

## Water

**D**uring 2015, ICCR members continued to focus on corporate water stewardship in high-impact sectors including food and agri-business, energy production, automotive, mining, apparel and chemical companies. In these dialogues we urge corporations to measure and report on their water consumption and impacts, including water contamination and risks to affected communities, and seek to embed sustainability in corporate water policies and global supply chains.

Our members ask companies to assess their water performance within the context of the UN guidelines on the human right to water. As the impacts of climate change increase - particularly in already water-stressed communities - industrial water use is coming under greater scrutiny, and corporations are learning the importance of proactive measures to minimize global water stress.

This year, members asked Tyson Foods, a leading meat and feed producer, to assess the water impacts of its extensive operations. Tyson produces feed for over 41 million livestock per week, creating nitrogen and phosphorus-laced runoff which is harmful to the environment. Tyson is facing an ongoing federal criminal investigation as well as extensive EPA fines from wastewater discharges at a poultry processing plant in Missouri, yet has thus far resisted implementing a sustainable water policy. Recently, the Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment filed a shareholder proposal calling on Tyson to adopt and implement a water stewardship policy covering Tyson-owned and contracted facilities.

As a result of dialogues with ICCR mem-



bers, in August of this year Bunge Limited, a global agri-business, formally endorsed the CEO Water Mandate. Launched in July 2007 by the UN Secretary-General, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that helps companies develop water sustainability policies.

Members cultivate strategic relationships with NGOs working on water, including the CEO Water Mandate, CDP, World Resources Institute and Ceres. These organizations provide valuable tools and reporting mechanisms to assist companies interested in understanding and addressing their water risks.

Also this year Monsanto agreed to increased water disclosure through CDP, although members are still seeking quantitative goals on water withdrawal reductions, as well as reductions in contaminants via wastewater discharges.

Campbell's is working with ICCR members on implementation of its formal human right to water policy and is examining how it can better assess community water risk and set reduction goals for wastewater and agricultural runoff/nutrient pollution.

In a follow-up to a legacy ICCR engagement begun in the 1980s about clean-up of PCB contamination, members are sending a letter to General Electric urging the company to fulfill its EPA-mandated commitment to fully restore the Hudson River and surrounding ecosystems.

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