

THE PANTHER

A PUBLICATION OF RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK | SUMMER 2023 | RAN.org



PEOPLE POWER is HOW WE WIN

Our vision for change is interwoven within our very name. RAN's network stretches across the globe, from the dense rainforests of Indonesia and the Amazon, to the frontline fights of fossil fuel expansion in the U.S. Our campaigns — and victories — are only possible because of the dedicated efforts of local and Indigenous partners, as well as supporters like you, who believe in our mission.

This spring, delegations from the Gulf Coast and North Sumatra joined us for direct actions holding banks and brands accountable in two of our key campaigns.

In April, members of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas and a delegation from Better Brazoria (formerly the Citizens for Clean and Clean Water Brazoria County) joined us in Charlotte, NC at the front door of Bank of America's world headquarters on the eve of its annual shareholder meeting to raise awareness for their demands: Bank of America must stop financing pollution and cultural genocide.

In South Texas, the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe, with local partners, have run an incredible international campaign to prevent the build out of LNG in their sacred sites and along their ancestral territories. But two proposed LNG terminals remain. Chairman Juan Mancias and his daughter Christa joined us for the rally at BoA headquarters in Charlotte.

The Better Brazoria delegation included Melanie Oldham, Gwendolyn Jones, and Manning Rollerson from Freeport, TX. Freeport LNG exploded in June 2022, leaving the community with little to no information on the risks and impacts of the explosion. Clean Air & Clean Water for Brazoria County has been working tirelessly locally and in DC to keep the facility closed.

A week later, a delegation of Indigenous leaders from North Sumatra joined us in Cincinnati, OH at the headquarters of Procter and Gamble to deliver a direct message to their executives: *Procter and Gamble must cut ties with Royal Golden Eagle, a company in their supply chain engaging in human rights violations and deforestation on Batak Toba customary lands.*

Among the North Sumatran delegation were Batak Indigenous activists and community members Rajes Sitanggang, Evajunita Lumban Gaol, and Delima Silalahi, program director for Indonesian partner KSPPM, a Sumatra-based Indigenous and human rights advocacy organization. Delima was recently named as a recipient of this year's Goldman Prize — the world's preeminent environmental award — for her successful work leading a campaign against a notoriously harmful P&G-linked company in Indonesia.



RAN HONORS NANCY JOHNSON FOR 23 YEARS

A Lifetime Dedicated to Action and Compassion

Ask any current or former staff member about Office Manager Nancy Johnson and they will say the same thing: “She is the heart of the organization.” After twenty-three years of dedicated service to Rainforest Action Network, Nancy is retiring!

Born and raised in San Francisco, Nancy has been a crucial part of the environmental movement for over 35 years, starting at Greenpeace, and joining RAN in 2000. Nancy was the first person to greet you when you walked into RAN’s headquarters with a smile or a hug. She knew everyone’s birthday and favorite snack, welcomed new staff members with flowers and a card on their first day, and always knew when someone needed a breath of fresh air, a walk and a good talk.

She is a fiercely dedicated activist who locked down for direct actions more times than she can count. “I’ve always loved being in actions,” Nancy recalls. “There is something about it. To really make a stand for something.”

In reflecting on her twenty-three years at RAN, Nancy shared how honored she was to spend such a significant part of her life at this organization. “It’s not just a job. It’s not even about the pay. It’s about what I’m actually doing as a person. And I know that I can be a small part of this incredible team that is campaigning to save the planet.”

Nancy — thank you for holding the heart and vision of Rainforest Action Network. You will be so missed!



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
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FROM THE CANOPY

Ginger Cassady, RAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We Are Nothing Without Our Network



We have a big vision at Rainforest Action Network: to create a world where the rights and dignity of all communities are respected and where healthy forests, a stable climate, and wild biodiversity are protected and celebrated.

I am often asked how one small organization can make a difference when the crises we face are so massive and complex. The answer is simple. We can't do it alone. That's why one of our core values is *People Power*.

RAN is driven by the belief that the collective action of individuals and communities has the power to change entire systems of injustice. And that when it comes to protecting the climate, global rainforests, and human rights, the commitment and passion of our network is more powerful than even the most well-resourced corporations.

People Power is not just an optimistic ideal that motivates us. It is a practical tactic in our strategy and the driving force behind our campaigns that shift entire industrial sectors.

People Power is...

- » The grassroots activists who show up in the streets and online to call for people and planet over profit.
- » The collaborative innovation of nonprofit coalitions who, together with RAN, organize massive mobilizations, publish crucial data and reports for the movement, and run strategically aligned multi-year campaigns.
- » The tireless work of Indigenous and frontline communities who are best positioned to act as the stewards of their lands and decision makers for the movement, while also being the most impacted by profit-driven systems of injustice.
- » The dedicated effort of each one of RAN's staff and board members.
- » The growing network of supporters — including you — who make our work possible.

Thanks to you, and the collective power of RAN's partners and allies, in the past few months...

- » Insurance giant Chubb became the first U.S. insurer to limit insuring oil and gas extraction projects.
- » RAN launched our 14th annual *Banking on Climate Chaos* report with endorsements from a record breaking 624 organizations from 75 countries.
- » A delegation from North Sumatra was invited along with our negotiating team to a meeting with P&G executives.

Simply put, *People Power* works.

I hope you'll read through this year's Panther to learn more about how people power is the cornerstone of each one of our campaigns to hold corporations accountable.

As the executive director of RAN, I frequently have the opportunity to engage with activists, movement leaders, and members of frontline communities from different walks of life, who are each taking on different battles from the same critical fight. And every day I hear from more people who are ready and willing to take bigger risks and bolder actions on behalf of people and planet. I am honored to be in the unique position of helping to direct that unstoppable force of *people power*.

Thank you for your ongoing support, your unwavering commitment, and for joining us in this crucial fight.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger Cassady".

Ginger Cassady
Executive Director



Through their Lens:

UPLIFTING THE VOICES OF FRONTLINE AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The past year marked a record high in Rainforest Action Network's 30 years of providing Community Action Grant (CAG) funding to frontline communities and grassroots initiatives fighting to keep forests standing, protect the climate, and uphold human rights. In partnership with the Global Greengrants Fund, RAN distributed over \$800,000 through more than 80 separate grants. This brings our distributions through the CAG program over the past three decades to \$6,500,000 through over 1,000 grants.

Our small grants program champions itself on its flexible, emergent grantmaking. Here are some grantee highlights from our priority regions of Southeast Asia, the Amazon, and North America that RAN has administered in the past six months.

Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan

\$10,000 to support building capacity towards implementing and securing Indigenous Forest recognition for the Long Isun community in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Efforts include a series of ongoing Focus Group Discussions providing community members information about Indigenous Forest regulations and building alignment around shared priorities.

Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia Yayasan (LBH Banda Aceh)

\$13,500 to support participatory mapping and capacity building trainings with 3 villages that have community managed lands on the boundary of the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in the Leuser Ecosystem of Sumatra, Indonesia to help build alignment, support community rights, and to work with communities to monitor illegal logging and other activities.

Digital Democracy

\$20,000 to contribute to travel costs for 40 Indigenous participants from 14 countries & 4 continents that attended a gathering of members of the Earth Defenders Toolkit network held in the Ecuadorian Amazon to be in community with one another, share strategies, learn from each other's struggles, and build collective power to protect their territories and cultural legacies.

Fundación Alianza Ceibo

\$15,000 to support an Indigenous-led Women's Leadership School that is promoting a new model for economic, environmental, and cultural resilience led by women in some of the Indigenous societies hit hardest by oil extraction, mining, and agriculture in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Articulação Nacional das Mulheres Indígenas Guerreiras da Ancestralidade (ANMIGA)

\$10,000 to support delegations of 2,000 Indigenous women from all 26 states of Brazil that participated in a weeklong series of marches, ceremonies, and dialogues with Indigenous leaders in the capital city Brasília. The mobilization and camp provided an opportunity for continued trainings and dialogues around Indigenous women-led strategies in defense of traditional territories, including in the Brazilian Amazon, and to show strength and solidarity alongside the historic election of Indigenous women to Congress and the creation of the new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, headed by long-term Indigenous leader Sonia Guajajara.

Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas

\$10,000 to support Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas' Bridges to the Ancestors Youth Walk, a 10-day journey across west Texas and down to Rio Grande Valley, including hosting town hall meetings at frontline community stops along the route to further raise awareness about LNG's impacts and build alliances.

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit: » grants.RAN.org



CHUBB: INSURE OUR FUTURE, NOT OIL & GAS

OUR STRATEGY AT WORK:

Insurance giant Chubb becomes first U.S. insurer to limit insuring oil and gas

Earlier this year, insurance giant Chubb announced a new suite of policies to restrict underwriting oil and gas extraction. This is huge, because it marks the first policy from any U.S. insurer that applies to conventional oil and gas and follows years of campaigning for Chubb to heed the warnings of impacted communities and climate scientists.

It's a great representation of our inside/outside strategy that results in big wins for people and planet. In 2022, RAN and partners amped up the pressure on Chubb. Here's how our time-tested strategy contributed to this new policy:

Cutting-edge research and reporting: Each of our campaigns is grounded in deep research, analysis, and reporting. In an annual scorecard we develop in collaboration with the Insure Our Future coalition, Chubb has continuously fallen short when it comes to fossil fuel restriction policies, including in the 2022 scorecard.

Direct action and grassroots organizing: For the last several years, RAN and partners have escalated brand damage mobilizations against Chubb. Our 2022 actions included a banner drop at the Risk and Insurance Management Society conference, delivering a petition with 50,000 signatures to Chubb CEO Evan Greenburg's front door, rallying online support to send emails to Chubb executives demanding accountability, and many more!

Shareholder and executive engagement: Leading up to Chubb's annual shareholder meeting (AGM), RAN and partners engaged with Chubb shareholders and helped draft two

climate-focused resolutions, one of which passed with 72% support, the other getting 19% approval. And in January 2023, RAN insurance campaigners were granted a meeting with Chubb executives to discuss our demand set.

New policy adopted! This past March, Chubb announced that it will not insure oil and gas extraction projects that are located in specific protected areas or do not have evidence-based plans to manage methane emissions. While there are major gaps in the Chubb policy's framework, RAN and partners welcome this as a notable first step in aligning Chubb's oil and gas business with environmental and human rights imperatives.

What's next? According to RAN's theory of change, when we move leaders and laggards amongst major corporations, it puts pressure on the whole industry, leading to entire sectoral shifts. Meaning - we believe that Chubb's new policy puts pressure on other major fossil fuel insurers like AIG and Liberty Mutual to take action now!

But we're not ready to let Chubb off the hook. There are major loopholes in their policy that we intend to push the company to close.

From asking key questions during Chubb's 2023 AGM, to supporting engagement on human rights standards, we will continue to push the company to adopt measures that protect people and the planet. We are also meeting with the company to ensure they understand community-led demands on climate and human rights.



ACTION RECAP

May 2023: With a coalition of activists and a delegation from North Sumatra, we marched from Cincinnati City Hall to the Procter & Gamble headquarters in solidarity for forests and environmental justice.

April 2023: On the eve of Bank of America's annual shareholder meeting, RAN joined local activists and a delegation from The Gulf Coast at BoA's headquarters in Charlotte, NC to demand accountability for their funding of LNG expansion and the fossil fuel industry.
PHOTO: Ethan Nuss / RAN



February 2023: On Valentine's day we showed up at the headquarters of snack food and candy maker Mondelez to demand that Indigenous land rights and forests are respected by their palm oil suppliers and throughout their supply chain.
PHOTO: Juliste G

February 2023: In partnership with the Insure Our Future coalition, RAN and fellow activists showed up in solidarity with communities holding insurance giants Chubb and AIG accountable for insuring the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.
PHOTO: Adrian Childress



January 2023: RAN and partners swarmed Liberty Mutual Headquarters with New Year's resolution flyers for the new CEO Tim Sweeney: Stop Insuring Climate Chaos.
PHOTO: Tom Dodge

October 2022: RAN and partners showed up at Chubb insurance CEO Even Greenberg's house in New York City to deliver 50k+ petition signatures calling on Chubb to stop fueling the climate emergency.
PHOTOS: Katie Godowski



RAN Welcomes new Deputy Executive Director, Njambi Good

Njambi comes to RAN as a seasoned non-profit leader with 20+ years of experience designing and implementing successful advocacy campaigns. She has most recently worked as an independent non-profit consultant supporting strategic planning, campaign creation, and organizing projects with various national and global non-profits. Before diving into consulting, Njambi worked as an executive at the National Audubon Society, managing their western region and leading state climate campaigning and legislative work. While at Audubon, she also held the role of interim Chief Equity, Diversity & Inclusion officer.



Prior to her work at Audubon, Njambi was the Deputy Executive Director for Amnesty International USA (AIUSA), focused on campaigns and organizing. Under her leadership, AIUSA began piloting corporate campaigning as a tactic. Prior to that, during Njambi's tenure as Grassroots and Digital Engagement Director at Greenpeace USA, she led a variety of global campaign teams focused on corporate targets. And, under Njambi's leadership as Chief Strategy Officer/ Deputy Executive Director at Save the Bay, the organization successfully fought off a Cargill-supported bay-fill development in Redwood City, CA.

Njambi's incredible set of skills and experience will be invaluable to RAN and we are so grateful to have her on the team!



Leila Salazar-Lopez joins RAN Board of Directors

Executive Director of Amazon Watch since 2015, Leila leads the organization in its work to protect and defend the bio-cultural and climate integrity of the Amazon rainforest in solidarity with Indigenous and forest peoples. For 25+ years Leila has worked to defend the world's rainforests, human rights, and climate through grassroots organizing and international advocacy campaigns at Amazon Watch, Rainforest Action Network, and Global Exchange. She is also a Global Fund for Women Advisor for Latin America, a Greenpeace Voting Member, and serves on the Advisory Circle of Daughters of the Earth.

With Leila's deep ties to the Amazon rainforest and long history with RAN, we are thrilled to have her leadership on our Board!

People Power Means You!

You are receiving *The Panther* because you have supported RAN in the last year. As we begin to develop our next five year strategic plan we would love to connect with more of our supporters! If you'd like to connect with us to share your thoughts on RAN's direction, ask questions, or just get to know the organization a little better, we'd be happy to meet.

— **Jennifer Wilson**, Development Communications Specialist,
Zanne Garland, Development Director, **Emily Selzer**, Director of Individual Giving

You can reach us at: » membership@ran.org





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THANK YOU!!!



From all of us at Rainforest Action Network, thank you for being a vital part of our network. In this newsletter you can read about the impact of your critical support. In the past few months RAN has welcomed new members of our board and leadership team, coordinated direct actions with delegations from frontline communities, secured a groundbreaking win in our insurance campaign, and more — thanks to you and your commitment to people and planet.

RAN Staff converge for the first time in four years at a recent strategic planning retreat in Northern California, CA facilitated in collaboration with Global & Collective, AORTA, and Wildfire Project.