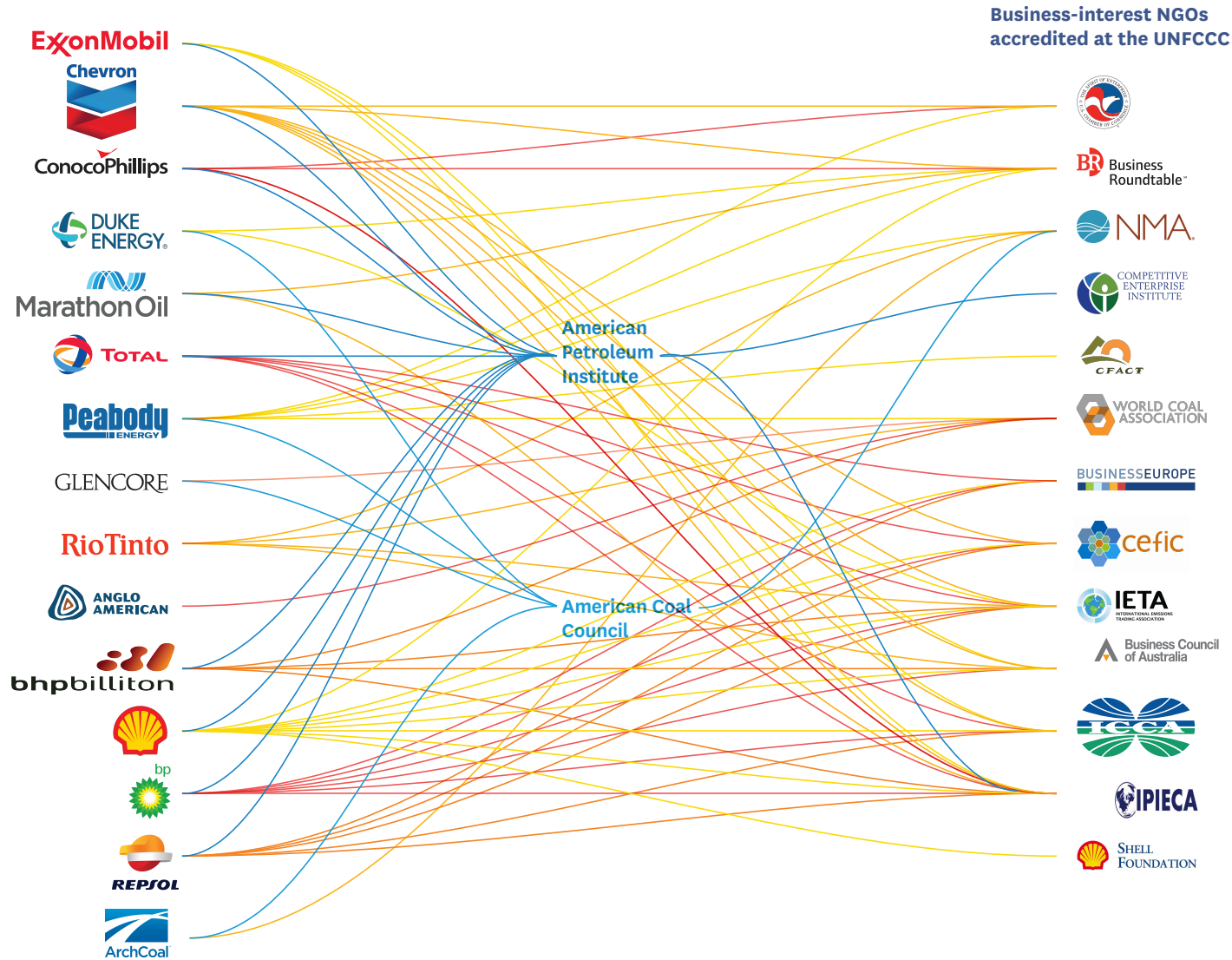


How the fossil fuel industry influences the UNFCCC



Conflicts of interest: the elephant in the room at the UNFCCC

The Paris Agreement is slated to come into force just days before COP22. This infographic illustrates **how some of the world's biggest polluters are deeply embedded in the treaty process**, via industry trade groups and associations.

The Paris Agreement expands the role of the private sector, swinging the door open even further to participation from business-interest groups and corporations, without any measures in place to address—or even acknowledge—potential conflicts of interest between the profit motives of the industry and climate policy.

In May, during the first treaty negotiations since the Paris Agreement's adoption, Parties sought to rectify this problem **by calling for the study of other multilateral and U.N. bodies' conflicts-of-interest policies and approaches**. These Parties want the UNFCCC to **create its own policy to screen for, and address, conflicts of interest** among business-interest non-governmental organizations.

Conflict of interest in theory...

A conflict of interest may arise when activities, relationships or situations place a public institution, and/or an individual that represents it, in a real, potential or perceived conflict between its duties or responsibilities to the public, and personal, institutional or other interests. These other interests include, but are not limited to, business, commercial or financial interests pertaining to the institution and/or the individual.

...And in practice:

- **BusinessEurope:** BusinessEurope is a business trade association accredited and active in the UNFCCC. The chair of its [Green Taxation Working Group](#) is a [Royal Dutch Shell executive](#): An Theeuwes.
- **The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI):** Also an accredited observer to the UNFCCC, CEI is a U.S.-based front group [notorious for its opposition to environmental policy](#). In addition to the [American Petroleum Institute](#), CEI's members have included Exxon Mobil and Chevron, which have both opposed and undermined climate policy in the United States and are responsible for environmental abuses around the world.
- **The World Coal Association (WCA):** With its UNFCCC accreditation, the WCA represents the interests of the world's major coal producers at the negotiations. They include BHP Billiton, Peabody Energy, Glencore, Rio Tinto and Anglo American.

Simply put, it would be naive at best to believe that the business groups above and detailed on the reverse have a genuine interest in ambitious climate action and emissions reductions. In fact, their interests are in extracting, refining and selling dirty fossil fuels in spite of the Paris Agreement.