of companies considered by BankTrack as no go companies for banks committed to sustainable banking. The company profiles are directly linked to the dodgy deals, to illustrate which companies are involved in which projects. As of May 2010, the website lists 14 company profiles visible to the public.

Active Dodgy Deal files

Cluster Munitions producers	<i>International</i>
Gunns Pulp Mill Proposal Tasmania	<i>Australia</i>
Phulbari coal mine1	<i>Bangladesh</i>
Rio Madeira dam project	<i>Brazil</i>
Angra 3 nuclear power plant	<i>Brazil</i>
Belo Monte dam project	<i>Brazil</i>
Belene nuclear power plant	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Asia Pulp and Paper	<i>China</i>
Canadian Tar sands	<i>Canada</i>
Patagonia dams; HidroAysén	<i>Chili</i>
China Datang	<i>China</i>
Tar Sands	<i>Congo</i>
Biofuels	<i>Congo</i>
Inga dam	<i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
Temelin nuclear power plant Unit 3	<i>Czech republic</i>
Olkiluoto nuclear reactor 3	<i>Finland</i>
Flammanville	<i>France</i>
Belinga iron ore project	<i>Gabon</i>
Bauxite mine Niyamgiri Hills	<i>India</i>
Mining in Goa/Sesa Goa	<i>India</i>
Jaitapur nuclear power plant	<i>India</i>
Toka Tindung Goldmine	<i>Indonesia</i>

Ohma/Tomari nuclear unit 3	<i>Japan</i>
Shimane nuclear unit 3	<i>Japan</i>
Kashagan oil project	<i>Kazakstan</i>
Nam Theun 2	<i>Laos</i>
Theun-Hinboun Expansion project	<i>Laos</i>
Visaginas nuclear power plant	<i>Lituania</i>
Kayelekera Uranium mine	<i>Malawi</i>
Shwe gas and Pipelines project	<i>Myanmar</i>
Block M	<i>Myanmar</i>
Borssele nuclear unit 2	<i>Netherlands</i>
LNG project	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>
Cernavoda nuclear units 3 & 4	<i>Romania</i>
Sakhalin II oil and gas project	<i>Russian Federation</i>
Uralchem	<i>Russian Federation</i>
Bohunice nuclear power plant	<i>Slovakia</i>
Mochovse nuclear units 3 & 4	<i>Slovakia</i>
Koeberg nuclear unit 3	<i>South Africa</i>
Markbygden windpower project	<i>Sweden</i>
New reactors	<i>Switzerland</i>
Ilisu Dam Project	<i>Turkey</i>
New Reactors	<i>Ukraine</i>
New Reactors	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining	<i>United States</i>
Konkola copper mines	<i>Zambia</i>

on record

Uranium Weapons	<i>international</i>
Wal-Mart Labour Rights	<i>international</i>
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline	<i>international</i>
Aracruz pulp mills and plantations	<i>Brazil</i>
Pagrissa Ethanol	<i>Brazil</i>
China Datang	<i>China</i>
Block 31, Yasuni National Park	<i>Ecuador</i>
NHPC dams	<i>India</i>
Dhamra port	<i>India</i>
Grassberg mine	<i>Indonesia</i>
Mud volcano in Sidoarjo, east Java	<i>Indonesia</i>
Wilmar International	<i>Indonesia</i>
Samling	<i>Malaysia</i>
Sinopec Oil and Gas in Myanmar	<i>Myanmar</i>
Camisea pipeline project	<i>Peru</i>
Rapu Rapu copper mine	<i>Philippines</i>
Rosia Montana gold mine	<i>Romania</i>
CNPC in Sudan	<i>Sudan</i>
Yusufeli dam project	<i>Turkey</i>
Turkmen Bankaccounts	<i>Turkmenistan</i>
TXU coal powered plants in Texas	<i>United States</i>

Dynegy coal power plants
Botnia pulp and paper mill

*United States
Uruguay*

Campaigns

There are too many ongoing project focused campaign activities to all list in this report. Below are only a few examples of ongoing work. For further details on other campaigns please visit our website.

Theun Hinboun / Nam Theun Dam - Laos

In May 2009 BankTrack joined International Rivers on a field trip to the Democratic Republic of Laos to visit the Nam Theun 2 dam and Theun-Hinboun Expansion project and investigate compliance of the project with international, national, and local norms and standards. The field trip resulted in an extensive report and two video documentaries and started off an intensive dialogue between BankTrack/international rivers and the banks (BNP Paribas, ANZ, KBC as well as Thai banks) involved in the two projects.

Gunns pulp and paper mill - Australia

Since 2007, BankTrack is involved in the Australian campaign against the proposed Gunns pulp and paper mill in Tasmania. BankTrack focus is on discouraging potential financiers of the project. Activities in 2009 included a cyber action against Nordea and placing a joint advertisement in the Financial Times listing banks suspected of interest in the project. Until now, no bank has committed any funding for the mill. Campaign ongoing.

Ilisu dam - Turkey

Since 2007, European NGOs have been teaming up to block the financing of this dam project in Eastern Turkey. In 2009, after a lot of pressure and public action the three ECAs from Swiss, Germany and Austria withdrew from the project, directly followed by the three European private banks Société Générale, Bank Austria Creditanstalt (affiliate of UniCredit Group), and DekaBank. Unfortunately, the withdrawal of the European financiers did not mean the end of the dam. In 2010, the Turkish government announced a restart of the construction of the Ilisu dam, with financial support of the Turkish Akbank and Garanti Bank. Campaign ongoing.

Rio Madeira and other Brazilian dams - Brazil

In 2009 BankTrack member groups International Rivers and Amigos da Terra started campaigning against the plans for the Belo Monte dam on the Xingu river. The Belo Monte Dam is currently the largest dam project under consideration anywhere on the planet. Indigenous people and social groups have fought its construction for more than 20 years. In 2009 the campaign intensified with famous people, like James Cameron and Sigourney Weaver lending their support to the campaign of local indigenous tribes. BankTrack is supporting the campaign with a Dodgy Deal profile and will be further involved once private financial institutions step in. Ongoing in 2010.

Vedanta Mining - India

In September 2009 BankTrack together with German member Urgewald, and Amnesty International organised a workshop in London for bankers and investors about the Indian/UK mining company Vedanta Resources and the human rights and environmental

impact of its operations. The workshop 'Vedanta – A Reality Check' was attended by 8 private banks, and 5 institutional investors, among them the Church of England which announced its withdrawal from the company afterwards. In 2010 the campaign is ongoing with a focus on shareholder activism.

Canadian tar sands - Canada

A number of BankTrack member groups have focused on the financing of tar sand exploration in Canada and Congo. BankTrack considers tar sand exploration a no go area for any bank wishing to be a sustainable. RAN has approached all Equator banks – potentially- involved in the business to point out the incompatibility with the sustainability commitment expressed in the EPs. RAN also pressured Canadian banks on their role in the business. CRBM of Italy meanwhile mapped out potential dangers of tar sand exploration in Congo, warning any potential investor to stay out of the business.

Shwe gas pipeline project – Myanmar

In 2009 BankTrack supported the independent Thai NGO Arakan Oil Watch (AOW) on the involvement of commercial banks in the oil and gas sector in Arakan and the rest of Myanmar. The information resulting from the research formed the basis for a campaign against the Block M project. In 2010, AOW plans to start pressuring China ExIm Bank in corporation with BankTrack.

3. Focus programmes

BankTrack member groups cooperate on a number of joint work programmes on topics with a strong relevance for sustainable banking. Such focus programmes are conducted by working groups, with additional support from the secretariat. In 2009 we focused on the following issues:

Financial crisis

All throughout 2009, our work on promoting sustainable banking was overshadowed by the dramatic state of the banking sector itself. Already in November 2008, BankTrack launched the 'Escorial declaration on the financial crisis', which summarised the view of BankTrack on what was needed to adequately deal with the crisis. The Declaration has been translated into French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.⁶

Throughout the year, BankTrack member groups were involved in debates and activities aimed at strengthening bank regulation on the national level. For example, in the Netherlands BankTrack took part in the NGO working Group monitoring the Dutch banking sector, including the nationalised banks ABN AMRO and Fortis; in the United Kingdom, our UK member Platform vigorously campaigned on incorporating sustainability obligations for the Nationalised Royal bank of Scotland; in Spain our member group SETEM launched several critical publications and a website on the causes of the financial crisis and the need

⁶ See: http://www.banktrack.org/show/focus/banking_crisis

for ethical banking; in Germany, member Urgewald met with German banks to discuss the financial crisis and consequences for sustainable banking while in Belgium, Netwerk Vlaanderen focused on the government with critical demands on state support for Belgium banks. All member activities were extensively discussed in the working group. In addition to this:

- In January, BankTrack joined the pan European civil society meeting on the financial crisis in Paris, assisting in development of a civil society view on the need for stringent bank regulation.
- In March, BankTrack submitted a contribution to the UN commission on bank reform (The Stiglitz commission)⁷
- Also in March, BankTrack joined a broad NGO initiative focused on the role of tax havens within the financial system. BankTrack supported the 'invasion of Jersey'; a conference and exposure tour on the island.
- In April, BankTrack submitted a contribution to a consultation of the European commission on bank regulation.⁸
- In April, BankTrack submitted a contribution to the Basel Committee on elements for a new version of the Basel Accord.⁹

Banks, energy and climate

The climate summit in Copenhagen in December 2009 was not directly focused on the role of commercial banks in combating climate change. However, it provided a good opportunity for BankTrack to expose the role of banks in financing activities that cause climate change (such as fossil fuel extraction and fossil fuel based power generation), thereby increasing the pressure on banks to redirect their investments towards activities that help the transition to a low carbon economy. In 2009, the working group did the following:

- In February 2009, BankTrack released the paper "Meek Principles for a Tough Climate; why the Carbon Principles and Climate principles Will not stop the melting of the ice" The paper is a critical analysis of two initiatives within the banking sector on the responsibility of banks in combating climate change.¹⁰
- In April 2009, BankTrack organized a strategy meeting in Washington DC for NGOs that focus on banks and climate. During that meeting, decided to include a critical

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http://www.banktrack.org/download/banktrack_submission_to_the_stiglitz_commission/090212_banktrack_submission_to_the_stiglitz_commission.pdf

⁸

http://www.banktrack.org/download/comments_for_consultation_by_ec_dg_internal_markets_on_financial_market_supervision/090410_submission_to_the_consultation_on_financial_market_supervision_of_european.pdf

⁹

http://www.banktrack.org/download/letter_to_basel_committee_on_consultations/090306_letter_to_basel_committee.pdf

¹⁰

http://www.banktrack.org/download/meek_principles_for_a_tough_climate_why_the_climate_and_carbon_principles_will_not_stop_the_melting_of_the_ice/090329_meek_principles_for_a_tough_climate.pdf

monitoring role of banks in Carbon Trading, now considered by BankTrack a false solution to the climate problem.

- Also in Washington, BankTrack met with the Equator banks on the latest state of play of the Equator Principles. One part of the meeting was devoted to the failure of the Equator Principles to adequately respond to climate change as a business risk.
- In September, a BankTrack delegation participated in the global strategy meeting on the financing of a new climate agreement in Bangkok, Thailand. The aim of the participation was to raise awareness of the role of the private sector in financing climate change
- After a long consultation with members and other partners BankTrack in December 2009 released a revised version of the position paper "A challenging climate, what banks must do to combat climate change". The paper was distributed at the Copenhagen climate summit and sent to all our bank contacts.
- In December, a BankTrack delegation attended the climate summit in Copenhagen. BankTrack members were speakers at several civil society forums , focusing on role of private banks in the financing of climate change.
- Throughout the year, BankTrack, through member groups, provided solicited and unsolicited comments on the draft climate policy of the following banks: Bank of America and Citi (funding of mountaintop removal coal mining and tar sands), Dexia (climate) RBC, ING and other banks (funding tar sands) Rabobank (operational oil and gas extraction), WestLB (financing of coal plants), RBS (climate), Unicredit (climate).
- As part of the Close the Gap investigation BankTrack assessed the quality of the climate policies of 49 banks.

Nuclear banks? No thanks!



Already in 2008, BankTrack agreed with a number of partners to start a public pressure campaign on banks involved in the financing of the nuclear sector. BankTrack considers the re-emergence of nuclear power as a dangerous threat to people and the planet and a false solution to the climate crisis.

Unfortunately, the preparations of this campaign took much longer than anticipated. It took all of 2009 to adequately research the involvement of banks in the sector and to design a website that can be the base of this public pressure campaign. Due to technical setbacks the site, www.nuclearbanks.org, was finally launched in April 2010 only. Meanwhile, individual member groups exerted pressure on banks that considered getting involved in nuclear power projects in Central-Eastern Europe (Mochovce, Belene).

Banks and human rights

The working group on banks and human rights aimed at influencing human rights policies of individual banks. Also, the working group focused on the UN process to the responsibility of the private sector to respect and promote human rights (the business and human rights framework), the so called Ruggie process. The working group has undertaken the following activities:

- As part of the Close the Gap research BankTrack assessed the quality of policies of 49 banks in relation to human rights, indigenous peoples and labour rights. The results can be found in the report itself and on the BankTrack website¹¹
- In October 2009, Bank Track participated in Geneva in the UN consultation on how to operationalize the business and human rights' framework.¹²
- In 2009, BankTrack members published a number of reports on issues related to banks and human rights. This includes the report of Global Witness 'undue diligence, how banks do business with corrupt regimes and the report of City Network's Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions'.¹³ The secretariat contributed to internal consultation and external dissemination of these reports.
- The working group contributed to the development of www.banksecrets.org; a critical site on the human rights impact of activities of large banks based in the European Union.

4. Member activities

BankTrack is first and foremost a network shaped by the plans and activities of its members and partners in their own countries, with the network broadcasting these efforts to a worldwide audience. This is a brief overview of what they have been up to in 2009:

Amazon Watch (USA) joined the BankTrack network in 2009. Amongst many other things, it has campaigned against the Rio Madeira dams in Brazil, this in close cooperation with our member Amigos da Terra Amazonia Brasileira.

Amigos da Terra Amazonia Brasileira (Brazil) monitored the sustainability policies of Brazilian banks and campaigned on stopping the financing of a number of high impact projects in the Brazilian Amazon.

Berne Declaration (Switzerland) (BD) continuously monitored the Swiss banks UBS and Credit Suisse to bring to the public attention cases of the financial involvement of Swiss banks in unsustainable industries. As an example BD campaigned against the financing of the Indonesian palm oil giant Golden Agri Resources (part of the Sinar Mas Group). The activities of this company lead to deforestation and loss of critical orang utang habitat, dramatically increased greenhouse gas emissions due to the reduced water tables of peat soils as well as conflicts with local communities. As one concrete consequence of our activities Credit Suisse signalled that they are planning to change their policies on palm oil A second priority was 'banks and human rights', which after long preparation period led to the launch of a website on Swiss banks and Human rights in early 2010.

CounterCurrent/GegenStroemung (Germany) continued to campaign against the Ilisu dam project in Turkey. Partly as a result of the campaign efforts of NGOs, the export credit agencies from Germany, Austria and Switzerland as well as the private banks Bank Austria / UniCredit, DekaBank and Société Générale withdrew from the project.

¹¹ See http://www.banktrack.org/show/focus/close_the_gap

¹² http://www.banktrack.org/download/banking_it_right/091001submission_ohchr_banktrack.pdf

¹³ http://www.banktrack.org/show/focus/banks_and_human_rights

CRBM (Italy) continued to campaign against policies and practice of Italian banks, Unicredit and Intesa Sanpaolo, the two main banking groups in Italy, focusing both on their policy and guidelines as well as specific projects, like the involvement of Unicredit in the Ilisu dam project, in Turkey. CRBM also participates in numerous Italian CSO network and the debate on the reform of the financial system, with a particular attention on private banks (G20, Basel Committee and others) and financial markets, with a special focus on new instruments and issues, such as, the role of private equity funds, and the impacts of land grabbing.

Friends of the Earth (US) primarily focused on advocacy to Chinese banks. This included assistance to international communities with their campaigns on Chinese bank financed resource projects, raising issues of Chinese overseas investments directly with China Export-Import Bank, and educating Chinese NGOs about financial advocacy for their domestic campaigns on Chinese banks.

Greenpeace International was the driving force behind the 'nuclear banks, no thanks' campaign of BankTrack. After many delays this led to launch of the campaign website on nuclear banks early 2010.

Green watershed (China) coordinated nine Chinese NGOs in investigation and selection of candidate of Green Bank Innovation Award (2008) and published an Environmental Report on Chinese Banks (2009). It also organized in collaboration with international partners two workshops for Chinese NGOs on bank campaigning. Over 50 NGOs participated in training workshop.

International Rivers (United States) focused on financing of large dams, with campaigns against, amongst others, the Theun-Hinboun Expansion Project in Laos, the HidroAysén dam in Chilean Patagonia and the Rio Madeira and Belo Monte dams in Brazil. IRN also launched a research paper about Thailand's banking sector.

International Accountability Project (United States) joined BankTrack in 2009. IAP waged a campaign against the Phulbari mine, Bangladesh. IAP also initiated work with a group of indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon that have been impacted by oil spills from a pipeline financed by the World Bank's IFC and a number of private financiers. IAP took the lead in organizing around the review of the IFC's Performance Standards and ensures that BankTrack members remain involved in the review process.

Les Amis de la Terre (France) started to work on the involvement of French banks in tax havens and carbon trading. They also co-launched the Bank secrets website on banks and human rights and worked with French banks on their climate policies and their involvement in the nuclear sector.

Mineral Policy Institute (Australia) focused on mining projects in Africa and the Pacific. MPI has engaged with Australian banks and other finance institutions on projects in Indonesia, Africa, PNG and Australia.

Netwerk Vlaanderen (Belgium) took the lead in developing a website about European banks and their dodgy investments. This was a joined project by six European BankTrack members, coordinated by Netwerk Vlaanderen. In October 2009, Netwerk Vlaanderen also presented a report on banks and cluster munitions.

Platform (United Kingdom) has continued to draw attention to the role of the Royal Bank of Scotland as the UK bank most heavily involved in financing fossil fuel projects around the world. Platform promoted the idea of using the public investment in the bank to transform it into a financial institution that could promote investment in the low carbon economy, to become the 'Royal Bank of Sustainability'.

Rainforest Action Network (United States) has succeeded in their goal of making the tar sands campaign a top priority for the CEO of RBC. RAN also campaigned against the major funders of mountaintop removal coal mining. Several banks (credit Suisse, citi) have responded positively to this campaign. RAN is also monitoring the implementation and impacts of the Carbon Principles.

Setem (Spain) launched the campaign, 'ERROR104, ERROR IN THE SYSTEM' to demand that the Spanish president would promote real change in the financial system. The campaign included special events, developing an interactive video, a customized video game, as well as publishing a Guide on Ethical Saving. SETEM campaigned against BBVA and Santander for involvement in South- American dam projects and co-launched the website www.banksecrets.org. SETEM has actively supported FIARE, an ethical bank initiative in partnership with Banca Popolare Etica.

SOMO (Netherlands) wrote papers on financial liberalisation and financial reforms, in close cooperation with Southern partners. In addition, SOMO conducted research on the financial involvement of large banks and their investments in shares of controversial companies. SOMO also continued to monitor Dutch financial institutions such as ING, Atradius and Aegon.

The Wilderness society (Australia) continued to lead the worldwide campaign against the Gunns paper mill, until now succeeding in preventing funding for the project.

Urgewald (Germany) monitors German banks, with a focus on Deutsche bank, and participated actively in the nuclear banks campaign. Urgewald also convenes twice yearly roundtables of banks and NGOs on sustainability issues

WISE (Netherlands) supported the nuclear banks campaign and coordinated a project on the -financing of- uranium mining in Africa.

5. Network development

A network like BankTrack that is focusing on a sector that is changing so rapidly as the banking sector requires constant maintenance and training. Within this work pillar we group all activities aimed at becoming a better, stronger, bigger and more effective

network, and to share our knowledge and experience with as many working partners as possible.

Membership

In 2009, BankTrack consisted of 18 members and 12 partners, an increase of three compared to 2008 (indicated with * below). The majority of members is based in Northern industrialised countries, reflecting the presence of the banks we target, but the secretariat is making an effort to further diversify our membership base in 2010.

members

1. Amigos da Terra Amazonia Brasileira – Brazil
2. Berne Declaration – Switzerland
3. CRBM – Italy
4. CEDHA – Argentina
5. Friends of the Earth - United States
6. Green Watershed – China*
7. International Rivers - United States
8. Les Amis de la Terre – France
9. Milieudefensie, FoE Netherlands
10. Mineral Policy Institute – Australia
11. Netwerk Vlaanderen – Belgium
12. Pacific Environment – United States
13. Platform - United Kingdom
14. Rainforest Action Network - United States
15. SETEM – Spain
16. Urgewald – Germany
17. WEED – Germany
18. WWF-UK – United Kingdom

partners:

1. Amazon Watch – United States*
2. Cornerhouse – United Kingdom
3. Friends of the Earth - Europe
4. Friends of the Earth - Japan
5. Gegenstroemung - Germany
6. Global Witness – United Kingdom
7. Greenpeace International
8. International Accountability project – United States*
9. Profundo – Netherlands
10. SOMO - Netherlands
11. WISE - Netherlands
12. World Resources Institute – United States

Secretariat

The BankTrack secretariat in Nijmegen is the central coordination body of the network. In February 2009, a fire broke out in the building in which the secretariat is situated. No one

was hurt but the fire left the office completely covered under black soot and it took close to two months before we could operate again. Apart from this incident, the secretariat functioned well with a new office team to take care of all the daily tasks. In 2009, the secretariat staff consisted of:

- Johan Frijns, Coordinator (1 fte)
- Jora Wolterink, Research and communication officer (.88 fte)
- Sonja Willems, campaigns officer (.88 fte)
- Raymon van Vught, web assistant (.22 fte)
- Roel van den Bosch, financial manager (.17 fte)
- Bart Bruil, website design, layout (freelance)

Total staff capacity of the secretariat corresponds to 3,15 full time equivalent.

Steering committee

The steering committee oversees the development of the network and the work of the secretariat. Within the steering committee, three members form the board of the BankTrack foundation, the legal entity that is behind the network and secretariat. A new steering committee was elected at our strategy meeting in November 2008 and served all through 2009:

- Andrea Baranes (CRBM, Italy) (board member)
- Andreas Missbach (Berne Declaration, Switzerland) (board member)
- Becky Tarbutton (Rainforest Action Network, US)
- Michelle Chan (Friends of the Earth US) (chair of the board)
- Roland Widmer (AdT Amazonia Brasileira, Brazil)

Gender programme

In 2008, BankTrack engaged with Washington based Genderaction to ensure that gender issues are adequately incorporated in both our work output and our internal organisation. Gender action conducted a gender scan for BankTrack, the results of which were used to develop a gender action plan. This plan is now being implemented throughout the network.

6. Output

Publications

In 2009 BankTrack released the following publications:¹⁴

- 'Meek Principles for a tough climate; why the Climate and the Carbon Principles will not stop the melting of the ice' -discussion paper on the Carbon and the Climate principles-

¹⁴ All publications can be found on: <http://www.banktrack.org/show/pages/publications>

- 'Submission to the OHCHR Consultation'- on human rights, together with the Berne Declaration
- 'A challenging climate 2.0, what banks must do to combat climate change- updated position paper.

Our flagship report 'Close the Gap' was planned for publication for 2009 but the release was delayed until early 2010. In addition to publications under the network name, our members produced dozens of additional publications, often co-sponsored by BankTrack. The full overview can be found on the publications page of the BankTrack site.¹⁵

Website

For many external observes, BankTrack *is* our website. In 2009 we further developed our website into a much valued source of information and an online meeting/work place for our members. amongst other things we implemented the following (figures April 2010):

- The bank profiles section has been restyled: we have 56 banks profiled at the website. These profiles provide information about banks' policies and practices (how they are involved in Dodgy Deals).
- The Dodgy Deal section has expanded: there are 39 dodgy deals online, of which 28 are active files.
- We designed a new company section at the website; this now features 13 profiles of controversial companies.
- We have tailor- made logins for different groups of individuals at the website; members/partners, external working partners and bankers, all user groups can edit defined part of the website. The logins are well used.
- We introduced e-campaigning tools like petition or action letter, further strengthening our campaign capacity.
- We expanded the news section on the website
- We link the website to twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia and Youtube. Our twitter page currently has 170 followers, ranging from corporate citizens to interested individuals and journalists. Our Facebook page has 115 'fans'.

The website is under continuous development, with support of Easymind web design. The average number of unique visitors a day is 300-400 (April 2010). The average number of page views a day is 900. Visitors are mostly interested in our dodgy deal pages.

Email lists

BankTrack maintains a large number of discussion and outreach lists that we use to target our key audiences of bankers, analysts, media and fellow NGOs. The most important lists are:

- *BankTrack-info* is an open information list providing overall information on the private financial sector to NGOs and individuals. 487 subscribers (April 2009)

¹⁵ See: <http://www.banktrack.org/show/pages/publications>

- *BankTrack-members* is the internal discussion list for BankTrack members to freely debate strategies and campaign plans. 83 subscribers (April 2009)
- *BankTrack-news bankers* is the announcement list for members of the private financial sector that wish to be informed about BankTrack activities. 1230 subscribers (April 2009)
- *BankTrack news analysts* is the announcement list for analysts, researchers and consultants that wish to be informed about BankTrack activities: 312 (April 2009)
- *BankTrack-press* is the list for media. 630 subscribers (April 2009)

In 2009, BankTrack issued a total of 65 press releases, an average of nearly 6 per month.

Meetings, trainings, outreach

Throughout 2009, BankTrack representatives took part in many events, meetings, conferences, trainings and consultations related to sustainable banking. The list of such events with BankTrack involvement is very long, so here is a only *non complete* overview:

- January, Paris: BankTrack members attend European civil society meeting on financial crisis to align positions on bank
- January, Dalfsen, the Netherlands: BankTrack coordinator provided training to Greenpeace campaigners.
- February, Düsseldorf: BankTrack coordinator met with gas company Nordstream on NGO position on the project
- February, RAN gave presentation on bank finance campaigning to University of California-Berkeley Haas School of Business
- February, Brussels: BankTrack joined European network meeting on climate change
- March, Jersey: BankTrackers joined invasion of Jersey and spoke at forum on role of tax havens
- March, Linz: presentation BankTrack on European strategy meeting on financing the nuclear industry.
- April, Amsterdam: BankTrack presentation at meeting with Dutch NGOs on financial crisis
- May, Washington: BankTrack climate strategy meeting with network members
- May, Washington: meeting of BankTrack member groups with Equator Banks (60 participants)
- June, New York: Michelle Chan of FoE US spoke about Chinese overseas investments at the Social Investment Forum's annual symposium.
- June Sao Paulo Roland of FoE Amazonia was panelist at the Febraban (Brazilian Federation of Banks) Seminar on sustainable finance
- June, London: BankTrack meet with the Climate group to discuss the Climate principles
- July, London: BankTrack presented 'the Royal Bank of Sustainability' concept at the Sustainable Development Commission 'Breakthrough Ideas for the 21st Century' Event
- September, London: BankTrack and other NGOs organise meeting with Vedanta shareholders
- October, Istanbul: BankTrack participation in World Bank meeting plus IFC performance standards review meeting
- October, Bangkok: BankTrackers participate in meeting on climate finance.

- October, Geneva: Andreas Missbach of Berne Declaration presented a BankTrack submission to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.
- October, Brussels: FoE Europe organised a conference on financing of extractive industries.
- October, London: Platform presented at New Economics Foundation event 'The Bigger Picture' on RBS Court Case.
- November, London, Platform spoke on 'Banks, Ethics and Sustainability' at the Ecumenical Council of Corporate Responsibility AGM.
- November, Budapest: BankTrack coordinator speaker at NGO meeting on ethical banking.
- November, Lille: BankTrack coordinator speaker at World Forum sustainability conference.
- November, London: Platform presented RBS court case at Bretton Woods 'Recovery to What?' Conference.
- December, Guangzhou and Chongqing China: BankTrack coordinator participates in training organised by Green Watershed for local NGO's and banks.
- December, Rio de Janeiro: Roland of FoE Amazonia spoke at Fundacao Getulio Vargas (leading business school) on banks and sustainability.
- December, Copenhagen; BankTrack delegation participated in Climate summit.

7. Financial overview

This is a summary of our financial situation over 2009. The full, audited financial report over 2009 is available on our website.

Balance sheet

	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Current Assets		
Tangible fixed assets		
Furniture	3.278	2.599
Computers and software	<u>5.323</u>	<u>1.213</u>
	8.601	3.812
Claims		
Deposits	2.300	2.300
Paid in advance	812	54
Accounts receivable	<u>3.830</u>	<u>10.138</u>
	6.942	12.492
Cash at banks	<u>156.987</u>	<u>123.802</u>
	<u>172.530</u>	<u>140.105</u>
Current Liabilities		
General reserve account		
Reserve value at January 1	47.813	20.211
Balance financial year	<u>16.957</u>	<u>27.602</u>
	64.769	47.813
Projects reserve account		
Reservations unfinished projects	3.750	4.000
Reservations long term income	<u>73.979</u>	<u>27.558</u>
	77.729	31.558
Accounts payable		
Received in advance	-	47.250
Salaries, taxes, social contributions	14.968	9.607
Remaining accounts payable	<u>15.064</u>	<u>3.878</u>
	30.031	60.735
	<u>172.530</u>	<u>140.105</u>

Profit and loss account

	2009	2008
Income		
Grants	285.623	225.816
Credit interest	4.724	3.947
Other contributions	10.895	19.929
Donations	1.337	3.735
	302.580	253.427
<i>Total income</i>	302.580	253.427
Expenses		
General		
Personnel costs	160.800	128.707
Housing costs	9.343	10.957
Organisation costs	9.091	12.406
Administration costs	3.479	4.300
Depreciations	3.214	1.367
Network development	12.346	19.860
	198.273	177.597
Project and Activity costs		
Network and member support	2.209	-
Bankmonitoring and engagement	24.205	8.778
Campaign and community support	5.573	29.212
Gender project	-	2.765
	31.987	40.755
Focus programmes		
Banks, Climate and Energy	14.385	4.332
Nuclear Banks	6.834	
Banking Crisis	764	
Banks and Human Rights	3.380	3.141
China Bank project	30.000	-
	55.363	7.473
<i>Total expenses</i>	285.623	225.825
Result		
	16.957	27.602
	302.580	253.427

Grants and other income 2009

Income	2009	2008
Grants		
CS Mott Foundation ('07-'09)	21.436	36.404
CS Mott Foundation ('09-'10)	39.214	
Sigrid Rausing Trust ('08-'09)	6.123	54.999
Sigrid Rausing Trust ('09-'10)	39.974	
Sigrid Rausing Trust (support CfJ Malawi)		18.979
Oxfam Novib ('06-'08)		115.434
Oxfam Novib ('09-'11)	66.772	
Oxfam Novib (Climate grant)	6.824	
VROM (Dutch ministry for environment)	58.282	
JMG Foundation	47.000	
	285.623	225.816
Other contributions		
Membership fees	10.160	11.011
Lectures and presentations	351	
Sales	150	656
Special assets	233	8.263
	10.895	19.929
Donations		
Private and institutional contributions	1.337	3.735
	1.337	3.735