We have plenty of reasons to smile these days at RAN. Last issue, we were proud to report that we had pushed Boise, Inc. out of Grassy Narrows - a move precipitated by a RAN day of action targeting Boise subsidiaries OfficeMax in the U.S. and Grand and Toy in Canada. On June 3, news hit that AbitibiBowater was officially packing up its logging operations and leaving Grassy Narrows, giving us cause to celebrate anew.

AbitibiBowater’s withdrawal means the suspension of all logging on Grassy Narrows territory, including all sourcing by Weyerhaeuser. This represents a huge victory for RAN’s Old Growth Campaign and for the people of Grassy Narrows, who have spent more than a decade struggling to end logging on their land.

It is also a testament to the power of grassroots action – and you helped make it happen.

But that’s really just the beginning.

On July 14, in response to mounting pressure from RAN, First Nations, and allies across Canada, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the protection of 55 million acres – an area half the size of California. It is the farthest-reaching commitment of any jurisdiction in North America to protect forests and recognize the right of First Nations to consent over industrial development. This astounding victory was earned by a unique coalition that realized that environmental and human rights are one and the same.

Premier McGuinty’s commitment sets the stage for further opportunities to protect the entire Canadian Boreal, which stores more carbon than any terrestrial ecosystem on Earth and is thus vital to halting the catastrophic effects of global warming. Canada’s largest newspaper, The Globe and Mail, has called on provinces throughout Canada to follow Ontario’s lead, and coalitions with diverse interests are organizing across the Boreal to do the same.

We are witnessing an historic transformation of the values and voices that determine resource extraction in Canada. With your continued support, we intend to see it through.

Continue to support RAN by becoming a Rainmaker! Find out how at www.ran.org/rainmaker
ANZ Bank denies funding to Gunn’s Tasmanian pulp mill

On May 23, RAN praised ANZ, Australia’s third largest bank, for its decision to not fund Australian lumber giant Gunn’s controversial Bell Bay pulp mill project in Tasmania. The proposed $2 billion pulp mill threatens to accelerate the conversion of Tasmania’s native and old-growth forests to woodchips for export to Japan. Since 2006, RAN, BankTrack, the Australian Wilderness Society and activists around the world have been pressuring ANZ to adopt a comprehensive environmental policy that would specifically prohibit funding for the Gunn pulp mill. ANZ’s announcement is a severe blow to Gunns and sends a clear signal to the real power players who have the sway to change the palm oil industry.

To ensure these companies take us seriously, we organized an international “Stick It To Palm Oil” day of action on August 13 and we urge them to join us in pressuring ADN, Bunge and Cargill – the real power players who have the sway to change the palm oil industry.
Since 2004, RAN has worked closely with northern Ontario’s Grassy Narrows First Nation to pressure U.S. companies Weyerhaeuser and Boise Inc. to drop their logging contracts with AbitibiBowater for wood obtained from Grassy Narrows land. In February, following a RAN day of action, Boise agreed to suspend its contract unless community consent could be established. Then, on June 3, Montreal-based AbitibiBowater—the largest paper company in the world—said it would cease all operations in the million-acre Whiskey Jack Forest that comprises Grassy Narrows traditional territory, a move that effectively choke off Weyerhaeuser’s wood supply from the region.

This historic decision comes in the wake of decades of lawsuits and peaceful protests by the Grassy Narrows community, including the longest standing Indigenous logging blockade in Canadian history. Abitibi’s withdrawal is a huge victory for Grassy Narrows, RAN’s Old Growth Campaign, and for activists around the world who helped sustain this cause. And it would not have been possible without your support!

Throughout its decade-long history, RAN’s Old Growth Campaign has helped save millions of acres of forests by transforming the practices of the world’s largest lumber retailers, loggers and paper companies. We achieved this by building strong coalitions of dedicated activists, allies and supporters, and by blending cutting-edge campaign tactics with grassroots organizing.

By taking our cues from those on the front line of resistance and by working in the spirit of true collaboration, we were able to defeat the largest paper company in the world and deter one of the world’s biggest logging companies.

RAN is honored to have contributed to this victory for Grassy Narrows, and we will continue to fight for Indigenous rights in Canada and throughout the world in the years ahead.

Timeline

December 2002 - Youth leaders of Grassy Narrows commenced what would become the longest running Indigenous logging blockade in Canadian history.

April 2006 - RAN issues “American Dream, Native Nightmare,” a report that documents the movement of wood from massive clear-cut operations on Grassy Narrows’ traditional territory into American homes marketed as “Built Green” by Quadrant Homes, a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser.

May 2006 - RAN begins distributing “As Long as the Rivers Flow: The Grassy Narrows Blockade Story,” a documentary about the plight of Grassy Narrows; its activists who organize hundreds of educational movie nights throughout the U.S. and Canada to raise awareness for Grassy Narrows.

July 2006 - RAN activists and supporters of Grassy Narrows block the Trans-Canada Highway in Kenora, Ontario. The action garnered major news coverage and was a bold statement of support for Indigenous rights throughout Canada.

September 2006 - RAN activists begin to target Weyerhaeuser’s homebuilding subsidiary Quadrant Homes. Pickets and Winchester, Wood used to build these homes is clear-cut without consent from Grassy Narrows.

January 2007 - Grassy Narrows declares a moratorium on all industrial activity on its territory. Grassy Narrows warns Weyerhaeuser: “Withdraw or Face Fierce Campaign.”

RAN sponsors a “Road to Seattle” speaking tour across Canada with these community members from Grassy Narrows. The 1,000 mile journey from their traditional territory in southwest Ontario concludes at Weyerhaeuser’s Federal Way, Wash., headquarters, where they demand a meeting with CEO Steve Rogel.

February 2007 - RAN activists occupy the roof of a Quadrant Homes model home near Seattle, Wash., and refuse to leave until Weyerhaeuser pulls out of Grassy Narrows. The event gets broadcast on TV stations throughout Washington.

March 2007 - RAN sends letters to responsible investors detailing the extent of Weyerhaeuser’s environmental and human rights violations in advance of the company’s annual general shareholder meeting.

April 2007 - Amnesty International Canada conducts a four-day fact-finding mission in the traditional territory of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in order to document the impact of logging and other industrial development on the community’s rights and culture.

On the eve of Weyerhaeuser’s annual general shareholder meeting, RAN activists scale Quadrant Homes’ headquarters in Bellevue, Wash., and unfurl a gigantic banner reading “Weyerhaeuser: Human Rights Abuser.”


September 2007 - RAN, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and leaders representing 40 First Nations in northern Ontario organize a second public demonstration in front of the Ontario Legislature in which a 75-meter, arrow-shaped banner reading “Native Land Rights Now” points directly at the legislature.

Amnesty International Canada issues a report calling on the Ontario government to respect the moratorium declared by the people of Grassy Narrows and to halt all clear-cut logging and other industrial development in their traditional territory until free, prior and informed consent is given.

January 2008 - RAN targets Boise subsidiary OfficeMax and Grand and Toy in an international day of action to demand that Boise honor its commitment to help resolve the ongoing conflict in Grassy Narrows. The day of action was a huge success, with hundreds of activists participating in 34 actions throughout North America.

February 2008 - Students at Ohio State University stage an 8-hour sit-in at OSU President Mc Gee’s office demanding that the school stop purchasing OfficeMax copy paper sourced from Grassy Narrows. The action spurs dialogue between OSU’s administration and Boise.

Boise publicly announces it will no longer purchase pulp sourced from Grassy Narrows through logging company AbitibiBowater.

April 2008 - RAN activists stage a die in outside Katahdin Paper Company near Old Town, Maine. The action demands that Katahdin stop purchasing pulp from AbitibiBowater.

April 2008 - RAN activists storm Weyerhaeuser’s annual general shareholder meeting and unfur a 20-foot banner reading “American Dream, Native Nightmare,” while three activists lock themselves to the building’s entrance and demand that Weyerhaeuser leave Grassy Narrows.

May 2008 - Grassy Narrows activists embark on a 2,000-kilometer walk to Toronto to participate in a four-day “Gathering of Mother Earth Protectors” on the front lawn of the Ontario Legislature. The gathering concludes with a massive National Aboriginal Day of Action throughout Canada.

June 2008 - AbitibiBowater announces its withdrawal from the million-acre Whiskey Jack Forest that comprises Grassy Narrows traditional territory.
2008 Save the Rainforest Poster Contest

The next step in RAN’s campaign to stop agribusiness companies from destroying rainforests is to show them why rainforests are so important. In order to do that, we launched our Save the Rainforest Poster Contest earlier this year, and now we’re ready to share the results. In the process of selecting the winning entries, RAN staff found inspiration in the number of kids that showed their support for the rainforests and their inhabitants. I hope you are as inspired as we were by their efforts.

We tallied the votes and determined two winners from each category: grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8. That means we were only able to choose eight winners from the nearly 400 participants. We wish we could have chosen more!

The winners were awarded hand-sewn, organic cotton, fair-trade toy monkeys from Global Exchange, as well as RAN t-shirts for each of their classmates.

Thanks so much to all the students, teachers and parents who participated in and helped with this poster contest. It was a huge success, and we are so glad we did it! Keep up your great work educating the world about rainforests. We couldn’t do it without you!

Have a great summer!

Levana Saxon
RAN Education Coordinator

Best Message

TOP RIGHT: (GR 2-3): “Beauty should never be endangered” Drakan Blackstock, Ripley Elementary School, Ripley, TN
ABOVE: (GR 1-2): “If you cut down more and more trees than you won’t have any oxygen and animals will be extinct so stop!” Emily Smith, Floresville Primary School, Floresville, TX; (GR 4-5) “Let the monkeys keep on swing’n!” Emily Tepara, Wilson Elementary School, Coppell, TX; (GR 6-8): “Fight! to save the rainforests” Shania Cheng, Sierramont Middle School, San Jose, CA.

Best Artwork

ABOVE: (left to right): BEST EFFORT OVERALL: Emma Smith, WT Jackson Elementary, Atlanta, GA; HONORABLE MENTIONS: Paula Mendez, Paraguay; Linda Castranova, 4th Grade, Wilson Elementary School, Coppell, TX; Victoria K Rose, Age 7, Pan American School, Porto Alegre, Brazil. BELOW: Kathryn Drynes, 2nd Grade, Floresville Primary School, Floresville, TX; Thant Kissel, 3rd Grade, Ripley Elementary School, Ripley, TN; unidentified; Mathew Husfield, 6th Grade.

Honorable Mentions

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: (GR K-1) Jenna Grabowski, Portage, MI; (GR 2-3) Susan Lindley’s Class, Port Angeles, WA; (GR 6-8) Christine O’Connell, St. Paul Catholic School, Spartanburg, SC; (GR 4-5) Deyse, Norcrest Elementary, Deerfield Beach, FL.

View the contest winners online at RainforestHeroes.com
**Climate expert calls for action to halt coal-fired power plants**

In 1988, NASA’s chief climate scientist, James Hansen, became the first expert to warn Congress about the potential threat of global warming. On May 22, the 20-year anniversary of his historic testimony, Hansen delivered a similar, if more urgent, message to the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Afterward, he was hailed a hero by former Sen. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., who headed the 1988 hearing.

“It seems to me that young people, especially, should be doing whatever is necessary to block construction of dirty coal-fired power plants.”

— James Hansen, NASA

In his remarks, Hansen suggested that the world has long passed this “dangerous level” of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere and that the world’s only hope is immediate, drastic action. Hansen has been a long-time critic of coal-fired power plants — calling them the chief contributor of greenhouse gases – and has repeatedly called for a moratorium on the construction of new coal plants, as well as a complete phase-out of coal power in the U.S. by the year 2025.

**RAN confronts Citi and Bank of America at annual general meetings**

CEOs feel heat from shareholders about investments in coal

On April 22, Appalachian residents joined RAN activists at Citi’s annual general shareholder meeting in New York to protest the bank’s role as a leading financier of the coal industry. While activists demonstrated at the building’s entrance, more than 50 Citi shareholders made their way inside to a packed meeting, where tensions were already running high due to the bank’s financial woes tied to the credit crisis. For the first time ever, a landmark shareholder resolution addressing the climate change implications of a bank’s external financing — specifically requesting that Citi cease all funding the coal industry — came to a vote. Though the measure failed, Citi’s CEO Vikram Pandit and Chairman Sir Win Bischoff were caught off guard by a request from Rebecca Tarbotton, director of RAN’s Global Finance Campaign, inviting them to accompany her on a flight over Appalachia to witness the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining.

Days later in Charlotte, N.C., RAN activists confronted Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis at his bank’s annual general shareholder meeting. While Bank of America’s involvement in the sub-prime mortgage crisis was paramount leading up to the meeting, it was the bank’s destructive investments in mountaintop removal coal mining and the construction of the new coal-fired power plants — came to a vote. Though the measure failed, Citi’s CEO Vikram Pandit and Chairman Sir Win Bischoff were caught off guard by a request from Rebecca Tarbotton, director of RAN’s Global Finance Campaign, inviting them to accompany her on a flight over Appalachia to witness the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining.

**RAN’s Protect-an-Acre program (PAA) is a small grants program that contributes directly to forest communities struggling to protect their homelands and the natural resources based on which they rely. Groups supported by PAA are working to protect endangered ecosystems and preserve their cultural heritage through various means, such as land title initiatives, community education, development of sustainable economic alternatives, and grassroots resistance to destructive industrial activities.**

Following are a few of our recent grants and the projects they supported:

**Racimoss de Ungarahu – $3,000 (Peru)**

PAA funds helped support representatives from Racimoss de Ungarahu and the Indigenous Achuar federations FECONACO, AIM and TIN to travel from the Peruvian Amazon to Calgary and Los Angeles to engage directly with corporate officials of Talisman Energy and Occidental Petroleum (OXY) at their annual shareholder meetings. Talisman is planning to explore for oil on two enormous tracts of rainforest in Peru, while OXY continues to defy a court order to clean up billions of barrels of toxic waste it left behind in Peru.

**Grassy Narrows first Nation – (Ontario, Canada)**

RAN is proud to announce the creation of a special Protect-an-Acre fund dedicated to projects developed and implemented by and for the people of Grassy Narrows for the purpose of continuing to defend their traditional lands.

To contribute directly to Grassy Narrows’ Protect-an-Acre fund, contact Tracy Solum at (415) 659-0513 or email tsolum@ran.org.

**Students raise money to support Protect-an-Acre**

It’s easy to raise money to help protect the world’s rainforests and support Indigenous people. Just ask Karen May’s fifth grade class at Virginia Park Elementary School in Modesto, Calif. Inspired by the story of Swedish schoolchildren, Karen and her classmates raised $311.40 for Protect-an-Acre!

To learn how your school can help support Protect-an-Acre, contact Tracy Solum at (415) 659-0513 or email tsolum@ran.org.
Save the Date for
REVEL 2008
A benefit so fun it should be illegal!

Don’t miss it for the world!
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008 6 P.M. - LATE
FORT MASON CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO

Treat yourself and your friends to a fabulous night of artful cocktails and scrumptious hors d’oeuvres; a seasonal, local, organic dinner with fine wines; a silent auction stocked with incredible eco-goods; live entertainment and dancing; and an awards ceremony honoring Bill McKibben and Doug and Kris Tompkins—all to raise critical funds for RAN’s work.

To purchase tables and tickets, please visit www.ran.org/give/revel or contact Katie Steele at (415) 659-0537 or ksteele@ran.org.

RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK
Environmentalism with Teeth

In 1994, RAN became one of the first environmental groups to embrace the internet by going live with RAN.org. We’ve come a long way since then, but the site has always served as a powerful and essential tool for disseminating information about our campaigns, connecting with activists and supporters, and educating the public.

This spring, RAN.org got a major facelift. Though it may look different, RAN.org remains the best source of breaking news on our campaigns and ways to get involved or donate to RAN.

Anything you’d like to see on RAN.org? Email us at webmaster@ran.org.