



COAL FIELD UPRISING

Campaign to stop mountaintop removal escalates

PHOTO: KENT KESSINGER / APPALACHIAN VOICES

Recently, leading climate scientist, James Hansen, said that he believes the clear step to stopping global warming is to put a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants. How do we do this? Hansen says that banning mountaintop removal coal mining is the obvious place to start.

After four years campaigning on coal and climate change, we could not agree more. It is very clear that to mitigate the worst effects of global climate change we must stop burning fossil fuels, coal primarily among them. With Big Coal entrenched in Washington politics this is not a trivial feat. Abolishing the practice of mountaintop removal coal mining, which is 7% of the country's coal use will go a long way toward reaching this goal.

Not only is banning mountaintop removal a critical step to ending our country's coal addiction and moving us to a clean energy economy, it is also crucial for protecting the health and history of Appalachian communities.

Mountaintop removal mines use more explosive power than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Mining companies are clear-cutting thousands of acres of some of the world's most biologically diverse forests. They're burying biologically crucial headwaters streams with blasting debris, releasing toxic levels of heavy metals into the remaining streams and groundwater and poisoning essential drinking water. Mountaintop removal is an American tragedy, and almost nobody knows about.

That's why RAN has committed to stopping this outdated, dangerous practice—and with your help we will do it by next year. As RAN Executive Director Michael Brune says: "We are all complicit in mountaintop removal whenever we turn on our lights, and we are all responsible to stop it."

We elevated our campaign to stop mountaintop removal this June with two incendiary actions in West Virginia. First, a team of activists scaled a 20-story tall 'dragline' mining machine to call attention to this

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LEADING CLIMATE SCIENTIST ARRESTED
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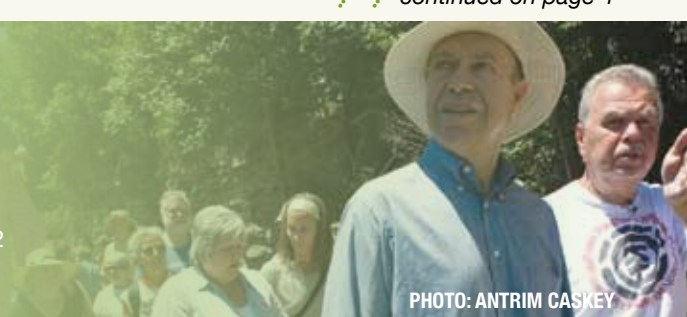


PHOTO: ANTRIM CASKEY

INDONESIA'S RAINFORESTS THREATENED BY PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

By Lafcadio Cortesi, Forest Campaign Director

The rainforests of Southeast Asia are some of the most incredible places on earth – and among the most biologically and culturally important. They're also disappearing at an alarming rate.

Indonesia is cutting down rainforests faster than any other nation on earth, causing massive global greenhouse gas emissions, destroying communities, threatening unique ecosystems and pushing species like orangutans and Sumatran tigers to extinction.

But that's not all.

Indonesia is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter on earth (after the U.S. and China) mainly due to emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. When rainforests are cut down and burned, they release massive amounts of carbon dioxide. Tropical rainforests are one of our best defenses against global warming because of their ability to absorb and store greenhouse gasses that are released into the atmosphere.

Indonesia is particularly important because of peatlands. Many of the forests being cut down are on peat swamps that store massive amounts of carbon. To develop this land, all the trees are burned and the swamps are drained, releasing huge bursts of global warming gases into the atmosphere.

This destruction is driven by market demand for cheap commodities

for global markets like copy paper, shopping bags, palm oil, and agrofuels. RAN's Forest Program is tackling the lead drivers of this destruction – market demand in the United States for palm oil and paper products.

Building on momentum from our highly successfully Rainforest Agribusiness Campaign, RAN is gearing up to launch a campaign to address the demand for paper products that is driving the conversion of Indonesian rainforests to pulp and paper plantations.

Research shows that nearly 100 fashion and luxury products companies buy their custom packaging products from Pak 2000, an affiliate of Sinar Mas Group's Asia Pulp & Paper (APP). APP is Indonesia's largest forest destroyer – so bad that reputable certification bodies refuse to talk to them at all.

There is no reason to use paper that destroys forests and the climate. By engaging some of the most important and high profile users of pulp and paper, RAN's campaign will harness market pressure and public awareness to prevent further destruction of our climate as well as helping to save the unique rainforests of Indonesia.



You can help launch this campaign!
Make a donation today at RAN.org/give.

PHOTO: GREENPEACE

RAN TARGETS CANADA'S LARGEST BANK

Unlikely appeal to RBC First Lady highlights bank's financing of tar sands



MEMBERS OF TORONTO RAN GATHER OUTSIDE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (RBC) URGING THE WIFE OF CEO GORDON NIXON TO STOP FINANCING THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE PROJECT ON EARTH - THE ALBERTA TAR SANDS. PHOTO: JONATHAN MACINTOSH

On July 28, RAN appealed directly to Janet Nixon – a noted Canadian environmentalist and the wife of Royal Bank of Canada's (RBC) CEO, Gordon Nixon – to help end her husband's company's massive bankrolling of the Alberta tar sands.

During the rush-hour commute, two Indigenous Canadian women – RAN Freedom From Oil campaigner Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, and Heather Milton-Lightening – scaled 50-foot flagpoles in front of the main entrance of RBC's headquarters in Toronto, unfurling a 15' x 30' banner reading "Please Help Us Mrs. Nixon.com." On the streets below, activists from the Toronto RAN chapter held banners and handed out flyers to passing crowds of onlookers and stunned RBC executives.

At the same time as the banner was being unfurled at RBC's Toronto headquarters, RAN supporters and allies began emailing an unusual video to key RBC executives – a video in which RAN's Michael Brune personally appeals to Mrs. Nixon to help RBC regain its environmental leadership by withdrawing its funding for the tar sands. To date, more than 3,000 RAN supporters have sent more than 12,000 emails to these top RBC execs.

The actions followed a week-long buzz around mysterious "please help us Mrs. Nixon" posters appearing all over downtown Toronto, and highlighted the stark contrast between RBC's status as the top financier of the Alberta tar sands, and the company's PR promises to promote clean water. Last year, RBC launched their Blue Water Project, an initiative "committed to donating \$50 million toward global fresh water initiatives over the next ten years." In contrast to the \$3 million dollars actually released in water quality improvement donations

under the program in the first year, RBC made \$2.2 billion in loans in 2007 alone to oil and gas companies operating in the Alberta tar sands, one of Canada's largest sources of water pollution.

Extraction of oil from the Alberta tar sands is a major contributor to climate change, resulting in three times more global warming-causing greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil. Tar sands development is turning once pristine stretches of forest into desolate, post-apocalyptic landscapes and producing toxic pollution that is harmful to the health and quality of life of the region's First Nations.



Check out the video at: PleasethelpUsMrsNixon.com



Learn more about RBC's tar sands investments at ClimateFriendlyBanking.org or ran.org/tarsands



You can help support this campaign!
Make a donation today at RAN.org/give.

CALVERT DIVESTS FROM WEYERHAEUSER CITING CONCERNS IN GRASSY NARROWS

On June 15, Calvert Investments, the largest socially responsible investment group in the U.S., officially removed Weyerhaeuser from the Calvert Social Index of sustainable and responsible companies due to the logging giant's failure to meet standards for respecting Indigenous People's rights. In their decision to de-list Weyerhaeuser, Calvert specifically cited strong concerns regarding Weyerhaeuser's ongoing controversy with the Grassy Narrows First Nation in the Boreal Forest of Northwestern Ontario. RAN has been working closely with the Grassy Narrows First Nation to stop logging on their traditional territory without the community's consent. RAN actions helped pressure Boise, Inc. to stop sourcing paper from Grassy Narrows which led to logger AbitibiBowater's announcement to withdraw from logging in the region last year. Calvert's actions are the latest blow to Weyerhaeuser and mark a huge victory for Indigenous rights worldwide.

AUTOMAKERS ENDORSE TOUGHER GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION LEGISLATION

On May 19, the Obama Administration announced new national fuel economy standards that match those enacted by the state of California in 2004. This is a significant victory for RAN's Freedom from Oil campaign, whose central goal has always been to break America's addiction to oil. Such standards were opposed vigorously by the automakers, who together with their lobby group, The Alliance of Auto Manufacturers, sued California and 12 other states for attempting to enact similar standards. Central to the automakers' arguments at the time was the claim that a "patchwork" of regulations would create an undue burden, favoring a weaker national standard while actively opposing any meaningful increases in fuel economy or reduction of vehicular emissions. What the Obama Administration's new regulations accomplish is quite remarkable: it creates a national standard based on the most progressive states, while giving automakers no choice but to embrace them.

The PANTHER

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COAL FIELD UPRISING

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ACTIVISTS APPROACH THE 150-FOOT DRAGLINE WHILE DEPLOYING A 20' x 40 FOOT BANNER READING "STOP MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL: CLEAN ENERGY NOW" AT A MASSEY ENERGY MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING SITE NEAR TWILIGHT, WEST VIRGINIA.



abominable mining practice. With precision and commitment the team was the first ever to climb a dragline, a massive piece of equipment that removes house-sized chunks of blasted rock and earth to expose the coal beneath.


A week later, climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, actress Daryl Hannah, former Representative Ken Heckler, RAN's Michael Brune and Goldman Prize winner Judy Bonds were arrested along with dozens of Coal River Valley, WV residents and allies. Participants crossing onto the property of leading mountaintop removal coal mining company, Massey Energy—purposely trespassing to protest the destruction of mountains and communities immediately above the Coal River Valley community. The action was one big step toward helping to amplify the issue of mountaintop removal out of the hills and hollers of West Virginia and into national attention.




Our work to stop mountaintop removal this year has momentum on our side. As we move forward we are going after two of the biggest pillars that keep this practice standing: the money behind mountaintop removal, JPMorgan Chase, and the administration that could abolish it, President Obama's EPA.

As Judy Bonds says: "It's way past time for civil disobedience to stop mountaintop removal and move quickly toward clean, renewable energy sources." So get ready for your invitation to join us in the streets, the boardroom, the halls of government—and then at our victory party to celebrate the end of mountaintop removal.



 **Take Action!** Go to <http://ga3.org/campaign/chase> and tell JP Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon to invest in renewable energy, not the most destructive coal mining on Earth.

Jamie Dimon, CEO, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
270 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017-2070

 You can support this campaign and help stop mountaintop removal! Make a donation today at RAN.org/give.

PHOTOS (AT LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM): FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FOR WEST VIRGINIA KEN HECKLER, 94; RAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL BRUNE; ACTOR AND ACTIVIST DARYL HANNAH. PHOTOS BY ANTRIM CASKEY

FROM THE CANOPY

By Michael Brune, RAN Executive Director

PHOTO: DANIEL BRENNWALD

Arrested in West Virginia -- A First-Person Account

Dear friends,

In June I spent a few days in West Virginia to help bring an end to mountaintop removal. We've made it a top priority at Rainforest Action Network. On June 18, 14 citizens were arrested in a high-altitude protest against leading mountaintop removal mining company Massey Energy. That Saturday, *The New York Times* stepped in with an editorial, "More than Stoppaps for Appalachia," saying that the recent announcement from the Obama Administration, while a sign of progress, doesn't solve the problem, because:

It still leaves in place the destructive Bush rules that essentially legalized the practice of dumping harmful waste in valleys and streams. The Obama administration has pledged to restore the old buffer zone restriction. But it has said nothing at all about redefining mining waste as an illegal pollutant, which it was before the Bush people came along. A bill before the House would do exactly that. The administration should do it first.

The following week, on June 23, a reported 800 people — including a hundred or so coal miners gathered in opposition — rallied at Marsh Fork Elementary School in West Virginia's Coal River Valley. Following the rally, I joined Dr. James Hansen, Goldman Prize winner Judy Bonds, Daryl Hannah, local organizer Bo Webb and more than two dozen other residents in an act of peaceful civil disobedience at the Massey coal processing facility adjacent to the school.

There was extremely high tension in the days leading up to the demonstration. Upon learning that Dr. Hansen would be joining the protest, Massey CEO Don Blankenship challenged the NASA scientist to a debate on climate change. Goading Dr. Hansen and other residents, Blankenship stated in a press release:

While I don't recall anyone inviting out-of-state environmental protesters from San Francisco and a Hollywood actress to Massey's property on June 23, I'm more than willing to invite Dr. Hansen to have a factual discussion about coal mining in West Virginia...

Blankenship upped the ante at the event, giving time off to some of his loudest and most bellicose workers to come intimidate their neighbors. During the rally, miners tirelessly taunted each speaker, even shouting down local Reverend Jim Lewis while he gave a short prayer.

I can't remember a more charged atmosphere. The majority of people surrounded one-half of the stage, supporting each speaker calling for an end to mountain blasting. Separated by police, the remainder crowded around the rest of the stage, wearing Massey

t-shirts and shouting their disapproval. I spoke shortly after Ken Heckler, the 94-year-old former Congressional Representative who has decried the effects of mountaintop removal in his region for more than three decades. "I want to thank Don Blankenship for inviting me to this rally," I began, to a mixture of catcalls and applause. I told the crowd that mountaintop removal isn't just a local issue, it's an American problem — brought to us by Massey Energy and other coal companies.

When utility companies wanted to dam the Grand Canyon, people across the country, not just in Arizona, rallied to protect an American treasure. And when loggers were liquidating ancient redwoods in California's Headwaters Forest, Americans from every state exercised their right to preserve part of our natural legacy. Whether it was to end segregation or to honor women's right to vote, Americans have always exercised their voice. And the tragedy of destroying mountains and burying streams for relatively small amounts of coal can't be ignored by people in any state.

Then I turned to the miners. "I understand why you're here," I said. "I have two young children myself, and know the pressures of needing to feed your family." Personally, I think it's criminal the way workers in West Virginia are being treated by coal companies and government officials. Mountaintop removal is an abomination, and all bluster from miners aside, it can't feel good to be blowing up your own backyard.

Let's be clear: this is a test of the Obama Administration's resolve to stimulate a clean energy economy. High winds throughout much of central Appalachia present an excellent opportunity for investments in clean and renewable wind power. The Coal River Valley, slated to be blasted by Massey Energy, could support a 328-megawatt wind farm. It's one of the few places in the country where both the cause of climate change and its solution can be found in the exact same location. Will we make a deep commitment to clean energy and green jobs in the U.S.? Or will Big Coal continue to intimidate Americans from the coal fields to the Beltway?

For a better world,

Michael Brune
Executive Director



protect-an-acre

EMPOWERING FOREST COMMUNITIES

There can be no solution to the problem of deforestation that doesn't include Indigenous People's rights. RAN's Protect-an-Acre program is an alternative to "buy-an-acre" programs that seek to provide rainforest protection by buying tracks of land, but which often fail to address the needs or rights of local Indigenous communities.

Our latest installment of Protect-an-Acre grants supported community efforts to defend forests from the Amazon and Cerrado in South America to the Canadian Boreal to the largest rainforest area remaining in the Asia-Pacific region in Papua New Guinea. The following are highlights from this latest grant cycle:

PHOTO: GREENPEACE

Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSESP)

Peru

\$3,000 to provide emergency support to the Indigenous movement in the Peruvian Amazon carrying out blockades to demand a suspension of oil, gas and mining concessions in the Amazon, and the repeal of several new laws drafted to comply with a free trade agreement with the United States. These trade agreements take away community land rights and allow companies to enter Indigenous land with no prior consultation or even warning. In addition, RAN was able to channel \$5,000 to AIDSESP in emergency support through Global Greengrants Fund.



PHOTO BY THOMAS QUIRYNEN

Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group (on behalf of Grassy Narrows youth)

Ontario, Canada

\$5,000 to support a three day gathering of youth from Grassy Narrows (who were the initiators of the community's blockade on their traditional territory to prevent logging) and other First Nations communities, including workshops on traditional skills and leadership building, sweat lodges and traditional feasts and discussions led by Indigenous leaders on tribal and treaty history and Indigenous land rights in a broader context.

Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre

Ontario, Canada

\$3,000 to support a First Nations youth conference, focused on raising awareness around the topic of climate change and providing a forum for the youth to share their concerns and vision for the future

of their territory. The seven communities in Ontario that belong to the Mushkegowuk Council participated.

Mobilization of Indigenous People of the Cerrado (MOPIC)

Ontario, Canada

\$5,000 to support the production of a documentary focusing on Bunge and Cargill's operations in the heart of the Brazilian Cerrado in Mato Grosso. It will be used to raise awareness and as an organizing tool to engage and empower communities on the frontlines of soy expansion, some of whom have fields coming right up to the border of their titled land.

Oro Community Environmental Action Network (OCEAN)

Oro Province, Papua New Guinea

\$4,000 to support community outreach, education, and organizing in the Musa Pongani area of Oro Province, Papua New Guinea to

resist new logging permit applications covering 250,000 hectares approved by the government without consultation as 99-year leases for Musa Century Landowners Company, a syndicate of Asian companies.

Protect-an Acre is an integral part of RAN's commitment to halting the destruction of the world's forests while also supporting the livelihoods and right to self-determination of forest communities.



To learn more about how you can support RAN's Protect-an-Acre Program, please visit www.ran.org/paa.

DISPATCH FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE COAL FIELDS

Checking in with RAN co-founder Mike Roselle

Mike Roselle has been a leading force in the environmental movement across the U.S. and internationally for decades, helping to protect old growth forests, stop exploitive mining and resist nuclear power with heroic direct actions. Mike is a co-founder of Rainforest Action Network, as well as Earth First! and the Ruckus Society. He is a former Forest Campaign director of Greenpeace USA and more recently is the author of the book, *Treespiker!* From Earth First! to Lowbagging: My Struggles in Radical Environmental Action.

We caught up with Mike recently in West Virginia where he has been working with Climate Ground Zero to bring national attention to the egregious practice of mountaintop removal (MTR).

When RAN was founded, what role did you envision for the organization? How do you feel RAN has filled that space over the years?

Back in 1982, Randy Hayes and I were both trying to develop a grassroots response to the rapid loss of tropical rainforests. No one was doing that. Randy's approach was to support the Indigenous groups on the ground in the rainforest countries and I was more focused on putting pressure on multi-national corporations like Burger King to get out of the business of destroying rainforests. RAN still combines these two strategies and has gone on to lead the environmental movement in new directions with very aggressive and innovative campaigns. I'm very proud of that.

You've been at the forefront of some of the most important environmental struggles of our time for many years. What led you to focusing your current efforts on MTR?

I met Judy Bonds at a Heartwood Forest Council meeting in Kentucky six years ago. I knew a little about MTR, but I really didn't know what I didn't know. Judy is the sort of person who can really communicate the urgency of the issue. She said you had to see it to really believe it. I came for a visit shortly afterward and she was right. I was shocked, as everyone who's seen it has been. I have been visiting regularly since and have been helping mostly with training and fundraising. Last year, I was asked if I would move to the Coal River Valley and open an office. I did last July and it's been quite an education. Ultimately, it was the opportunity to work with such great people that really attracted me.

How do you view the struggle to end mountaintop removal in Appalachia as an issue of national significance and how can RAN supporters add their voice to this struggle?

Al Gore has said that climate change is the moral issue of our time, yet any serious effort

to deal with the problem is always blocked by the coal industry. The coal industry depends on elected politicians from the coal producing states for their power, yet most of the residents are against blowing up mountains. These politicians survive only by creating an atmosphere of fear in the coal producing regions like Raleigh County where I now live, making it difficult and risky for the residents to speak out. By bringing an international campaign to the coalfields we can help to ensure that these voices are heard, and we can help to change the political climate here in West Virginia.

Robert Kennedy, Jr. has called mountaintop removal the most serious environmental crime on this planet. It is also against federal laws that were designed to protect our streams and rivers, three thousands miles of which have already been buried. If we cannot stop mountaintop removal, we have little chance of winning the battle against climate change. There is currently legislation in Congress that would stop MTR. Everyone should contact their congressional representatives and demand that they take action.

When you reflect on your direct involvement with RAN, what event stands out most clearly in your mind?

My favorite memory was of being invited to Costa Rica by the government after Burger King had cancelled all of their contracts to buy rainforest beef. Responding to the four-year RAN Burger King boycott, they had passed a new law forbidding the conversion of any more tropical rainforests into cattle pastures. They were under the impression that RAN was some big, wealthy American environmental organization and did their best to convince us that they were going to comply with our terms. I had dinner with the president. This convinced me that real progress is rarely made without strong action and confrontation, and that sometimes your most vocal opponents turn into new allies. I also remember some of the great parties we'd have, but that's another story.



PHOTO: ANTRIM CASKEY

RAN RECOMMENDS:

OPERATION REDWOOD:

Operation Redwood follows the adventures and misadventures of four children as they try to save a grove of old-growth redwoods. Inspired by Julia Butterfly Hill's real-life story, Julian Carter-Li and friends embark on an ambitious campaign leading to thoughtful discoveries around ecology, social activism and humans' responsibility to the planet.

The book is the debut from S. Terrell French, a former environmental lawyer and graduate of Harvard College and Berkeley Law. *Operation Redwood* has drawn praise from activists, teachers, and librarians for its captivating environmental theme, fast-paced plot and multicultural cast of characters and was chosen by independent bookstores nationwide as a "Summer of 2009 Top Ten" pick for kids.

Check your local independent bookstore for Operation Redwood or visit OperationRedwood.com.



RAN's Legacy Society is designed to recognize individuals who have chosen to support RAN through their will or other beneficiary designation. Legacy Society Members are those who include RAN in their estate plan, either through a bequest, charitable trust or other planned giving method.

Planned giving plays a vital role in ensuring RAN's ability to sustain our work into the future and is recognized as one of the most effective ways to give.

Along with many great benefits of becoming a member, joining RAN's Legacy Society enables you to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to keep RAN at the forefront of the environmental movement for years to come.

For more information about becoming a founding member of RAN's Legacy Society, please contact Scott Kocino at skocino@ran.org or (415) 659-0548.