

# APRIL: Indonesia's 2nd Largest Pulp & Paper Company is Making Paper Out of Tiger Rainforest.

Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL) is a Singaporean company with pulp and paper mills in Indonesia and China. APRIL is Indonesia's second largest pulp and paper producer and today is its largest driver of deforestation in the sector. APRIL is cutting down the last remaining natural rainforests and tiger habitat to feed its mills. APRIL claims that its mill in Riau, on the island of Sumatra, is the "biggest mill on the planet" with a capacity of 3.5 million tons of pulp and paper. Recent government data reveals that an incredible 60% of fiber supplied to APRIL's Riau mill is rainforest wood.

[APRIL is destroying Indonesia's endangered rainforests](#) in order to establish commercial tree plantations to produce pulp and paper. Some of this paper is sold to customers here in the U.S. under a number of brand names including the office paper brand Paper One. You could be subsidizing rainforest destruction, for basic printing and photocopying, without even knowing it.

Despite having access to concessions covering 10% of Riau's landmass, the company is still relying on cutting down tropical forests. In 2004, APRIL advertised that it would stop deforestation by 2009: *"By the year 2009 we will have sufficient Acacia from our own and our partners' fiber plantations to produce...the production capacity of our mill."* However, Indonesian non-profit coalition Eyes on the Forest reported that APRIL has become Riau's largest agent of deforestation, cutting close to 346,000 acres of tropical forest, mostly located on peatlands, between 2008 and 2011. APRIL was thus responsible for almost 1/3 of all tropical forest loss in Riau during that period.

This forest destruction and the subsequent plantations are taking a heavy toll on endangered wildlife, including tigers, orangutans, elephants, and rhinos, while generating large amounts of greenhouse gases which cause climate change, from the deforestation and draining of the island's carbon-dense peatlands. Indonesia is home to between 10 and 15 per cent of all known species of plants, mammals and birds.

Two thirds of the company's land in Riau is located on peatland, one of the world's most critical carbon stores. Indonesia's peatlands are vast, storing about 35 billion tons of carbon. When these peatlands are drained, burned and replaced by pulp and paper plantations, carbon dioxide is released.

In addition to APRIL's environmental devastation, [the company has historically clashed with indigenous people](#). The local people that live in the Sipituhuta and Pandumaan villages in Indonesia have farmed resin from benzoin trees in the forests around their homes for more than 300 years. These indigenous people have strong cultural and economic ties to the forest, yet APRIL is turning these very forests into pulp and paper plantations, effectively wiping out the livelihoods of these villagers.



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Active conflict has erupted between APRIL and local people. In March 2013 dozens of farmers from Sipituhuta and Pandumaan villages were arrested during a conflict with APRIL. A protest in front of the Ministry of Forestry took place after more than 15 of these local men were detained by police. Learn more about these community conflicts [here](#).

APRIL has released several statements reiterating its commitment to being sustainable. However its failure to keep its promise to stop deforestation by 2009 is just the beginning of the evidence against them. In 2012, APRIL was planning to feed its Sumatran mill by clearing 148,000 acres of rainforest, an area nearly the size of Singapore. APRIL also knowingly cleared natural forest wood from concessions inside areas that were designated for protection according to national regulations. And APRIL has even knowingly cleared natural forest wood from concessions with licenses issued through corrupt practices. More than 80% of APRIL's wood suppliers operating in the company's main wood supply area, Riau Province's Kampar Peninsula, obtained their licenses from the heads of Siak and Pelalawan district. Both were convicted in high profile cases for corrupt practices in issuing these licenses and are currently in prison.

Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), the largest pulp and paper producer in Indonesia, has already committed to stopping all deforestation in its suppliers' concessions and committed to protecting all remaining areas of tiger habitat and high carbon peatlands in its global supply chain. Why won't APRIL?

For more information about APRIL's environmental destruction, including maps of deforestation, [see this report from Indonesian coalition Eyes on the Forest](#).

[Greenpeace is committed to convincing APRIL](#) to immediately suspend all clearance of natural forests, permanently protect Indonesia's forests and peatlands, and respect the rights of indigenous people.

Please help Greenpeace to reach our goal of zero deforestation by 2020 by pledging now not to buy any paper from APRIL, including their flagship brand, Paper One.