



RAIN ACTIVISTS DESCEND OVER THE EDGE OF THE RICHMOND BRIDGE UNFURLING A 30'X50' FOOT BANNER DIRECTED AT CHEVRON TWO DAYS BEFORE ITS ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING AT ITS SAN RAMON, CALIF. HEADQUARTERS. PHOTO: © ERIC SLOMANSON

CHEVRON FOUND GUILTY IN ECUADOR

On February 14, a court in Lago Agrio, Ecuador found Chevron guilty of widespread environmental contamination and ordered the company to pay \$18 billion in compensatory and punitive damages to the more than 30,000 Indigenous peoples and Amazonian settlers who brought the case nearly two decades ago.

This historic judgment, comparable in size only to BP's promised \$20 billion fund to compensate victims of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, is the first time Indigenous people have sued a multinational corporation in the country where the crime was committed and won. This sets a legal precedent that will have ramifications around the globe for communities in similar struggles.

Chevron inherited the litigation in 2001 when it absorbed Texaco, which operated in Ecuador between 1964 and 1992. Using antiquated technology, the company dumped 18.5 billion gallons of toxic wastewater into streams and rivers, spilled some 17 million gallons of crude oil, and left behind more than 1,000 waste pits that continue to leech toxins into surrounding soil and water.

Despite Chevron's unprecedented public relations and legal campaign, the evidence against the oil giant was overwhelming.

continued on page 4 ❖❖❖

DISNEY BOOKS TIED TO RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION AND ENDANGERED TIGER HABITAT

❖❖❖ *page 6*

GIRL SCOUTS TAKE ON PALM OIL

❖❖❖ *page 3*





RECLAIMING STOLEN LANDS

Indigenous Community Stands up to Global Palm Oil Giant

In March, after fighting for the return of their ancestral lands for more than a decade, the people of Long Teran Kanan in Malaysian Borneo took a stand and reclaimed part of their homeland through a decisive act of collective resistance. Their territory had been taken from them and converted into oil palm plantations now held by the notorious global palm oil giant IOI, a key supplier to Cargill.

The community's peaceful occupation comes a year after an historic Malaysian court ruling in their favor that found the plots in question were indeed part of native customary lands. However, enforcement of the ruling has been challenging. Despite promises to abide by the court's ruling, IOI appealed the decision and continued to operate there, refusing to negotiate with the community.

RAN has been working to support the community of Long Teran Kanan by helping to break the story of their peaceful occupation to news outlets around the world as well as co-sponsor a formal grievance with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), followed by an Open Letter from a coalition of environmental and human rights organizations urging the RSPO to act.

While the Long Teran Kanan community's historic stand is an inspiration to communities resisting palm oil around the world, it is also a wakeup call for Cargill to adopt basic safeguards that would ensure the company is not importing palm oil that continues to violate human rights and destroy rainforests.



RAN CHICAGO ACTIVISTS BRING THEIR MESSAGE TO IOI'S HEADQUARTERS

The PANTHER

A PUBLICATION OF RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

Editor / Designer: Toben Dilworth

Contributors: Lindsey Allen, Ginger Cassidy, Nell Greenberg, Scott Kocino, Tracy Solum, Laurel Sutherlin, Rebecca Tarbotton

For inquiries, comments, suggestions, please email panther@ran.org.
©2011 Rainforest Action Network | 221 Pine Street, #500
San Francisco, CA 94104, USA | 415-398-4404 | RAN.org

ISSN 1081-5120 >> Spring 2011 #189.

The PANTHER is published four times yearly.
Commercial reproduction prohibited. Students, teachers
and activists may copy text for limited distribution.

NEW LEAF PAPER® ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS STATEMENT				
If using post-consumer waste fiber as virgin fiber				
17	7,226	12	799	(1,579)
Recycled fiber	grams	million lbs	(pounds)	(pounds)



FROM THE CANOPY

By Rebecca Tarbotton, RAN Executive Director

PHOTO: DOMINIK HOEFER

Over the last few months, I've been reminded how closely RAN's history of success is tied to our on-the-ground collaborations with allies, activists and frontline communities. These partnerships are essential; they generate the most creative strategies, amplify the most important voices and build critical power for our movements.

Sometimes it's the most unlikely alliances that bear the greatest rewards. This year, RAN's newest relationship has been two young and incredibly inspiring Girl Scouts.

Madi Vorva and Rhiannon Tomtishen have been campaigning to remove rainforest-destroying palm oil from Girl Scout cookies since they learned that palm oil plantations are a leading cause of orangutan extinction. That was over four years ago, when they were just eleven years old. Now fifteen and sixteen, these inspiring young women have partnered with RAN to amplify their message and get the attention of Girl Scout USA (GSUSA) executives.

In April, in solidarity with Madi and Rhiannon, RAN launched an educational webpage featuring a video call-to-action from the young activists as well as a renegade Girl Scouts merit badge called the "Rainforest Hero Badge." With Madi and Rhiannon, RAN is asking Girl Scouts USA to align its products with its values, marking its 100th anniversary with an announcement that shows it is responsive to the young leaders it is helping to create.

In May, RAN helped the girls secure a meeting with GSUSA CEO Kathy Cloninger at the company's New York headquarters—thanks, in large part, to a petition signed by 70,000 online activists calling on GSUSA to break the ties between Girl Scout cookies and rainforest destruction.

But that's not all. These two savvy young activists are determined to tell the world about the link between Girl Scout cookies, palm

oil and rainforest destruction. During their trip to New York, RAN accompanied Madi and Rhiannon on a whirlwind media tour that brought their compelling message of rainforest conservation to millions (literally) with national TV appearances on *ABC World News Tonight*, *CBS Early Show* and *Fox News Happening Now* to name just a few. My favorite news article from the trip was a profile in *Time Magazine* titled "Do Girl Scout Cookies Harm the Environment? Renegade Scouts Fight Against Palm Oil Ingredient." This media tour was the first time that the problems with palm oil have been elevated to the national, mainstream stage.

I know from experience that the passion Madi and Rhiannon feel for rainforests, properly supported, will translate into lifelong work. These are exactly the kind of young environmental leaders we need to support the future of our movement. Madi and Rhiannon are true Rainforest Heroes with unbreakable dedication. They are also a powerful reminder that anyone at any age can create the change we desperately need to see.

For the forests,

Rebecca Tarbotton

Rebecca Tarbotton
Executive Director





GUILTY



PLAINTIFFS LAWYER PABLO FAJARDO AND TRIBAL LEADER FROM THE SECOYA, HUMBERTO PIAGUAJE IN QUITO, ECUADOR AT PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THEIR HISTORIC VICTORY. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

HISTORIC TRIAL FINDS CHEVRON LIABLE FOR \$18 BILLION IN ECUADOR

Even before the historic guilty verdict in February, Chevron's liability in Ecuador has been an increasing concern among investors and shareholders. Despite Chevron's claims to the contrary, the \$18 billion court judgment poses serious financial and operational risks to the oil giant.

On May 11, RAN and Amazon Watch released a new investor report, *An Analysis of the Financial and Operational Risks to Chevron Corporation from Aguinda v. ChevronTexaco*, examining the impact of this case on Chevron shareholders.

Chevron's investors are starting to catch on to the company's doublespeak. In the days leading up to Chevron's annual shareholder meeting on May 25 at the company's headquarters in San Ramon, Calif., Boston-based Trillium Asset Management and the New York State Common Retirement Fund began circulating an investor sign-on statement. It reads, in part:

"In failing to negotiate a reasonable settlement prior to the Ecuadorian court's ruling against the company, Chevron displayed poor judgment that has led investors to question whether our company's leadership can properly manage the array of environmental and human rights challenges and risks that it faces."

The co-signors called upon the company to "reevaluate whether endless litigation is the best strategy for the company and its shareholders, or whether a more productive approach, such as reaching a settlement, could be employed to begin to provide for a proper remediation for past environmental damages. In so doing, Chevron can once and for all put this controversy behind it."

Analysts are also starting to question Chevron's disclosure. The Sustainable Investment Institute (Si2), a nonprofit investment research organization, has noted the "dramatically different picture" between what Chevron has told U.S. Courts in sworn testimony and what Chevron has revealed to its own



PHOTO: © ERIC SLOMANSON



ABOVE: MEMBERS OF THE COFÁN DURENO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN ECUADOR HAVE SUFFERED NUMEROUS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DUE TO OIL CONTAMINATION BY CHEVRON. PHOTO: CAROLINE BENNET; ACTIVISTS CONFRONT OIL GIANT CHEVRON AT ITS SAN RAMON, CALIF. HEADQUARTERS. PHOTO: JONATHAN MCINTOSH

shareholders regarding the risks to its business from the Ecuador litigation. Si2 also noted in a special report on Chevron that if the \$18 billion judgment against Chevron were to be enforced it would be equal to almost 95 percent of Chevron's total net income for 2010.

Chevron, however, has stated it has no intention of complying with the verdict or changing its legal tactics. Rather than adhere to the judgment of the Ecuadorian court, the company has engaged in various legal battles to nullify the verdict and its enforcement and, essentially, the Ecuadorian people's ability to seek reparations for the damage done to their land, water and health.

Because the case could set an important global precedent, Chevron has appealed the decision in Ecuador and the appeal is being heard in the Superior Court of Sucumbios in Lago Agrio. The company has also aggressively turned to U.S. courts and unleashed a barrage of litigation against the plaintiffs, their lawyers and allies in an attempt to prevent the enforcement of the verdict and the ability to collect damages from Chevron.

However, Chevron's intimidation tactics deter neither the Ecuadorian plaintiffs nor their allies in the United States. The plaintiffs' next step

is to go after Chevron's assets around the world to collect their compensation. RAN and an international coalition of allies have vowed to continue the campaign against Chevron in order to bring justice to the people of the Ecuadorian Amazon who have been suffering from Chevron's toxic legacy for far too long.



Take Action! Tell Chevron CEO John Watson it's time to clean up your mess in Ecuador. Go to www.ChevronIsGuilty.org

Or write a letter to:
John Watson, CEO
Chevron Corporation
6001 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583



With your help we can truly change Chevron!
Make a donation today at RAN.org/give.

Energy shouldn't cost lives





PHOTO: ROB GIVENS

RAN DESCENDS ON THE MAGIC KINGDOM

ACTIVISTS TO DISNEY: *RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION IS NO FAIRY TALE*

On the morning of May 18, employees of The Walt Disney Company's headquarters in Burbank, Calif., awoke to quite a surprise: two RAN activists, costumed as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, had blocked the company's main entrance while two others unfurled a 35-foot banner reading, "Disney: Destroying Indonesia's Rainforests" on an archway above.

So why would two of Disney's most iconic characters suddenly turn against them? The answer lies in test results RAN commissioned by an independent lab confirming paper used in Disney's kids' books contains fiber linked to the destruction of endangered Indonesian rainforests.

Indonesia's rainforests are some of the most biologically diverse in the world, home to unique species like the orangutan and the Sumatran tiger, and are being destroyed at a rate of 200,000 to 400,000 acres per month. The pulp and paper industry, led by

rogue operators Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and APRIL, is a primary cause of this reckless deforestation.

While RAN has been successful in motivating most of the top U.S. publishers of children's books to move away from controversial Indonesian fiber and suppliers, Disney, the largest publisher of kids' books in the world, has refused to take action. Further, RAN found that Disney's paper policy, released in March, fails to prevent controversial fiber and suppliers like APP and APRIL from entering Disney products.

RAN is asking Disney to eliminate its use of controversial Indonesian fiber, publicly sever ties with APP, APRIL and their affiliates and adopt a comprehensive paper purchasing policy that puts environmental and social safeguards in place and increases use of responsible alternatives.



Take Action! Tell Disney to stop destroying Indonesia's rainforests! Visit www.RAN.org/Disney.

Or write a letter to:
Robert Iger, President and CEO
The Walt Disney Company
500 S. Buena Vista St.,
Burbank, CA 015211



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

RAN DEMANDS BANKING INDUSTRY QUIT COAL



RAN ACTIVISTS RALLY IN FRONT OF DUKE ENERGY'S CLIFFSIDE COAL PLANT IN CLIFFSIDE, NORTH CAROLINA.

Coal: it's dirty, dangerous and outdated.

And while it may appear that King Coal's days are numbered, it's still true that coal is the single-largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in the United States and that the U.S. is the world's second largest coal producer.

In recent years, the anti-coal movement has successfully stopped more than 150 proposed new coal-fired power plants from being built, and RAN activists and supporters have helped convince some of Wall Street's largest banks to stop financing the practice of mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining.

Now it's time to address the full life cycle of coal. From the oldest, most toxic coal-fired power plants in the country to the new push for coal export terminals along the West Coast, coal is bad for business and bad for people. Coal is a leading contributor to climate change and it damages cardiovascular and respiratory health that threatens healthy child development in communities across the country.

RAN is calling on the banking sector to stop funding and enabling our addiction to coal. On March 14, RAN activists put the six largest U.S. banks—Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank and Morgan Stanley—'on notice' by visiting bank branches demanding a transition in energy financing away from dirty coal and toward clean energy solutions like wind and solar.

RAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIES OCCUPY THE CONTROVERSIAL CRAWFORD COAL PLANT IN LITTLE VILLAGE, CHICAGO; A COALITION OF ACTIVISTS AND LABOR GROUPS CONFRONT AUSTRALIA'S AMBRE ENERGY AT THEIR U.S. HEADQUARTERS IN SALT LAKE CITY. AMBRE ENERGY IS PUSHING FOR A COAL EXPORT TERMINAL IN LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON. PHOTO: SPRING ALLEN





221 Pine Street | 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94104 | RAN.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit no. 191

PROTECT-AN-ACRE

Empowering Forest Communities

Since 1993, RAN's Protect-an-Acre program (PAA) has distributed more than one million dollars in grants to more than 150 frontline communities, Indigenous-led organizations and allies around the world.

Each year, PAA grants are prioritized and distributed to organizations and communities working to regain control of and sustainably manage their traditional territories through land title initiatives, community education, development of sustainable economic alternatives, and grassroots resistance to destructive industrial activities.

Here are some recent examples made possible with your continued support of Protect-an-Acre:

Lestari Negri - Indonesia

\$2,500 to investigate and monitor palm oil producers Duta Palma and Wilmar Group in order to document the impact of palm oil plantations on Cerenti Indigenous peoples and the rainforest of the Riau province of Indonesia.

Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre (MXVPS) - Brazil

\$5,000 to provide emergency funding to support a unified grassroots response to the Brazilian government's plans to move forward with construction of the Belo Monte dam complex, which would devastate more than 1,500 square kilometers in the Amazon and result in the forced displacement of 20,000 people.

Frente de Conservacion Ecologica de la Comunidad Nativa Mushuk-Llakta de Chipaota - Ecuador

\$4,000 to support ongoing work to expand and protect the recognized territory of the Mushuk-Llatka de Chipaota Indigenous community from 22,000 to 37,000 hectares through the establishment of a biological reserve in the Andean Forest buffer zone of Cordillera Azul National Park.

For a complete list of grants and to learn more about how you can support Protect-an-Acre, visit RAN.org/paa.



LEFT: FRENTE DE CONSERVACION ECOLOGICA DE LA COMUNIDAD PHOTO: EDA ZAVALA LOPEZ
RIGHT: ANTONIA MELO PHOTO: MONTI AGUIRRE / INTERNATIONAL RIVERS