




# protect-an-acre

EMPOWERING FOREST COMMUNITIES







RAN established the Protect-an-Acre program (PAA) in 1993 to protect the world's forests and the rights of their inhabitants by providing financial aid to traditionally under-funded organizations and communities in forest regions. The PAA program supports projects that protect forests through grassroots efforts led by local forest communities, Indigenous federations and non-governmental organizations.

Our grants (generally \$5,000 or less) support organizations and communities that are 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.

PAA is an alternative to "buy-an-acre" programs that seek to provide rainforest protection by buying tracts of land, but which often fail to address the needs or rights of local Indigenous peoples. Traditional forest communities are often the best stewards of the land because their way of life and well-being depend upon it. A recent study by Forest Trends found that forest communities and Indigenous peoples do a better job of conserving woodlands than national governments or international donors.

Uninhabited forest areas often go unprotected, even if purchased through a buy-an-acre program. It is not uncommon for loggers, oil and gas companies, cattle ranchers, and miners to illegally extract resources from so-called "protected" areas.

PAA 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. PAA projects complement RAN's campaigns to end agribusiness expansion, oil exploration and old-growth logging in critical forest areas.



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## EMPOWERING FOREST COMMUNITIES

“The grants we received from Protect-an-Acre were critical in our struggle to protect our ancestral territory from international oil companies and local colonizers. We are the smallest Indigenous nationality in the Ecuadorian Amazon, but our territory is undamaged and has a higher density of animals than any other area in Pastaza. Thanks to Protect-an-Acre, we are preserving this beautiful land for our children and for all people.”

Manarikaji Ushigua, *President*  
*Organización de la Nacionalidad*  
*Zápara de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana*  
(ONZAE)



ABOVE: MUKUTSAWA ASHANGA SANTI (RIGHT) WITH HER GRANDDAUGHTER, MARISELA USHIGUA. ALREADY DECLARED “EXTINCT” BY MANY HISTORIANS AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS, THE ZÁPARA OF ECUADOR ARE STRIVING TO REVIVE AND REAFFIRM THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITY. PHOTO BY STEVEN RUDNICK



Since 1993, RAN's Protect-an-Acre program has distributed more than one million dollars in grants to more than 150 frontline communities, Indigenous-led organizations, and allies, helping their efforts to secure protection for millions of acres of traditional territory in forests around the world.



GRIZZLY BEAR ON THE COPPER RIVER, ALASKA. PHOTO: J. CRUISE; INDIGENOUS LEADERS BOARD A BUS TO PROTEST PLANS FOR THE BELO MONTE DAM. ALTAMIRA, BRAZIL. PHOTO: ANDRE PENNER / AP; MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATION PROTEST LOGGING ON THEIR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY. ONTARIO, CANADA. PHOTO: RAN

# protect-an-acre donation form

Your tax-deductible donation to Protect-an-Acre goes directly toward Indigenous support and rainforest conservation. You can donate to Protect-an-Acre by visiting our website at [RAN.org/paa/give](http://RAN.org/paa/give), by calling us at (415) 398-4404, or by mailing this form with your payment to:  
Rainforest Action Network-PAA, 221 Pine Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Order processing requires three weeks after receipt of check or credit card information.

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Donation amount: ( ) \$25\* ( ) \$35 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) other \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\* All donations to Protect-an-Acre of \$25 or more include a membership to Rainforest Action Network.

( ) Check made payable to: Rainforest Action Network-PAA

( ) MasterCard ( ) VISA ( ) American Express ( ) Discover

Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration Date

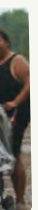
Signature

Please write the name that you would like on the certificate exactly as you would like it to appear:

If your donation is a gift, please fill out the following:

Gift Recipient's Address

Please send certificate to: ( ) Donor ( ) Gift Recipient



"RAN'S Protect-an-Acre grant came at a point in our struggle that made the difference between a road being bulldozed across the Copper River Delta, or not. We are forever indebted to RAN's support in our time of need, your belief in us (Eyaks) inspired us to once again successfully defend our ancestral land, leaving it intact, pristine, and wild."

Dune Lankard, *Founder*  
*Eyak Preservation Council*

PHOTO: FLORIAN HUPKES



# Rain forests safer thanks to students

Schoolchildren in Ceres  
surpass their goal of \$500

By SUE NOWICKI  
snowicki@modbee.com



they would meet it."

They made it and then some — more than \$700.

Now, the students are doing more research. They might divide the money in two — one for a group that allows people to adopt a cocoa tree in the rain forest (they get samples with that one), plus either the Rainforest Alliance or the Rainforest Action Network.

"What a lesson for all of us," Karen



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HAVE HELPED RAISE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF PROTECT-AN-ACRE THROUGH SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM FUNDRAISERS.

## support protect-an-acre

When you donate to PAA, you receive a certificate of recognition acknowledging your contribution, which includes a description of the specific projects you helped fund. More importantly, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you support projects which contribute to saving the world's endangered forests and protecting the rights of their inhabitants.

To find out how you can support RAN's Protect-an-Acre program, please visit [RAN.org/paa/give](http://RAN.org/paa/give) or contact [paa@ran.org](mailto:paa@ran.org).

Rainforest Action Network campaigns for the forests, their inhabitants, and the natural systems that sustain life by transforming the global marketplace through grassroots organizing, education and non-violent direct action.



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COVER PHOTOS: PENAN BLOCKADE, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA. PHOTO: PETER BROCHUIS  
RAINFOREST OF SUMATRA, INDONESIA. PHOTO: DAVID GILBERT

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