When esteemed scientists like NASA’s James Hansen warn us that time is running out to solve climate change, we should listen. And when powerful decisionmakers tell us that reducing global greenhouse emissions to meaningful levels is not “politically possible,” we need to act.

World leaders are gathering in Copenhagen this December in hopes of reaching a global climate agreement. The science is clear, and almost becoming cliché: to prevent runaway climate change, we have to drastically reduce emissions, both from fossil fuels and from rainforest destruction. The world simply cannot afford to let another opportunity to address the climate crisis evaporate in indecision. Here in the U.S., we cannot let “change” slowly dissolve back into business as usual.

Change in America has always resulted from citizens joining together and demanding it from the ground up. Activism is the strident voice and, yes, sometimes nagging conscience of democracy. It is the power of collective action that allows us to rise above individual greed and to pursue common sense policies that benefit us all. Our actions as citizens include the votes that we cast outside the ballot box – for greater rights, greater equality, and greater freedom. It is the willingness to risk one’s own self-interest in pursuit of the greater good.

At Rainforest Action Network, we don’t just talk about change, we take action to make it real on the ground. At the beginning of 2009, we saw the dawn of a new U.S. administration as our chance to unleash a year of climate activism. Using our campaigns to draw attention to the leading drivers of climate change, we staged high-profile actions, organized thousands of activists around the country, and helped elevate the conversation around climate change into the national conscience. Whether it was elevating the plight of Appalachian communities fighting mountaintop removal coal mining, bringing attention to the largest bank investing in Canada’s tar sands, or demonstrating to American consumers that their purchasing decisions could help save forests in Indonesia and fight climate change, RAN had a dramatically successful year.

We can’t stop now, however. We’re going to need a lot more action if we’re going to change the politics of what’s possible in America. It’s not too late to achieve one of the greatest economic and environmental transformations of our time: the drastic reduction of global greenhouse emissions in order to protect forests, stop climate change and to remake the unsustainable economic system at its heart.

Please join us.
Forests and the climate are inextricably linked. Worldwide, the degradation and destruction of tropical rainforests is responsible for fifteen percent of all annual greenhouse emissions. The world’s third largest greenhouse gas emitter, Indonesia, is now ground zero for climate change and deforestation. The massive emissions from Indonesian forest destruction is eight percent of the world’s total emissions. That’s more than the emissions from all the cars, planes, trucks, buses and trains in the U.S. combined. Despite this, Indonesia continues to focus more on short term profits than long term problems. If climate change continues unabated, Indonesia’s capital, Jakarta, could be underwater in the not so distant future. Nonetheless, the Indonesian government has plans to convert up to 30 million additional hectares of forest into plantations over the coming decade.

The Energy and Finance Program

Our country’s continued investment in expanding fossil fuel infrastructure is jeopardizing the health of our communities, the future of our economy and the stability of our climate. RAN’s Energy and Finance Program is tackling the world’s dirtiest fossil fuels, coal and oil, and the leading banks that make their expansion possible. Fossil fuels are responsible for human health problems caused by air pollution from the burning of coal and tailpipe emissions; damage to land from coal mining and oil extraction; and environmental degradation caused by global warming, acid rain and water pollution. Within the next decade, the current plans for new coal-fired power plants, oil refineries and pipelines are projected to cost more than $200 billion. Right now, banks like JPMorgan Chase and the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) are the ATMs of the fossil fuel industry. However, they could be the lead drivers of our clean energy economy. Investing in clean energy is the surest way to create millions of new jobs, boost the economy and take a huge leap forward in the fight against global warming and fossil fuel dependency.

If we are to build a clean energy future, we must move rapidly off of fossil fuels, and insist that the world’s leading financial institutions stop funding high carbon projects and start prioritizing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. The Energy and Finance Program is working to ensure that our country is on the right side of this historical moment.

RAN’s Renewable Energy Campaign has been working on one of the two leading drivers of this destruction – palm oil – for over 2 years. After Grassy Narrows was won last year, the Old Growth team decided to join forces with them to attack the other lead driver, demand for pulp and paper. This means that RAN now has a strong Tropical Forest Program attacking the hottest rainforest problem in the world today. The goal of RAN’s Forest Program is to stop deforestation and degradation of tropical rainforests and to ensure that Indigenous and forest communities have the right to determine the future of their land.

Tropical Forests Program

Forests and the climate are inextricably linked. Worldwide, the degradation and destruction of tropical rainforests is responsible for fifteen percent of all annual greenhouse emissions. The world’s third largest greenhouse gas emitter, Indonesia, is now ground zero for climate change and deforestation. The massive emissions from Indonesian forest destruction is eight percent of the world’s total emissions. That’s more than the emissions from all the cars, planes, trucks, buses and trains in the U.S. combined.

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Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining
West Virginia, United States

Coal is dirty from cradle to grave. Of all the fossil fuels, coal is the single biggest contributor to global warming. Burning coal inflicts catastrophic damage to the landscape and water supplies, jeopardizes the lives of miners and prematurely ends the lives of 24,000 Americans annually. If we break our addiction to coal, we have a chance to avert the worst effects of global warming.

Mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining is the worst of the worst when it comes to coal mining practices. The EPA estimates that more than a million acres across Appalachia have already been lost to mountaintop removal coal mining, and that if the practice continues unabated, an additional 1.4 million acres of forest will be lost by the end of the decade. Mountaintop removal is an American tragedy. It flattens mountain ranges, transforms healthy mountain woodlands into toxic sludge and rubble and has clogged and contaminated more than 700 miles of rivers and streams.

MTR is also the Achilles’ heel of the coal industry. It is a practice that has growing opposition from the hills of West Virginia to the halls of Congress. If we can abolish mountaintop removal mining it will not only protect drinking water and save historic mountain ranges, but it will be a considerable public blow to the coal industry and will weaken the hold that they have over Washington and our energy future. Put another way, abolishing MTR is the surest and most immediate way to put a serious chink in King Coal’s armor.

GLOBAL FINANCE CAMPAIGN

Since the launch of RAN’s Coal Finance Campaign, we have won concessions from our target banks—Citi and Bank of America—and investments in new coal-fired power plants in the United States have slowed dramatically. Last year, Bank of America released a first of its kind coal policy to phase out financing for companies whose predominant mining practice is through mountaintop removal. Citi also recently released a statement on MTR. The mere mention of mountaintop removal by both these banks indicates the impact that RAN’s campaign has made in raising the profile of and limiting funding for mountaintop removal coal mining.

Last year, RAN’s Coal Finance Campaign bore down on the coal industry. Through a series of high-profile, solutions-oriented actions at coal-fired power plants and in the coalfields of Appalachia, we succeeded in building a broad-based and activated anti-coal movement.

Amidst the chaos of the global economic crisis, we were able to maintain significant attention on our bank targets with a growing national audience that is increasingly distrusting of the role that banks play in society. In October, we drew a crowd of 150 people to the Citi and Bank of America branches in Boston, calling on the banks to end risky investment practices that are not only jeopardizing people’s homes but the climate as well. In November, our national day of action generated over 300 actions at bank branches across 20 cities. And, in early spring, RAN attended both banks’ annual general meetings with inside and outside events.

Over the course of the year, Citi and Bank of America both took extraordinary hits as a result of the financial meltdown. Just over a year ago, Citi was the most powerful financial institution in the world. Today, the bank is so decimated that it has been delisted from the Dow Jones index. Bank of America has fared slightly better. JPMorgan Chase, however, emerged as the strongest financial institution on Wall Street and is now the biggest underwriter for the fossil fuel industry in the world.

In the coming year, the vast majority of our efforts will be directed towards stopping MTR in its entirety. We will prioritize pressure on JPMorgan Chase, the lead financier of the companies engaging in MTR, as well as a broader effort to drive all finance away from MTR. At the same time, we will focus on making MTR a cause célèbre and a political pariah in Washington, ensuring that President Obama’s administration, in particular the EPA, acts swiftly to ban the practice.

Success engenders success. We believe that a focus on MTR has the greatest chance of a near-term victory, which will not only have a concrete effect on the people, forests and mountains of Appalachia but will also weaken the coal industry and continue to empower a movement away from coal-fired power and toward a clean energy future.
Tar Sands Oil Extraction
Alberta Province, Canada

Global warming pollution from oil refineries is expected to soar by as much as 40 percent during the next decade, a dramatic increase that runs counter to regional and national efforts to curb global warming emissions. Major oil companies, banks and investors are pouring billions of dollars into the development of the Canadian tar sands, the dirtiest and most desperate attempt yet to profit from and prolong humanity’s crippling addiction to oil. Extracting oil from these sludgy deposits in the heart of Canada’s Boreal forest results in three times more global warming emissions per barrel than extracting conventional oil. Nearly 65 percent of the oil extracted in the tar sands is sent across the border to feed America’s addiction.

Photos by Jiri Rezac

FREEDOM FROM OIL CAMPAIGN

Last year, RAN released a report, Financing Global Warming: Canadian Banks and Fossil Fuels, which for the first time calculated the carbon footprint of an individual’s checking account based on the amount of financing a given bank provided to the fossil fuel sector. The report focused on seven Canadian banks: Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), TD Bank, Scotiabank, Bank of Montreal, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Desjardins and Vancity. Along with the report, we also launched a new website: ClimateFriendlyBanking.org.

The report results were striking. The financed carbon emissions from Canada’s five largest banks based on their funding of fossil fuels totals 62.5 million tons of CO₂ per year. Canada’s top banks provided more than $1.55 billion in total corporate financing for fossil fuel extraction in Canada and internationally in 2007. A significant portion of this money is flowing into the Canadian tar sands expansion, this heavy crude oil lies beneath 141,000 square kilometers of sparsely populated boreal forest and peat bogs in traditional First Nation territories. Timed with the report’s release, RAN organized actions at banks in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto.

Early in 2009, RAN staff negotiated in person with executive staff at Canada’s top five banks about the risks of investing in the tar sands. Since that time, we have focused our campaign on Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), which is the premier financier of the tar sands expansion. At RBC’s February AGM, their CEO, Gordon Nixon, said that he would consider a visit to Ft. Chipewyan, Alberta.

Over the year, we continued our focus on RBC with subsequent days of action, including on April 1st’s Fossil Fool’s Day when we protested at RBC branches across Canada. As a result of these protests, RAN activists were able to set up meetings with Regional Mangers in Regina, Calgary and Vancouver.

Since we publicly launched the campaign in February 2009, RBC has not financed any significant projects in the tar sands region. The campaign has developed a strong network of support among civil society groups in Canada. Highlights include a resolution calling on RBC to divest from the tar sands passed by the Keepers of the Water, a network of more than a dozen First Nations Communities. Kairos, Dogwood Initiative, Council of Canadians and the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition have also organized regional protests at bank branches.

Our main goal this last year was to spread the word about the tar sands expansion throughout U.S. and Canada. In addition to destroying natural resources, including water sources within Canada, the tar sands expansion will require a major build out of U.S. refineries for the first time in decades. The residents of Whiting, Indiana are a prime example of those that will be impacted most by the tar sands expansion. Whiting is a site of the proposed expansion of a BP refinery. RAN joined the Calumet Project to organize a “toxic tour” in the community to help publicize the proposed expansion prior to a critical permitting hearing. We also attended the third annual, Keepers of the Water, conference in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta to liaise with more than 20 First Nations’ communities affected by the tar sands development and 18 Canadian NGOs working to stop the tar sands expansion.

In the coming year, RAN’s Freedom from Oil Campaign will be taking our actions to the next level with a series of high profile events to publicize RBC’s role in financing the tar sands. Working with key constituents across Canada, in particular in Toronto where RBC is headquartered, we are set to ensure that RBC ceases all financial support for the tar sands by the end of 2010. Convincing RBC to shift its financing out of the tar sands is part of a longer term effort both to stop expansion of the tar sands and to pressure the major U.S. and Canadian banks to start funding a green energy future.
Deforestation For Palm Oil Plantations
Kalimantan, Indonesia

Found in close to 50 percent of supermarket goods, palm oil is one of the world’s cheapest sources of vegetable oil. Mostly grown in Malaysia and Indonesia, increasing demand for palm oil pushes cultivation into standing forests, replacing rainforests with “deserts” of oil palm trees. These palm oil plantations are notorious for their negative environmental impacts and human rights violations. Clearing is happening at a rapid rate, in fact, palm oil plantations are expected to cover an area of the country roughly the size of Wisconsin by 2020.

Early in 2007, we sent 350 letters to companies known to use palm oil and invited our grassroots network to do the same. 1.4 million letters later, our message got a boost from 2,000 activists who took to the supermarket and stickered palm oil containing products on grocery store shelves. Not surprisingly, companies took notice and we were flooded with responses from companies like Whole Foods Market, Unilever and the Body Shop. We maintained pressure in the Fall with a Halloween Sticker Week of Action, in which nearly 1,000 activists put stickers on Halloween candy that contained palm oil. By the end of the year we had met with dozens of companies involved in the palm oil retail supply chain, and 43 companies had signed our pledge to protect rainforests, communities and the climate. Meanwhile, we expanded the work and are pushing the envelope with online actions targeting Unilever, Proctor & Gamble and Cadbury.

At the same time, we continued to pressure the ABCs of Rainforest Destruction—Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Bunge and Cargill—to change the procurement policies that allow these giant agribusiness companies to profit from soy and palm oil plantations that are rapidly replacing rainforests. We were in attendance at Fortune’s Most Powerful Women’s Conference, publicly shaming Patricia Woertz, CEO of ADM, for her company’s role in rainforest destruction. Later, we saw her again at the company’s annual general meeting, where she publicly admitted that rainforest destruction is a problem in Brazil—but took no responsibility on behalf of ADM.

Throughout the year, we also put pressure on dismantling the myth of industrial biofuels, also known as agrofuels, as a solution to our energy needs through direct action, teach-ins and education opportunities. In February, RAN staff attended the National Biodiesel Board Conference in San Francisco where we were able to meet with allies from the Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance (SBA) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), among others regarding our concerns about the expansion of agrofuels in tropical ecosystems. In April, we went to California’s state capital, Sacramento, to demonstrate and attend the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) hearings and publicly demanded the inclusion of life-cycle GHG emissions resulting from the growing of fuel crops. Students from University of California, Davis and allies from Rising Tide joined us at the rally to unfurl an enormous banner that read, “Agrofuels are not Low-Carbon”, from the parking structure across the street. We also began working on a white paper addressing the issues of agrofuels as a fuel alternative, for publication in the current year.

In order to focus our energies effectively in the coming year, the Rainforest Agribusiness Campaign is prioritizing one overarching goal: convincing Cargill, the largest importer of palm oil into the United States, to publicly adopt an environmental, human rights, and climate policy covering agribusiness operations in tropical forests that is monitorable and achievable by October 2010. By doing so, Cargill will meet its current commitments and set industry standards that are necessary to ensure that rainforests, communities and the global climate are respected and protected.
FORESTS CAMPAIGN

RAN’s Old Growth Forest Campaign has entered an exciting new phase. After our successful work with the community of Grassy Narrows and Abitibi Bowater’s landmark decision to pull operations out of the Whisky Jack Forest, the campaign decided to go back to its roots and focus on preventing tropical rainforest destruction. Given Indonesia’s significance in terms of forest related climate footprint, forest people’s rights, biodiversity and rates of destruction, and given our ability to profile these problems and create leverage for change through market, investor and grassroots campaigning on the main drivers of deforestation – pulp & paper, palm oil and illegal logging – Indonesia is, we believe, the most strategic target at this time for our forest program.

To ensure a successful campaign launch, we started the year with the priority of building relationships with communities on the ground and other NGOs already working in Indonesia on pulp and paper issues. We made significant progress in the areas of research, coalition building and coordination and developing a strategy in line with our Rainforest Agribusiness strategy to prevent further palm oil expansion.

We traveled to Indonesia where we succeeded in negotiating and starting a joint project with Forest Watch Indonesia and Greenpeace to map threats to the forest and climate from the pulp and paper industry—the first time this information will have been assembled. Through the trip, we also confirmed our alignment on objectives, demands and strategies, and secured agreements to coordinate, and in some cases partner, with key Indonesian NGOs and civil society coalitions working on deforestation and forest degradation.

Not only will RAN be targeting the Indonesian pulp and paper industry through its customers in the U.S. in early March, RAN U.S. campaigners met with our Tokyo-based campaigner and had successful meetings with some of APP’s Japanese existing and potential customers, including Ricoh, Fuji-Xerox, Canon, Mitsubishi Mills and Askul. We were able to provide and gather new information, confirm that Fuji-Xerox is phasing out their use of fiber from Tasmania and get commitments for further actions from Ricoh. In the coming year, our Japan-based work will play a key role in putting pressure on Indonesian paper buyers.

Further, the global attention on climate change afforded by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provides a venue to profile these issues and an opportunity to create international political pressure on the Indonesian government and industry to change key policies and practices relating to forest landscapes. During the year, we attended UNFCCC preparatory meetings in Germany, and will continue to have a presence at other lead-up meetings before the talks in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Photo: Eric Wakker

Natural Forests, Pulp and Paper Plantation
Kalimantan and West Papua, Indonesia

The pulp and paper industry, led by the privately owned Sinar Mas Group’s Asia Pulp and Paper and Raja Garuda Mas Group’s - APRIL, is perhaps the leading threat to the remaining large forests in Sumatra and some of Indonesia’s largest intact peatlands. Pulp from cleared rainforests is made into cheap copy paper, tissue and toilet paper, and luxury shopping bags that are then shipped to unknowing consumers in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Photos by Eric Wakker
RAN’s Grassroots Organizing department is building a broad base of well-trained, informed activists who can support our campaigns and help build a strong movement for environmental action and social justice. Over the years, we have developed a comprehensive program aimed at recruiting, training and connecting activists who support RAN’s key issues and campaigns. In addition, we have played a central role in orchestrating some of the largest actions to date against climate change in the United States and internationally.

In March, 2,500 activists converged on the Capital Power Plant in Washington, DC as part of the Capitol Climate Action. More than 90 environmental, public health, labor, social justice, and faith-based groups as well as leading climate advocates like James Hansen, Bill McKibben and Wendell Berry, joined the multi-generational act of peaceful civil disobedience at the coal power plant, launching a wave of similar actions aimed at confronting the U.S. coal industry’s contributions to climate change.

Throughout 2008 and 2009, RAN organizers played key roles in organizing actions in cities around the world as part of the lead up to the December 2009 United Nations climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark. Working with international coalition partners and the youth delegations, we have succeeded in elevating issues surrounding climate change, forests, and Indigenous rights on a global platform.

RAN’s organizing team works to recruit, train and create a greater sense of community among grassroots activists. We provide training and resources around corporate campaigning, media, fundraising, non-violent direct action, facilitation, outreach, and anti-oppression and diversity. Our extensive archive of free training materials is available at Action.Ran.org, a wiki for activists and educators.

Photos by Kate Davison / Greenpeace; Shadia Fayne Wood

Capitol Climate Action, Washington, D.C.
International Climate Negotiations, Poznan, Poland
PROTECT-AN-ACRE

RAN established the Protect-an-Acre program 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. Since then, we have distributed nearly $1 million in small grants to support 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.

2009-8 highlights include:

- **National Organization of the Amazon Indigenous People of Peru (AIDESEP)**
  $3,000 to provide emergency support to the Indigenous movement in the Peruvian Amazon carrying out blockades to demand suspension of oil, gas and mining concessions in the Amazon, and push for the repeal of several new laws drafted to comply with a free trade agreement with the United States, which take away community land rights and allow companies to enter Indigenous land with no prior consultation or even warning.

- **Shinai**
  $3,000 to support Amo Amazonia, a week of artistic and cultural events to bring the color and life of the Amazon to the streets of Lima and the heart of the Peruvian people to help educate the general public and shift attitudes in the wake of the recent blockades and conflict between the general public and local communities defending their rights and land.

- **The Maya Leaders Alliance**
  $4,000 to support a Supreme Court lawsuit that seeks to force the government to comply with its commitment to abstain from carrying out activities that might affect the value and use of Maya lands in the rainforests of southern Belize without informed consent and the development of a mechanism through which communities can apply to have their lands demarcated. This will also support a mobilization of over 200 community members to attend the trial and speak with national media.

**Eyak Preservation Council**

$5,000 to support resistance to the proposed Shepard Point deep water port and road, which would bring a cascade effect of development threats to the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound and vital wild salmon habitat; all under the pretext of creating an oil spill response port, for which there are two research alternate locations that would drastically minimize environmental impact on the region. Additionally, EPC used the funds for an emergency campaign against the Department of Natural Resources, which due to the pressure dropped its attempt to subdivide and sell 379 acres of Grizzly Bear habitat on Hawkins Island.

**Oro Community Environmental Action Network (OCEAN)**

$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 as 99 year leases approved by the government without consultation for Musa Century Landowners Company, a syndicate of Asian companies.

A full listing of 2008-9 grantees is available at www.ran.org/paa.

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**Photos by Thomas Quirynen; Antonio Bonsorte / Spectral Q**

**RAN CHARTERS AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

RAN is rapidly becoming a powerful force in schools and communities across North America, and around the world. Our growing network consists of 40 RAN groups, as well as tens of thousands of online supporters who add capacity and strength to our campaigns. We offer an extensive array of educational and sophisticated online presence that is aimed at increasing the skills and expertise of activists who wish to work for positive change.

Building close alliances with organizations and networks such as Student Environmental Action Coalition, Rising Tide North America, Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), Indigenous Peoples Power Project, Council of Canadians, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, Climate Justice Now! and Mountain Justice has allowed us to expand the goals of our campaigns within the broader movement for social justice.

We also recognize that successfully dealing with the problems of climate change and deforestation will require investments in and from children and youth, as they are the ones who will experience the impacts firsthand. RAN’s Rainforests in the Classroom Program works to empower teachers and children to take a stand for a sustainable planet both inside and outside the classroom, while our education wiki provides resources so that anybody can be an environmental educator in their school or community. Our youth program, RYSE (RAN Youth Sustaining the Earth) supports young activists and recently launched its own blog (RYSEP.org) to provide a forum for the voices of youth in our movement.

"RAN’s critical and timely support has indeed helped and resulted in significant lands being saved, protected and preserved over the years in the Copper River and Prince William Sound region."

Carol Hoover – Eyak Preservation Council Board

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"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."

"5,000 to provide emergency support to the Indigenous movement in the Peruvian Amazon carrying out blockades to demand suspension of oil, gas and mining concessions in the Amazon, and push for the repeal of several new laws drafted to comply with a free trade agreement with the United States, which take away community land rights and allow companies to enter Indigenous land with no prior consultation or even warning."

"3,000 to support Amo Amazonia, a week of artistic and cultural events to bring the color and life of the Amazon to the streets of Lima and the hearts of the Peruvian people to help educate the general public and shift attitudes in the wake of the recent blockades and conflict between the general public and local communities defending their rights and land."

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Recognizing the need to clear the air around problematic carbon offsetting while still taking responsibility for our carbon footprints, RAN launched the Climate Action Fund, an alternative approach to market-based offsets that instead provides grants to frontline activist groups directly tackling one of the root causes of climate change: the continued extraction and combustion of fossil fuels.

Our intention is that the program becomes a model for measuring and minimizing work-related carbon footprints as well as a catalyst for local citizen actions that are making a real difference by helping keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Contributions to the Climate Action Fund are tax-deductible, of which 100 percent go directly to supporting communities and providing tactical leverage to stop climate change at its source. RAN is inviting organizations and businesses that want to address their carbon footprint and help activate real solutions to climate change to participate in the Climate Action Fund.

During 2008-2009, RAN provided funds to the following organizations:

- **Climate Ground Zero, West Virginia**
  - $2,000
- **Coal River Mountain Watch, West Virginia**
  - $1,577
- **Black Mesa Water Coalition, Arizona**
  - $1,577
- **Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago**
  - $1,577

For more information on these organizations, please visit [RAN.org/CAF](http://RAN.org/CAF).

As part of RAN's own commitment to creating solutions to climate change, we have contributed to the Climate Action Fund based on calculated dollar values of carbon emitted through staff travel throughout the year.

Over the course of 26 years of oil drilling in Ecuador’s Amazon rainforest, U.S. oil giant Chevron (then Texaco) deliberately dumped more than 18 billion gallons of toxic wastewater into the rainforest, leaving local people suffering a wave of cancers, miscarriages and birth defects. The tragedy in Ecuador is so profound, it has been compared to the Exxon Valdez spill and called the “Amazon’s Chernobyl.” Within the next year, the outcome of a court case sixteen years in the making will be determined by a single Ecuadorian judge.

Chevron left Ecuador in 1990, but the waste the company left behind still continues to leach into the groundwater. And so Chevron is being made to answer in a class action lawsuit brought by more than 30,000 Indigenous peoples and Amazonian settlers. The pollution consists of huge quantities of crude oil, drilling muds and other heavy metals—a noxious soup that was systematically dumped into hundreds of shoddily designed, unlined waste pits and directly into the rivers and streams on which local people depend. The result has been a slow poisoning of these forest peoples and their environment.

Last year, a court-appointed team concluded that pollution resulting from Chevron’s oil dumping practices has caused over 1,400 cancer deaths throughout the region. In judicial inspections of 94 of Chevron’s former sites, 100 percent of them were found to have extensive levels of contamination, some at levels thousands of times higher than standards established to protect human health.

If found guilty, Chevron faces up to $27 billion in damages, but if Chevron follows Exxon’s playbook as it relates to the Valdez oil spill, they may never pay a dime. Rather than showing remorse or taking responsibility for its actions, Chevron has shown an uncommon arrogance, vowing to refuse to pay for a clean-up even if found guilty.

RAN is gearing up to launch a campaign against Chevron in order to bring justice to the people of the Ecuadorian Amazon who have been suffering from Chevron’s toxic legacy. We will be pushing for a precedent-setting corporate policy, which will transform the sector and ensure that what is happening to the people of Ecuador and the rainforest never happens anywhere else.

Photo: Serious Demands / Image: "Crude Reflections: Oil, Ruin and Resistance in the Amazon Rainforest" (Kale Johnson Books)
RAN appreciates your support and commitment - make your work possible. Thank you for believing in us.
Support and Revenue

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Expenses

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Change in Net Assets $3,815,347

Net Assets at Beginning of Year $1,337,510

Net Assets at End of Year $1,403,506

For a complete financial report by Lamorena & Chang, contact RAN’s Development Office.

CURRENT STAFF LIST

Adrian Wilson, Freedom from Oil Campaigner
Amanda Starkbuck, Global Finance Campaign Director
Anna Sarai, Global Finance Campaigner
Araille Clinfield, Membership Associate
Ashley Schneiter, Rainforest Agribusiness Campaigner
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Brant Olson, Freedom from Oil Campaign Director
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David Fine, Network Administrator
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Debra Eriksen, Organizing Director
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Emil Schaeffer-Denning, Freedom from Oil Campaigner
Hillary Lehr, Grassroots Action Manager
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Jennifer Cadet, Rainforest Agribusiness Corporate Communications
Jennifer Kroll, Forest and Climate Campaigner
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Katie Steele, Special Events Manager
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Labadon Centes, Forests Campaign Director
Lauren de Bruyn, Foundations Manager
Leda Salazar Lopez, Rainforest Agribusiness Campaign Director
Luke Smith, Web Developer/Designer
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Michael Bruno, Executive Director
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Scott Koeing, Membership Manager
Scott Perkins, Senior Organizer, Global Finance Campaign
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Artist Statement

The paintings in this report are selections from a new body of work drawing on over twenty years of painting directly from nature. Although initially I embraced a process of chance and improvisation, as these paintings took form I began to see how the imagery resonated with the state of our world today. In this time of upheaval and cataclysm, we are all awed by what we see and hear about climate change, a crisis that is having a profound impact on our individual and collective psyches. As systems collapse and the incalculable powers latent within the natural world are unleashed, we may be engulfed by catastrophe, yet we are still surrounded by beauty.

Adam Wolpert, November 2009
www.adamwolpert.com

Front cover: Adam Wolpert, Untitled #9, 60" x 48", oil on linen on board, 2009

Back Cover: Adam Wolpert, Untitled #8, 60" x 48", oil on linen on board, 2009

Rainforest Action Network

Vision Statement

Rainforest Action Network envisions a world where each generation sustains increasingly healthy forests, where the rights of all communities are respected, and where corporate profits never come at the expense of people or the planet.