



THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH

PHOTO: PAUL HILTON FOR RAN

RACING TO PROTECT INDONESIA'S LEUSER ECOSYSTEM

This past Fall, during one of the most catastrophic Indonesian forest fire seasons on record, RAN released a report that exposed ongoing destruction to one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. The report — titled *The Last Place on Earth: Tracking Progress and New Opportunities to Protect the Leuser Ecosystem* — cites evidence of continued clearance of rainforests for palm oil plantations.

The Leuser Ecosystem is one of the world's most richly biodiverse landscapes, and millions of people depend on it for their water supply and livelihoods. But the fate of this natural crown jewel — including its peatlands and lowland rainforests that are home to tigers, orangutans, rhinos, elephants and sun bears — depends on critical decisions being made right now.

RAN first exposed the threats to the Leuser Ecosystem in November 2014, and this latest report finds that rainforests

continue to fall, peatlands continue to be drained, conflicts remain between companies and communities, and the ongoing legal protections for the Leuser Ecosystem remain under threat. Utilizing new satellite images and field investigations, the report also names the companies responsible for the deforestation eating away at the edges of the vast, but threatened, ecosystem as well as highlighting the risks of sourcing from the region by the "Big Three Buyers" (Wilmar International, Musim Mas Group and Golden Agri-Resources).

The destruction of the Leuser Ecosystem would be disastrous for millions of Acehnese people and would push endangered species even closer to the brink of extinction, which is why we need to act now to protect it.

READ MORE ABOUT THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM » » page 4

RAN targets clothing giant Abercrombie & Fitch over fabric linked to deforestation » » page 7

PEOPLE POWER DEFEATS THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE



PHOTO: BONNIE CHAN

On November 6, after a seven-year fight, President Obama rejected the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all. The President's decision was the result of years of grassroots people power organizing against all odds in every corner of this country.

From engaging in civil disobedience, to hosting vigils, to gathering petition signatures to joining 100,000 other people in pledging to resist to Keystone XL — you made today's victory possible. There will be many more battles to fight in the struggle against climate change. But for now, let's take a moment to celebrate.

For years, insiders predicted that the Keystone XL Pipeline's approval was inevitable. But this movement refused to accept

the defeatist logic that catastrophic climate change is inevitable and that business-as-usual fossil fuel production can never be stopped. Millions of people rejected the conventional wisdom and took on the moral responsibility of acting in the face of overwhelming odds, and together, we proved the doubters wrong again and again.

This victory will reverberate in history as a watershed moment for the climate movement, not as the ending of a campaign but as the beginning of a new paradigm — as the point when we, as a society, began to leave the pipelines unbuilt and keep fossil fuels in the ground.

READ MORE AT »

www.ran.org/lastplaceonearth

The PANTHER

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NEW LEAF PAPER **EcoLeaf**

Rainforest Action Network saved the following resources by using 700 pounds of Ingenuity, made with 100% recycled fiber, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates. Calculation based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

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FROM the CANOPY

Lindsey Allen, RAN Executive Director

The Time is Now to Keep It In The Ground



The clock is ticking on President Obama — not just on his presidency but on his ability to have any real, lasting positive impact on climate change. In December of last year, I watched international leaders in Paris do what was unthinkable only a year ago: they signed an agreement aimed at stemming the rise in global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It was a moment 21 years in the making, and it was remarkable.

Unfortunately, the formal commitments offered up in Paris currently add up to a whopping 3 degree-plus Celsius rise in global temperature — and that's assuming nations actually follow through on their pledges. That increase gets us to a world where climate change will be irreversible.

But the president has made great strides. His order halting new coal leases is a huge step in the right direction. The time has come, however, for bolder action. Historically our nation has been one of the highest emitter of CO2 and President Obama is uniquely poised to change the course of U.S. policy.

Throughout the Paris talks, the U.S. negotiating team made it painfully clear that any agreement requiring the approval of Congress, including those beholden to powerful fossil fuel interests, would be pointless. The vitriolic response from fossil fuel-backed senators to Obama's recent moratorium on new coal leases is proof of that. But there is a clear action that Obama can take right now to improve the lives of countless Americans: Stop leasing public lands for fossil fuels extraction.

Corporations are plundering our shared resources at huge expense to taxpayers, with irreversible consequences. Companies such as Cloud Peak Energy, Peabody Coal, BP and Exxon have caused major environmental disasters, the most infamous being the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion and rupture on April 20, 2010, which killed 11 workers and was

the largest offshore environmental disaster in U.S. history. These companies are ransacking lands that are part of America's heritage for our children — our wild places, our rivers and our aquifers. With a simple signature, Obama can end this outdated leasing program, prevent environmental destruction and address one-fourth of all U.S. climate emissions.

When Obama rejected the Keystone XL oil pipeline, he affirmed a tidal wave of hundreds of thousands of people who protested the pipeline and its climate impacts. That wave has only grown in size and force to demand that we keep fossil fuels in the ground.

RAN's Keep It In the Ground campaign is already in full swing. We have coordinated actions in multiple cities where these public lands auctions have been scheduled. And the campaign's biggest protest is planned for the Superdome in New Orleans, where more than 40 million acres are scheduled to be auctioned off for fossil fuel extraction.

In Paris, the president noted that our time to influence history is fading. "When it comes to climate change," he said, "that hour is almost upon us."

Mr. President, your hour has arrived.

For the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsey Allen'.

Lindsey Allen
Executive Director



Follow Lindsey Allen at » [@lrallen](#)

RACING TO PROTECT

INDONESIA'S LEUSER ECOSYSTEM

By Chelsea Matthews, *Forest Campaigner*

You have likely heard of the Amazon or the Congo, but the lesser-known Leuser Ecosystem on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, is just as biologically diverse, just as important to the continued survival of species, and just as important for our global climate.

Stretching over 6.5 million acres, the Leuser Ecosystem is the last place on Earth where rare species like Sumatran tigers, orangutans, rhinos, elephants and sun bears live together in the wild. It provides habitat for at least 105 mammal species, 382 bird species, and 95 reptile and amphibian species. If we lose the Leuser Ecosystem, we risk losing many of these species forever.

The Leuser Ecosystem is not only important for the unique plants and animals that call it home, but it's also necessary for millions of people that depend on it for a clean, steady water

supply. Globally, we all depend on it: the Leuser Ecosystem plays a critical role in helping to regulate our global climate by absorbing carbon pollution and storing massive amounts of carbon in its lowland rainforests and peatlands.

Despite the importance of this critical biodiversity hotspot, vast areas of its rainforests and peatlands are being destroyed for new Conflict Palm Oil plantations.

Palm oil is the cheapest vegetable oil on the planet, found in more than half of all packaged goods in an average local supermarket (such as chips, cookies, instant noodles, ice cream, frozen meals, shampoo, lipstick and pet food). The blind growth in demand for palm oil has recklessly pushed massive, industrial-scale plantations deeper into the heart of Indonesia's rainforests, including the Leuser Ecosystem.



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE): ROBIN AVERBECK / RAN; DISCOVERY; PAUL HILTON FOR RAN; LAUREL SUTHERLIN / RAN; FOREST NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT ACEH (HAKA)



On the heels of the recent release of the highly acclaimed major film RACING EXTINCTION that dramatically exposes the hidden world of the global extinction crisis, the team behind this groundbreaking project has released a new short video highlighting the critical importance of protecting the extraordinary Leuser Ecosystem.

There are some places that are just too precious to humanity, too important to the survival of wildlife, to be destroyed for quick corporate profit. The Leuser Ecosystem is high among them. We all have a role to play. We all have something to lose.

The Leuser Ecosystem is on the frontlines of extinction. Despite being protected under Indonesian national law, expansion of Conflict Palm Oil plantations threatens the survival of the entire ecosystem and the unique species that call it home.

Given the scale of the biodiversity crisis, we cannot let this biodiversity hotspot be destroyed for an ingredient found in packaged products like snack foods.

Stand up for the Leuser Ecosystem today!

WATCH THE VIDEO AND SIGN THE PETITION AT »

www.ran.org/lastplaceonearth

TOGETHER, *WE CAN SAVE* THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM



With the help of high profile supporters like the Leonardo Dicaprio Foundation and the team behind Racing Extinction, RAN will continue to raise the international profile of the globally important Leuser Ecosystem through increased media coverage and growing public awareness. We will also be mobilizing for escalated actions to pressure companies like Pepsico that continue to use Conflict Palm Oil in their products, and now we could use your help!

FIND OUT HOW AT » www.ran.org/palm_oil



JPMorgan Chase
Morgan Stanley
Citi
Bank of America
Wells Fargo

BIG BANKS DUMPING COAL

5 OF 6 TOP WALL STREET BANKS STEPPING AWAY FROM COAL MINING

In May of 2015, after four years of strategic pressure from RAN and our allies, Bank of America made the groundbreaking commitment to cut funding for coal mining. While we knew that Bank of America's announcement was going to signal a tipping point throughout the financial sector, we weren't going to turn down the pressure on other Wall Street banks by any means.

When Citigroup announced a new policy announcing major cuts to its lending to the global coal mining industry in October, we knew our work was beginning to pay off. Citigroup's move followed the launch of the Paris Pledge, a global coalition of over 160 organizations calling on the banking sector to end its support for coal mining and coal-fired power in the lead up to the U.N. Climate Conference (COP21) in Paris, which took place in December.

And that's why in late November, following a sharp, focused campaign that included high-profile visits to bank branches from coast to coast, RAN was able to force Morgan Stanley's hand to adopt a policy committing to cut financing for coal mining companies and end financing for new coal-fired power plants in developed countries.

On that very same day, Wells Fargo also issued a policy to transition away from financing the global coal mining industry.

RAN's coal finance campaign is part of a global campaign stretching across both sides of the Atlantic, and banks are getting the message that coal means climate change and human rights violations. Since May, our friends at BankTrack,

Friends of the Earth-France, and Urgewald have won similar policies at European banks BNP Paribas, Cr dit Agricole, ING, Natixis, and Soci t  G n rale.

But that's not all.

As this issue of The Panther was going to press, we are proud to announce that JPMorgan Chase is now the fifth major U.S. investment bank to commit to transitioning away from financing the global coal mining industry. This is a significant milestone and means that five out of the six largest U.S. banks are moving away from financing coal mining!

The bank knew they were likely to be next on RAN's bank target list and were worried enough to adopt this policy in order to avoid a campaign.

These are all extremely encouraging signs, but time is getting short. This year, global warming reached one degree Celsius. That means we are already perilously close to seeing the worst effects of runaway climate change. Coal is simply the dirtiest, most carbon-intensive fossil fuel on the planet. We need to make it a thing of the past as quickly as possible.

So, with your help, we'll keep the pressure on. But the rapid progress we've made in just the last six months is a ray of hope. Thank you for making it happen.

READ MORE AT » www.ran.org/banks_and_climate

NEW CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED:

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH TARGETED FOR FABRIC LINKED TO DEFORESTATION

Abercrombie
& Fitch

ALL-AMERICAN FOREST DESTROYER



Abercrombie & Fitch is no stranger to scandal — but one controversy it has been able to ignore, until now, is its impact on Indonesia's incredible tropical rainforests and the people who depend on them. Abercrombie & Fitch stocks almost 300 items that use rayon, viscose, or modal — all fabrics made from trees -- and it is doing nothing to ensure that its fabric isn't destroying critically endangered ecosystems.

In January, activists took this message to Abercrombie & Fitch's flagship store in Santa Monica, CA. Dressed as Abercrombie & Fitch models, they delivered the message that there is nothing "cool" or "hip" about forest destruction, and that if Abercrombie

& Fitch wants to appeal to today's consumer, it needs to take action to ensure that it is protecting Indonesia's rainforests.

Now we need your help to make sure Abercrombie & Fitch management hears this message loud and clear. The link between fashion and forests cannot be ignored. Add your voice by sending a message to Abercrombie & Fitch leadership, telling them it's time to step up and take action to protect Indonesia's forests.

TAKE ACTION AT » www.ran.org/abercrombie

DONOR PROFILE: Allen Carroll



Allen Carroll, a physicist from San Jose, California, has been a RAN donor for over four years and more recently has become a volunteer with RAN's Palm Oil Campaign. His background in climate science led him to take action in his personal life, feeling as though he needed to connect the dots between local organizations tackling climate change and the technology hotbed of Silicon Valley that he calls home. *"When I learned that there was a San Francisco-based group that was focused on rainforest issues, one that was action-oriented and not just another environmental lobbying group, I thought "perfect" – maybe I can become acquainted with them, focus my efforts on rainforest and climate issues, and also eventually work with them in some capacity."*

Donors like Allen have contributed to some of RAN's biggest victories over the last four years, and his involvement doesn't stop there. He hopes others join RAN in taking action for the planet, too — whether it's with their wallets or their time. *"I feel that each of us should do our best to make the needed changes come about."*



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LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

Including Rainforest Action Network in your estate plans ensures that protecting endangered rainforests, moving the country off of fossil fuels and defending human rights will be a big part of your legacy.

A bequest is a simple way to support RAN in the future while retaining control of your assets during your lifetime. RAN can be named as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or financial accounts.

Your legacy gift is a gift to the future and will ensure RAN protects the planet and people.

If you have already included RAN in your plans or would like more information about making a bequest to RAN, contact Jeri Howland at 415-659-0539 or jeri@RAN.org.

LEARN MORE AT » www.ran.org/planned_giving

