Goldman Sachs becomes first investment bank to adopt environmental policy

Goldman Sachs' landmark policy states that its investment businesses will “take the lead in identifying investment opportunities in renewable energy” and that it will “be a leading U.S. wind energy developer and generator.” It further promises to promote green building standards such as LEED Gold and sustainable forests with a stated preference for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

Goldman Sachs has also committed to promote regulatory solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recognizing that climate change cannot successfully be addressed through voluntary action alone. In another industry precedent, Goldman said it would fund and establish a Center for Environmental Markets to study how market-based systems can solve environmental problems.

Emission Admission
Ford still ranks last among major US automakers

On December 20, Ford became the first automaker to assess and report its climate change impacts with the release of a new report entitled *Ford Report on the Business Impact of Climate Change*. The report is a nice gesture considering that a recent study from the Union of Concerned Scientists ranks Ford as having “the absolute worst heat-trapping gas emissions performance of all the Big Six automakers.”

While the report is strong on analysis, it falls remarkably short on targets and timetables for any kind of action from America’s worst-ranked automaker.

Although Ford promises to increase global hybrid production to 250,000 annually by 2010, these numbers represent less than 3.5 percent of the 7 million cars that Ford produces annually and will result in no meaningful improvement in its fleetwide fuel efficiency.

Rather than working with lawmakers to meet citizen-led climate change initiatives, Ford continues to lobby behind the scenes to undo them as well as sue to block eleven states from implementing visionary laws that limit global warming pollution from new vehicles.

The report followed a November 12 international “Day of Intervention” aimed at sobering up America’s most oil addicted automaker. The *Jumpstart Ford Campaign* targeted more than 90 Ford dealers in the United States, Canada, and England. The actions countered Ford’s recent green-washed advertising campaign by exposing the reality that Ford is still ranked last among US automakers for both its fleetwide fuel economy and its tailpipe emissions.
Interview and photographs by David Sone

RAN is starting a major initiative working closely with the community of Grassy Narrows to stop Weyerhaeuser from logging on, and sourcing from, Grassy Narrows traditional lands.

Since 2003, RAN has provided ongoing support to Grassy Narrows through Protect an Acre. Small grants were made for speaking tours throughout Canada, as well as a Women's Gathering aimed at empowering women within their communities while enhancing and sustaining their culture and inherent rights as first peoples.

Despite widespread opposition, including a three year-long blockade, logging giants Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi Consolidated continue to log on Grassy Narrows traditional lands. Weyerhaeuser's Trus Joist mill in Kenora uses almost half the wood cut from the Whiskey Jack Forest to the tune of 323,726 cubic meters per year. Weyerhaeuser's Dryden paper mill uses wood sourced from the Trout Lake Forest to produce paper for Xerox.

Judy Da Silva and Roberta Keesik are members of the Grassy Narrows First Nations community in Northwestern Ontario, Canada.

How did the blockade start and what compelled you to keep protecting your lands?

JUDY: It started with three young people that were tired of the forest being destroyed. That forced us to take action, that's when everybody started getting mobilized and taking action because of what the youth did. We said we've got to do something. We've got to protect this land because if we don't, there will be nothing left for the children, or the grandchildren or the great grandchildren. So that's how it all started.

ROBERTA: Protecting the land is like protecting ourselves, the Anishnabeg, and everybody else on the earth, and all future generations. That is our responsibility.

You will notice if you go to Kenora how many Native people have been displaced by being forced off their land. Some of them are being forced to live the life that you see them living on the streets. That is part of the reason why we have to protect our livelihoods as well as the whole area.

What are the corporations doing to your traditional homeland?

JUDY: There's Abitibi cutting the softwoods, and there's Trus Joist and Weyerhaeuser cutting the hardwoods and dumping all these chemicals plus the smoke that goes in the air. We have all these companies that are taking from the forest and then giving us back disease and sickness and death.

ROBERTA: The forest that has been cut and transformed by bringing in other trees, the continuation of that forest, the history, the blood line, whatever, it is just being destroyed, and that is Abitibi and Weyerhaeuser doing that and that's not right. It's no longer a forest. You can't call the trees that they plant a forest: it's a tree farm. A plantation is not a forest.

They spray chemicals and when it rains, they flow into the lakes and that affects the land animals, and the water animals and it affects us. That's all Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi doing that. It doesn't just affect us, it affects everybody. Not just the Anishnabeg; all people on earth and everybody should be concerned and do something about it.

continued on page 3
First Nations victory in Alberta

Canada's top court ruled 9-0 that the federal government failed to meet its treaty obligations to the Mikisew Cree First Nation when it authorized a 118km highway through their territory in Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta. The case sets an important precedent in establishing legal rights for indigenous peoples throughout Canada's Boreal forest.

Weyerhaeuser to lay off 2,000 mill workers

RAN research indicates that that as many as 2,000 Weyerhaeuser workers may lose their jobs in the coming months following a string of mill closures—more than double what national news outlets reported. Unions called the holiday announcement “despicable”. In 2005, Weyerhaeuser shut down business operations in 12 North American states and provinces, including Dryden, Ontario and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Greenhouse gases in atmosphere reach highest levels in 650,000 years

Scientists working with the European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica have concluded that current levels of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere are higher now than at any time in the past 650,000 years. Meanwhile, the US Energy Department reports that greenhouse gas emissions in the US linked to global warming reached an all-time high in 2004, rising 2 percent from the year before and nearly double the average annual rate measured since 1990.

International Day of Action raises profile of Boreal Forest

The first ever Boreal Day of Action took place on November 3rd. RAN, ForestEthics and Greenpeace coordinated more than 350 demonstrations and events across the U.S. and Canada, calling on companies like Weyerhaeuser and Xerox to end the destruction of the North America's largest ancient forest, the Boreal.

The Boreal comprises 25 percent of the planet's remaining ancient forest, stretching across North America from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean. It is part of a “green halo” of forest that encircles the Earth just below the Arctic tundra. Less than eight percent of the Boreal is protected, and approximately half has been designated for resource extraction by the Canadian government. The United States is the largest consumer of wood products from the Boreal, which is logged mostly to provide fiber for throwaway items such as junkmail catalogs, facial tissue, toilet paper, copy paper, magazines, and newspapers.

Tell XEROX to stop making copy paper from Weyerhaeuser clearcuts and to respect the rights of the Grassy Narrows First Nation to defend their traditional lands from destructive logging practices.

Write to: Anne Mulcahy, CEO, XEROX, 800 Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06904

Or send an email at action.RAN.org.

What can people do to help?

JUDY: I’d want the people that are out there to look at the products that they buy, where does it come from, and for them to know that people are being affected by the things that they buy, such as disposable paper products.

The forest is so affected by paper and I guess for people to make a knowledgeable decision on the paper products that they use, and if it comes from Weyerhaeuser or Abitibi for them to know that it destroying our people, our way of life.

ROBERTA: They could be cutting down on how much they consume. All things come from the land; the buildings, the steels, the gas, and we are all using them. The public should think about cutting down on what they are consuming.

They could also write letters for us on our behalf. Pressuring the government and pressuring the companies by making them aware will help us. A lot more would really put a stop to what they are doing not just here but everywhere.

Wake up Weyerhaeuser

Forest destroyer

Hundreds marched and rallied in Toronto in support of Boreal Forest protection.
Kids tell Bill Ford, Jr.  
“Don’t be a Global Warming Grinch!”

Rainforest Heroes sent their holiday wishes to Bill Ford Jr., CEO of Ford Motor Company during the Save Santa’s Home / Save the North Pole Holiday Poster Contest. RAN received over 800 color posters from 18 different states and four countries calling on Ford to stop fueling global warming by building more fuel efficient cars. A selection of the posters were published in a full-page ad in the Detroit Metro News that ran on December 21st.

Visit RainforestHeroes.com to view the winning posters!

RAN to the rescue...

RAN’s targeted corporate campaigning strategy is respected worldwide as one of the most effective ways to stop the staggering destruction of our natural environment. To build on the tremendous momentum of our first twenty years, we need your help now more than ever. With your special 20th anniversary donation, RAN will continue to hold corporations accountable for their policies, practices and products. Together we are creating a better world!

Make your 20th anniversary gift today in the enclosed envelope or at RAN.org/give.