



# HOPE FOR INDONESIA'S RAINFORESTS

Agribusiness giant Cargill takes first steps toward more responsible palm oil

PHOTO: RHETT A. BUTLER / MONGABAY.COM

If the first step towards ending an addiction is to admit you have a problem, Cargill is finally on the way to breaking free of its dependence on palm oil and rainforest destruction. After three years of pressure and smart campaigning by RAN, Cargill has started taking small steps towards recognizing that the palm oil they buy and sell has serious impacts on Indonesia's rainforests, communities and the world's climate.

Following the release of RAN's report detailing the problems on Cargill's own Indonesian plantations and an action shutting down the company's executive offices for a day, Cargill announced that the company will be partnering with World Wildlife Fund to begin an audit of its supply chain. Cargill has also hired an independent

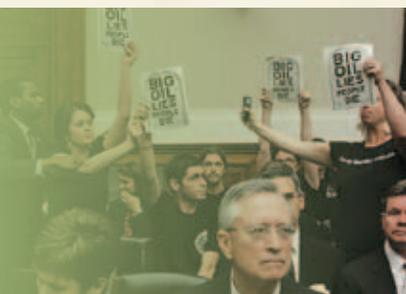
auditor to investigate problems on the plantations that the report examined, and have invited RAN to comment on that process.

These are important first steps. Knowing the impacts of their own supply chain on rainforests will be necessary if the company is to stop sourcing problematic, orangutan-destroying palm oil. However, Cargill doesn't have to wait for the audit results to drop suppliers, like Sinar Mas, that have already publicly been identified as problematic.

Cargill, however, is still stubbornly clinging to its old ways of doing business, proclaiming that its audits represent the type of incremental progress that is necessary to move the company

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towards a solution.

Rainforest destruction doesn't happen incrementally, unfortunately, it's an urgent problem. In the coming months, RAN will be keeping the pressure on Cargill to ensure it moves faster toward becoming a part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.



Take Action! Tell Cargill CEO Gregory Page to stop razing rainforests for palm oil.

Write to:  
Gregory R. Page, CEO, Cargill  
15617 McGinty Rd.  
Wayzata, MN 55391



You can help support this campaign!  
Make a donation today at [RAN.org/give](http://RAN.org/give).



## GENERAL MILLS TO ADOPT RESPONSIBLE PALM OIL POLICY

Since January, RAN has been campaigning against General Mills, asking America's favorite food company to stop using palm oil derived from Indonesian rainforests. General Mills uses the controversial oil in over 100 of its products, and purchases oil from Cargill, who both produces and trades palm oil that is directly contributing to rainforest destruction.

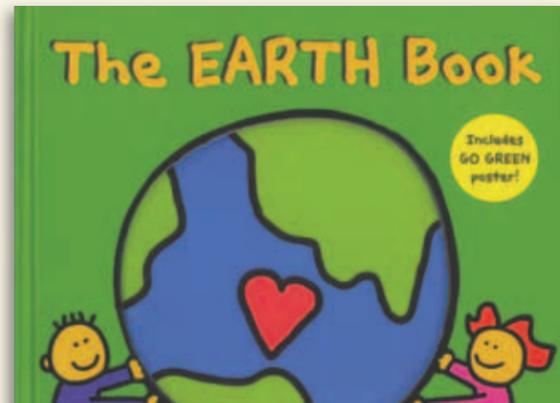
After months of direct pressure by RAN supporters, General Mills has promised us that they will develop a policy statement that guarantees rainforest destruction will no longer be the hidden ingredient in their products. The company is expected to announce the policy as soon as their annual shareholder meeting at the end of September.

TOP: LAND CLEARING AT CARGILL-OWNED PLANTATION PT INDO SAWIT KEKAL IN BORNEO, INDONESIA. PHOTO: DAVID GILBERT / RAN;  
ABOVE: POSTER FOR GENERAL MILLS CAMPAIGN CREATED BY ANDII BUNAAG AND NICK PYPHER-HOLZ / WHIPPER-SNAPPER MPLS.

## RAN RELEASES RAINFOREST-SAFE BOOK LIST

Just in time for summer reading, RAN has released a list of 25 children's books that are "rainforest-safe." The list features books printed on post-consumer recycled, FSC-certified or recycled paper, allowing parents the assurance of knowing that their children's books are not contributing to the loss of endangered rainforests in Indonesia. In May, RAN issued a report finding that a majority of the top ten U.S. children's publishers are printing picture books on paper linked to the destruction of Indonesia's forests.

VIEW THE FULL LIST OF RAINFOREST-SAFE BOOKS AT [RAN.ORG/READINGLIST](http://RAN.ORG/READINGLIST).



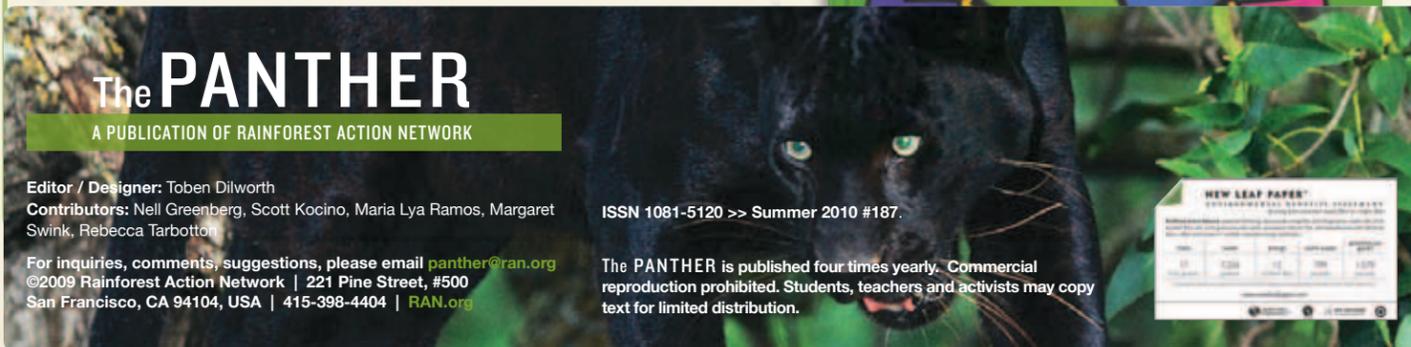
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## FROM THE CANOPY

By Rebecca Tarbotton, RAN Executive Director

PHOTOS: DAVID GILBERT

*Dear friends,*

Would you be surprised if I told you that this might just be RAN's best year ever? Let me tell you about the progress we're making.

Because of our campaigns, six of the world's largest banks that financed mountaintop removal mining – one of America's greatest environmental tragedies – have released policies that cut off financing to MTR companies, particularly Massey Energy. General Mills is on the cusp of phasing out palm oil grown on the rubble of Indonesia's burned out forests. The EPA is starting to stand up to the coal industry and Royal Bank of Canada is very likely to name Free Prior and Informed Consent as the highest standard to guide lending in the tar sands. Every one of our campaigns are gaining ground.

These successes, however, have sadly occurred against the backdrop of environmental tragedy around the globe. For many of us, it has been difficult to stay positive amidst the crushing news of forest fires in Russia, flooding in Pakistan and India and the disaster left by the BP oil spill. All these tragedies were made more vivid by the fifth anniversary of Katrina, reminding us that the ramifications of "natural" disasters last for years, even for generations.

In June, RAN helped bring a delegation of Ecuadorians who have been dealing with the effects of Chevron's massive oil spill in the Amazon for almost two decades up to the Gulf Coast to meet with the local Houma people who were confronting the fresh devastation of BP's oil spill. It was a stark reminder of the long shadow cast by our addiction to fossil fuels.

It has become very clear these past few months through our successes, through the terrifying string of climate disasters, and of course through Washington's inability to pass climate legislation, that we are facing a watershed moment.

At RAN, we have never been more convinced that bold legislative action on climate can only be possible when we pry corporate

polluters away from Washington so that legislators and regulators can do their jobs. We've seen with the death of climate legislation and the BP oil spill, the stranglehold that corporate polluters have on decision-makers and we need to reverse that power dynamic. To achieve this, we need mass civil disobedience of the scale of the civil rights movement AND we need those organizations that work within the beltway, doing what they do best. There's not only room for everyone, but we sorely need the unique skills and perspectives that come from every corner of our diverse country, not just Washington. Solutions built in people's backyards, in town halls and in corporate boardrooms will surely be the most powerful solutions ever brought to the corridors of Capitol Hill.

One of the best ways to do this is to de-fang corporate polluters, whether they are agribusiness companies like Cargill purchasing cheap palm oil at the expense of some of the last standing natural forest in Indonesia, or oil companies scraping oil out of Alberta's tar sands to feed America's SUV's.

How do we de-fang these companies? That's where you come in. Every time you make a call to one of our corporate targets, or walk out your door and join a protest, or write a letter denouncing a company's continued destruction of rainforest, you are joining the fray and adding your voice to the growing chorus of people who are demanding a different future – one that is powered by the sun, fed by fresh, local food and built from the ground up by each one of us.

For the forests,

Rebecca Tarbotton  
Executive Director



# BEYOND THE GULF THE TRUE COST OF OIL

Words cannot describe the way each and every one of us has felt watching the worst oil catastrophe in this country's history unfold over the Gulf of Mexico these past few months. The true cost of our addiction to oil could not appear more staggering, and while the images can quickly fade from political view, the realities on the ground will remain to the communities left to live with the impacts.

From coast to coast and country to country, frontline communities have borne the brunt of Big Oil's destruction and our addiction to oil. But these communities are also where the movement to demand freedom from oil begins.

On June 27, RAN and Amazon Watch hosted a week-long journey through the Gulf bringing together a delegation of Indigenous leaders from Ecuadorean rainforest communities with the Houma people and other Bayou American Indian tribes impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. The cultural exchange was an incredible act of solidarity, as well as an historic opportunity to share personal experiences of the devastation oil companies have caused and the fears they have for the future of their communities.

Joining us from Ecuador was Luis Yanza, Goldman Prize winner and coordinator of the Amazon Defense Front; Humberto Piaguaje, leader of the Secoya people; Emergildo Criollo, leader of the Cofán people; and Mariana Jimenez, community leader and elder. They were received in the Gulf by Michael Dardar, vice principal chief of the United Houma Nation; Brenda Dardar Robichaux, former Principal Chief of the United Houma Nation; and Rosina Philippe of the Atakapa-Ishak tribe, Grand Bayou Village community.

Although the assembled Indigenous leaders were separated by language and geography, they shared a common story. From Louisiana to Ecuador (and many lands in between) oil companies expropriate traditional land, cut corners on safety to cut costs, dump their toxic waste into poor communities, and leave a legacy of illness, poverty and destruction for which the oil companies refuse to accept responsibility.

Emergildo, Humberto, Mariana and Luis know all too well Big Oil's legacy of denying, delaying and litigating away responsibility for its reckless behavior. They have

been fighting a decades-long legal battle to get Chevron to pay for the 18 billion gallons of highly toxic waste that was dumped into their water. As we walked along the deserted, oil-stained beach in Grand Isle, Brenda Dardar Robichaux explained how struck she was by the similarity of her story to theirs.

The last night of the trip culminated with a large community forum attended by fisherfolk, members of various Louisiana tribes and First Nation leaders from British Columbia where the visitors from Ecuador presented a report to Gulf communities entitled "The Lasting Stain of Oil: Cautionary Tales and Lessons from the Amazon."

Whether it's BP's ruin of the Gulf, Chevron's "Amazon Chernobyl" or Exxon's deadly spill in Alaska, one thing is crystal clear: we must end our addiction to oil and herald in a clean energy future. Our experience in the Gulf inspired us to see how communities can come together to find ways to hold reckless, criminal oil companies like BP and Chevron accountable – a critical step in building a movement strong enough to hold Big Oil and our politicians accountable.

In solidarity,  
Maria Ramos  
Change Chevron Campaign Director



PHILIP SIMMONS TAKES HOUMA AND ECUADOREAN LEADERS TO SEE BP'S OIL DISASTER OFF OF PORT SULPHUR, LOUISIANA. PHOTO: JONATHAN MCINTOSH / RAN



# THE TRUE COST OF CHEVRON



ABOVE: THE ARCHITECT OF CHEVRON'S ACQUISITION OF TEXACO IN 2001 – CHEVRON'S NEW CEO JOHN WATSON – HAS FAILED TO BRING NEEDED RELIEF TO SUFFERING COMMUNITIES IN ECUADOR. PHOTO BY LOU DEMATTEIS / REDUX, FROM THE BOOK "CRUDE REFLECTIONS: OIL, RUIN AND RESISTANCE IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST" (CITY LIGHTS BOOKS); BELOW: ACTIVISTS BRING THE TRUE COST OF CHEVRON'S OIL OPERATIONS TO THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN HOUSTON. PHOTOS: JONATHAN MCINTOSH / RAN.

While the BP oil explosion and massive oil spill into the Gulf of Mexico has captured the world's attention and outrage, RAN has not forgotten another tragedy at the hands of a greed-driven oil corporation: Chevron in Ecuador. It has now been nine years since Chevron's \$45 million acquisition of Texaco (the original operator in Ecuador), and with it – the inheritance of an historic environmental lawsuit to clean up the oil giant's massive oil contamination in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest. So in late May, at Watson's first shareholder meeting since taking the helm at Chevron, leaders from Ecuador – joined by Chevron-affected community members from around the world – confronted Mr. Watson to demand accountability for the company's atrocious record of human rights abuses and environmental destruction.

On May 25, the eve of Chevron's annual shareholders meeting, RAN joined with 27 representatives from a global coalition of communities impacted by Chevron's operations for a press conference at the base of the oil giant's Houston skyscraper to release a groundbreaking report, "The True Cost of Chevron: an Alternative 2009 Annual Report."

The report, written by dozens of community leaders from sixteen countries and ten states across the United States where Chevron operates, thoroughly documents the impact of Chevron's activities, from coal to chemicals, offshore to onshore oil production, pipelines to refineries, natural gas to toxic waste, and lobbying and campaign contributions to deceptive greenwashing.

The following day, while CEO John Watson described Chevron as a "good neighbor" to shareholders, 20 delegates who had traveled from Angola, Australia, Burma, Nigeria, Ecuador and Alaska were denied entrance to the meeting despite having all necessary credentials – a move that clearly violates the spirit of SEC standards for corporate governance. In response to being shut out of the

meeting, four activists took part in a sit-in at the meeting's entrance while others set up a peaceful blockade in their support.

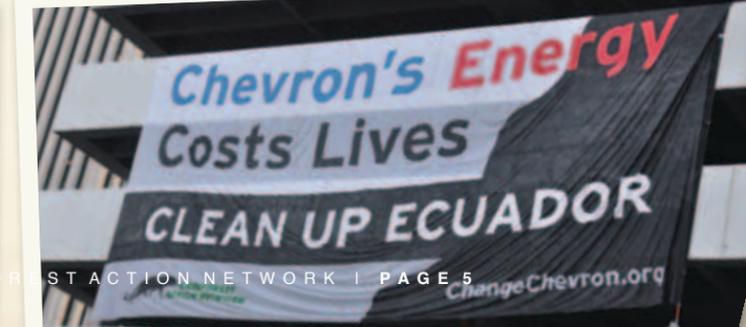
Inside the meeting, the tone was similarly tense. In response to questions from 71-year old Mariana Jimenez, who lost family members to oil pollution caused by Chevron in Ecuador, Watson replied that while "It is very clear to us there is pollution in your area...I have a responsibility to protect my shareholders from this fraud." He later stated that Chevron has been "richly rewarded" by the acquisition of Texaco.

Guillermo Grefa, an Indigenous leader from Ecuador who was refused entry into the shareholder meeting, responded outside that "We don't need empathy from Chevron, we need them to accept full responsibility for the pain and suffering they have caused our people and clean up Ecuador now."

As the meeting progressed and tensions mounted, it became clear that Chevron had lost control of the meeting. After Antonia Juhasz, lead editor of the report, delivered a scathing analysis of Chevron's global environmental and human rights abuses, Watson threw his arms up in the air and abruptly ended the meeting.

At the end of the day, Chevron reaffirmed its hostility toward its critics. But the growing movement to change Chevron is clearly gaining steam. Five of the six shareholder resolutions on this year's proxy ballot directly challenged the company's stance on human rights and environmental issues. One resolution, stemming from concern over its liability in Ecuador, received 26 percent of shareholder votes, representing \$38 billion in shareholder value.

With your continued support, we will change Chevron!  
Make a donation today at [RAN.org/give](http://RAN.org/give).





## 1986: RAN HANGS FIRST BANNER OFF THE WORLD BANK'S WASHINGTON, D.C. HEADQUARTERS

Since its founding, Rainforest Action Network has worked to redefine globalization in terms of sustainability. A hallmark of our success in the last 25 years lies in our strategy of targeting the financial sector for its complicity in funding destructive projects around the world. While our recent work has focused on Wall Street, RAN was one of the first organizations inside the U.S. to actively campaign against the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) - all government institutions - for bankrolling the systematic destruction of tropical rainforests around the world while imposing mountains of debt on the world's poorest countries.

Founded in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference, The World Bank was originally conceived in

order to provide loans for reconstruction throughout Europe in the wake of World War II. Since then,



The World Bank has used its financial resources to force billions of dollars in loans on the world's struggling nations for capitol improvement mega-projects promoted under the guise of alleviating poverty. When countries could not repay the loans, the IMF would mandate

'structural adjustment programs' mandating the conversion of natural resources into commodity

exports, leading to rapid deforestation and displacement of Indigenous communities.

In September of 1986, RAN helped kick off an international movement challenging the World Bank's destructive lending policies by convening

a Citizen's Conference and International Day of Demonstrations against the World Bank at its Washington, D.C. headquarters. The conference culminated with a dramatic action - the first act of civil disobedience at the World Bank. While RAN activists blockaded the entrance below, the first RAN banner was hung off the World Bank building, highlighting the connection between global finance and environmental destruction. That banner's message remains emblematic to this day, a symbol of our tenacity at challenging the world's most powerful multilateral and private lending institutions, and serving as a harbinger of one of our most successful strategies to date through our Global Finance Campaign's efforts to transform Wall Street.

## FORECLOSING ON MTR

### Wall Street backs away from mountaintop removal coal mining

PHOTOS: TOP: VIVIAN STOCKMAN / OHVEC.ORG; BELOW: MICHAEL BUTCHER / BUTCHER PHOTOGRAPHY

RAN's Global Finance Campaign has sought to bring environmental ethics and accountability to Wall Street's largest private banks. First launched in 2000, we have continued to push the world's largest financial institutions away from destructive investments and towards sustainable alternatives. In the process, the country's largest banks have adopted policies that divert millions of dollars from projects that destroy rainforests, violate Indigenous rights, and contribute excessively to climate change.

In 2007, RAN set out to stop the devastating practice of mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining in the United States. A practice that involves blowing apart America's mountaintops in order to access coal deposits lying beneath the surface, MTR has caused irrevocable harm to Appalachia's public health, precious drinking water and historic landscape.

When RAN first approached U.S. banks regarding MTR, none had policies in place to specifically address the practice. The banks were the ATMS of the coal industry. Millions of dollars were being used to directly finance companies like Arch Coal, Alpha and Massey Energy - the largest mountaintop mine operator and the company responsible for the April Upper Big Branch mine disaster where 29 miners tragically lost their lives.

It took a national campaign and nearly three years of public pressure from RAN supporters and allies all over the country, but today we can safely say that the country's top banks have backed away from

mountaintop removal. Last month, Wells Fargo became the sixth bank to adopt a policy limiting MTR financing, joining Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Credit Suisse and Morgan Stanley. Proving that these are not just policies on paper, the banks have also cut financing completely from the notorious Massey Energy.

This is a monumental feat, and a major step toward stopping mountaintop removal coal mining once and for all, that would not have been possible without the support of RAN members like you. All of your emails, demonstrations, direct actions, performances, calls and letters have helped moved mountains in the banking industry. These policies signal a sector-wide shift away from the dirty energy of the past and a huge step toward funding a clean energy future.



## TELL SWISS BANKING GIANT UBS TO STOP FUNDING MTR COAL MINING

The campaign to save America's mountains isn't over just yet. Unlike most of its American counterparts, Swiss banking giant UBS is still financing the blowing up of America's mountains. As the country's top banks have backed away from the destructive practice, UBS has become the world's largest financier of mountaintop removal coal mining. Since January 2008, UBS has provided more than \$900 million in loans and bonds to six of the biggest mountaintop removal coal mining companies: Massey, Arch, Alpha, TECO, Consol and International Coal Group.

It's time to let UBS know that they've got no business destroying America's mountains, and we're not giving up until they stop.



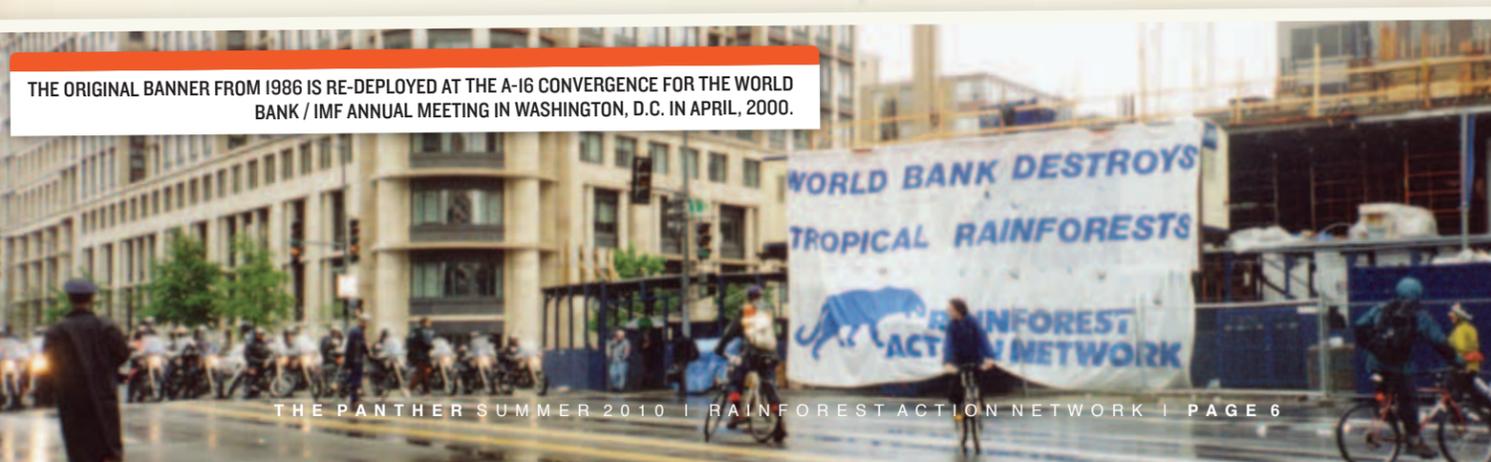
**Take Action! Go to [DirtyMoney.org](http://DirtyMoney.org) and tell CEO Oswald Grübel to stop financing the destruction of America's mountains.**

**Or write a letter to:**

**Robert Wolf**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Americas  
UBS Investment Bank  
677 Washington Boulevard,  
Stamford, CT 06901



**You can help support this campaign! Make a donation today at [RAN.org/give](http://RAN.org/give).**



THE ORIGINAL BANNER FROM 1986 IS RE-DEPLOYED AT THE A-16 CONVERGENCE FOR THE WORLD BANK / IMF ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN APRIL, 2000.



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If you're a CREDO / Working Assets member, then you get to vote on how to distribute the 2010 donations they use to fund more than 50 progressive nonprofit organizations. This year, RAN is on the ballot and we need your votes! The more votes we get, the more funding we'll receive.

Voting is easy. Go to [www.CredoMobile.com/ballot](http://www.CredoMobile.com/ballot) and cast your vote for RAN! It's a quick and effective way to support our work— at no extra cost to you.

Even if you're not a CREDO member, you can become a qualified voter by taking an online action at [www.CredoAction.com](http://www.CredoAction.com). CREDO / Working Assets is a longtime supporter of RAN campaigns has raised more than \$65 million for worthy groups since 1985.



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE OUR WORK AND OUR VICTORIES POSSIBLE!

# REVEL

THE ART OF ACTIVISM

october 14, 2010  
CITY VIEW  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

## DON'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!

For a quarter century, RAN has boldly and successfully challenged the corporate status quo and secured numerous victories for the planet. REVEL, *The Art of Activism*, is our annual celebration of activism where we honor visionaries and communities that inspire us to create change. Join us on October 14, 2010 in San Francisco for a fabulous night of organic food and drinks, inspiring stories from the frontlines, dancing, our beloved silent auction and raffle, and mingling with special guests as we celebrate RAN's 25-year Anniversary!

SLIDING SCALE TICKETS START AT \$150 AND SPONSORSHIPS START AT \$1,000. VISIT [RAN.ORG/REVEL](http://RAN.ORG/REVEL) TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR CONTACT KATIE STEELE AT [KSTEELE@RAN.ORG](mailto:KSTEELE@RAN.ORG) OR (415) 659-0537.

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