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Over the past year, I have been thinking critically about Rainforest Action Network's history, our trajectory, and our place in the movement toward a just and sustainable planet. RAN has been in a months-long process of developing our next five-year strategic plan and so we have had many in-depth conversations about our strategy and our vision for the future.

As global temperatures reach the highest in recorded history, floods and fires dominate headlines, and the true crisis of our situation inspires a sense of urgency in all that we do, it has been incredibly powerful to take time this year to reflect — on how far we have come, what has worked, where we can grow, and ultimately, what we as a Network of planet defenders stand for.

One theme rose to the surface of every conversation and in early drafts of our strategic plan: in our nearly four decades of corporate

campaigning to shift destructive policies and practices, Rainforest Action Network has always centered human rights. And we are committed to continuing to do so.

Indigenous peoples and frontline communities are increasingly experiencing violence and suffering as corporations take and destroy their land to produce commodities like palm oil, soy, beef, pulp and paper, timber, and cocoa. Corporations are driving human rights violations, deforestation, and fossil fuel dependence.

In reflecting on the past year's achievements and looking ahead at our strategy for the next five years, I cannot overemphasize the vital role that frontline partnerships play in advancing our mission to preserve forests, protect the climate, and champion human rights.

PHOTO: Nanang Sujana / RAN

Just a few months ago, I was invited to join a women's delegation in the Brazilian Amazon to listen to and learn from Indigenous leaders. There, I traveled to Santarém, and for the first time saw a massive Cargill facility — the development of which I protested almost twenty years ago while I was a campaigner at Greenpeace. It was a humbling and powerful moment. RAN has a deep history working in the Amazon through our campaigns, partnerships, and Community Action Grants. Our vision for the next five years includes an expansion of our campaign work in the Amazon, beginning with building pressure to stop the buildout of a new Cargill port being planned there.

The delegation culminated in a march where nearly 10,000 Indigenous women from all six biomes in Brazil, including the Amazon, led us to the steps of congress to demand that their rights be upheld and respected. A week later, Brazil's supreme court blocked agri-business backed efforts to dramatically strip back Indigenous land rights, marking a historic victory.

I also had the opportunity this fall to join hundreds of thousands of activists in New York City during Climate Week — a pivotal week of action where leaders, decision-makers, and activists came together to drive the transition, speed up progress, and champion change on behalf of the planet. Approximatley 75,000 people came together for the March to End Fossil Fuels, as chants of solidarity reverberated

through the streets. Hundreds were arrested throughout the week as we blockaded entrances to banks, asset managers, and government buildings to demand accountability.

This year has been a significant one for our partnerships across our campaigns. In the following pages, you can read about some of the key moments and stories from the last twelve months that exemplify the impact of our partnerships — and our network. If there is one thing I can take away from our collective achievements this year, it is this: we are, undeniably, more than the sum of our parts.

Our commitment to people and planet remains unwavering. As we move forward, we are more determined than ever to strengthen our frontline partnerships, listen to the voices of those most affected by corporate corruption and systemic injustice, and take meaningful action to address the urgent issues of our time.

In Solidarity,

Junger Cassady

Ginger Cassady Executive Director





# Community ACTION GRANTS

**2023** marks the **30th** anniversary of our small grants program at Rainforest Action Network — **Community Action Grants**.

Community Action Grants (CAG) provides critical and rapid funding — sometimes the very first funding — for people fighting for their own communities. CAG supports people protecting millions of acres of forest, keeping millions of tons of carbon in the ground, and protecting the human rights, land rights, labor rights and the right of self-determination for local communities across the globe.

To date, our grantmaking program has made more than **1,000** grants totalling more than **\$6,500,000** to organizations on **6** continents doing critical work. This includes grantmaking in partnership with our longstanding allies at Global Greengrants Fund.

# Global in Scope. Local in Impact.

Supporting Indigenous and frontline communities has always been core to our strategy at Rainforest Action Network.

Indigenous and frontline communities are the best stewards of the world's rainforests and the best organizers against climate change. History has proven this fact time and again.

Through the years, the global and programmatic scope of CAG grantmaking has been as wide as the work has been urgent. Indigenous activists stopping oil and gas drilling in the Copper River Delta in Alaska. A women-led coalition in Northwestern Liberia fighting plantations on community land. Mexican climate organizers holding demonstrations and workshops through Central and South America as they travel to COP20, the UN climate summit in Lima, Peru. A Bunin community-led mapping coalition in Indonesia to protect lowland rainforests from development and preserve habitat for critically endangered Sumatran elephants.

# **Building Trust**

RAN launched this program to support communities bearing the first and worst costs of climate change and of the dominant model of economic development. From stolen ancestral lands to child labor to intimidation and corruption to lingering health impacts of devastated landscapes and water sources.

We also launched this program specifically in response to outdated grantmaking models built around external decision-making and exclusionary conservation practices. We still field questions from those wanting to preserve forests by sealing them off from the communities that have lived in harmony with them for generations. "Can I buy an acre of rainforest to protect it? How much would that cost . . ?"

For Indigenous peoples and local communities, the dispossession of lands and exclusion from decision-making processes have been the unfortunate hallmark of far too many efforts in the name of protecting biodiversity and preserving landscapes. The principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for any activities undertaken on Indigenous land informs RAN's programmatic work as well as our grantmaking efforts. In short, this means self determination and building trust with our partners is key to creating impact and positive change through our grantmaking.





# **A History of Support**

Although the CAG program formally began in 1993, RAN actually began transferring funds to Indigenous activists as early as the 1980s. In some cases, we provided the first grant ever received by local activists. We have seen grantees become strong, independent and powerful nonprofit organizations. And we have been proud to provide consistent support to growing regional movements.

PHOTOS: Amazon Frontlines; Amazon Watch; Khairul Abdi / RAN

With communities of color and women led-organizations traditionally receiving much fewer grants from traditional philanthropy, we have focused on doing what we can to support those communities.

RAN has been proud to be early and consistent supporters to women visionaries who are leading the way to environmental and social justice on multiple continents, including:



# Nemonte Nenquimo

An Indigenous Waorani woman committed to defending her ancestral territory, culture, and way of life in the Amazon rainforest.

From the traditional community of Nemonpare in the Pastaza region of the Ecuadorian Amazon, Nenquimo co-founded the Indigenous-led nonprofit organization Ceibo Alliance in 2015 to protect Indigenous lands and livelihoods from resource extraction. In 2018, she was elected the first female president of the Waorani organization of her region. Nenquimo led her people in a historic legal victory against the Ecuadorian government — protecting half-a-million acres of primary rainforest in the Amazon, setting a precedent for Indigenous rights across the region and was awarded the Goldman Prize in 2020.



# Farwiza Farhan

Chairperson of Forest, Nature and Environment Aceh Foundation (Yayasan HAkA), a grassroots organization based in Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia.

HAkA focuses on the conservation, protection and restoration of the Leuser Ecosystem — one of the most critical ecosystems on the planet. Farhan has worked to increase meaningful access and involvement of local communities in the development of policy pertaining to their environment and livelihood. She was recognized with the Whitley Award in 2016 and also honored with one of 2022's TIME100 Next Impact Awards.



# Tara Houska

Founder of the Giniw Collective and the former campaign director of Honor the Earth.

A member of the Couchiching First Nation, Houska was born and raised in International Falls, Minnesota. She has been on the frontlines of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest in North Dakota and the fight in Minnesota against Enbridge's disastrous Line 3 tar sands pipeline. She has played a lead role in convincing major banks to divest from pipeline ventures.

PHOTOS: Amazon Frontlines; Isis Medeiros / Amazon Watch; Axenon Ikanwe; Hakhu Fundación Amazonia; Jen Castro / Digital Democracy

# **Elevating Frontline Voices**

RAN also supports those amplifying the voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Color community members. Often on the front lines of extractive industries and deforestation, BIPOC communities are leading pipeline fights, opposing mining projects, raising the alarm on toxic leakages, and more.

Asociacion de Raíces Indígenas Amazónicas Peruanas (ARIAP) was founded in 2017 by and for Indigenous people in the Peruvian Amazon. Their Axenon Ikanwe radio program has been a critical tool in unifying the 130 Shipibo-Konibo communities and promoting Indigenous language revitalization. They also report on uncovered stories, such as potential disastrous fossil fuel excavation on their lands.

The **Hakhu Fundacion Amazonia** began after the Indigenous women's mobilization in 2016 where more than 500 women marched calling for

protection of their territories and rights. In addition to the sustainable income projects, Hakhu works to foster a creative voice for Indigenous people through developing storytelling and filmmaking skills, including comprehensive filmmaking retreats and workshop where artists from Amazonian Indigenous communities come together creatively, share their individual experiences with trauma and resistance, heal collectively, and use their inspiration to create visual stories.

**RISE St James** is a faith-based grassroots organization formed to advocate for racial and environmental justice in Louisiana. They are opposing the Taiwan-based Formosa Petrochemical Corporation's \$9.4 billion chemical manufacturing complex — including a counter PR campaign linking Formosa to rising cancer rates, destroyed home values, respiratory problems, and more flooding.

# **Building Movements**

RAN has supported long term grassroots movements that make incredible progress against enormous odds. One example is the consistent support to groups defending the Brazilian Amazon.

The rights, lives, and territories of Indigenous and forest peoples faced constant attack under the Bolsonaro administration in Brazil, starting in 2019. Communities faced efforts to invalidate Indigenous land claims via the Supreme Court, weakening the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation (FUNAI), and planned mining on Indigenous lands. There have been increases in deforestation, human-made fires, and invasions of Indigenous lands. In response, there have been three Indigenous Women's Marches led by Articulação Nacional das Mulheres Indígenas Guerreiras da Ancestralidade (ANMIGA) and the annual Free Land Camp, or Acampamento Terra Livre (ATL), led by Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB), all of which have been supported by our CAG program.

The election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as president in 2023 brings hope. Indigenous peoples are getting a greater voice in the decisions over their lives and territories. As part of this transition, long-term Indigenous leader Sonia Guajajara was appointed as the first minister for the newly created Ministry of Indigenous Peoples. Joênia Wapichana, the first Indigenous congresswoman in the country, was appointed by Lula to be the president of FUNAI, the main government body for Indigenous affairs. Never before in Brazil's history has an Indigenous woman presided over FUNAI or assumed a ministry.

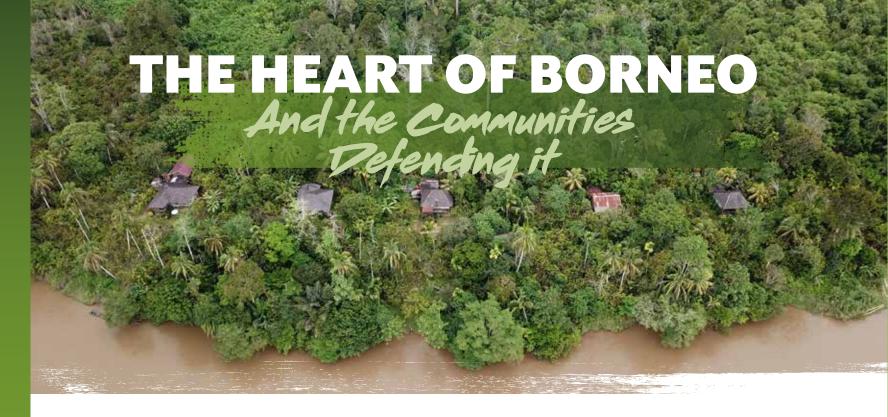
Lula's announcement in May to formally recognize six Indigenous
Lands also marked a historic milestone. In September, the ANMIGAled Indigenous Women's March organized thousands of Indigenous
women from all six Biomes in Brazil — culminating in a march to
Congress to deliver demands around Indigenous women-led strategies
to defend and protect traditional territories.











In February, RAN published a case study in partnership with the Dayak Bahau Indigenous Peoples of Long Isun. For more than a decade, this community has fought logging and palm oil development on their ancestral land, home to one of the last intact rainforests in East Kalimantan.

### The Forest

Long Isun is located in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, upstream of the mighty Mahakam River. Known as "the Heart of Borneo" the pristine ecosystem is a treasure trove of biodiversity — home to remarkable creatures like the Bornean orangutans and elephants, as well as unique Rafflesia flowers and an estimated eleven million people.

Long Isun is one of the last Indigenous communities along the Mahakam River with intact forests on their territory. Their customary forests provide the community with fresh water, food, and sources of livelihood. They are also critical habitat for endangered species, while protecting thousands of downstream residents from devastating flooding, drought and crop loss.

# **The Community**

The Dayak Bahau of Long Isun rely on their sacred forest for everything — from the vegetables they grow in their forest gardens, to the fish and game they hunt for food, to the variety of plants they use for medicine, to the cash crops they sell to pay for essential goods and services like education and healthcare.

Their way of life, however, is under threat. One of Indonesia's most powerful palm oil and timber empires, the Harita Group, has threatened to log their rainforests and disrupt their sacred relationship with the land. Companies under Harita Group's control supply major brands with palm oil.

Multinational consumer goods companies and their suppliers have been involved in worldwide deforestation and Indigenous rights abuses for years — despite public promises and adopting No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policies.

Mondeléz, Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, Colgate-Palmolive, PepsiCo and Unilever — manufacturers of common household goods — buy palm oil from the Harita Group as its timber operations threaten Long Isun's forests. And devastation from Harita Group's operations is not limited to the Long Isun community; it is felt throughout Indonesia's forests and frontline communities.

Here are the Long Isun community's demands:

# Land Back

The Harita Group must respect the Long Isun community's rights over their traditional territory and the resources within it. The Harita Group must respect the community's decision to say "No" to logging and ensure that the forestry companies under its control cancel all future plans to establish logging concessions in Long Isun territory.

# Indigenous Rights

The government must recognize the rights of the Long Isun community to own, manage, and use the resources within their traditional territory and must protect those rights against corporate exploitation.

# Corporate Action

Mondeléz, Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, Colgate-Palmolive, PepsiCo, and Unilever must ensure that the Harita Group respect Indigenous rights across its operations and provide remedy for past harms to the Long Isun community. Brands must also support Long Isun's demand for territorial recognition.

### The Demands

Long Isun residents are demanding that the brands that source from the Harita Group keep their promises to respect Indigenous rights. These brands must use their influence to support Long Isun in obtaining legal recognition of their customary territory. And these companies must hold the Harita Group accountable for occupying their land without Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

# **Challenging Corporate Power**

In May, RAN and partners showed up at the Mondeléz headquarters during its annual general meeting. We want the world to know the company's failure to address its role in driving the destruction of climate-critical forests around the world. And we know we were heard: Mondeléz executives were seen shuttering their office windows overlooking our spirited and emphatic protest. In October, the Harita Group declared that it would not commence logging in the Long Isun community's territory now and in the future.

PHOTOS: Khairul Abdi / RAN





When it comes to protecting rainforests, Procter & Gamble (P&G) has taken a big step backward. In June, the company quietly published a revised Forest Commodity Policy that, in spite of commitments to intact forests and forest communities, actually weakens the company's forests standards. A close read of P&G's new policy reveals that it is no longer prohibiting forest degradation caused by industrial logging in its wood pulp supply chain. This new loophole will have devastating consequences in the last remaining intact forest landscapes.

Rainforest Action Network has continued to ramp up the pressure on P&G, demanding that the maker of popular cleaning and personal care products cut ties with Royal Golden Eagle (RGE), a supplier with

deep ties to land grabs in Indigenous territories in North Sumatra, Indonesia. We are also calling on them to improve their policies to uphold Indigenous land rights and obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of impacted Indigenous communities.

This spring, a delegation of Indonesian Indigenous leaders from partner organization KSPPM, a Sumatra-based human rights and forest advocacy organization, were invited to Cincinnati for a meeting with P&G executives to discuss their demands. Following the meeting, RAN staff and the delegation joined with Cincinnati activists and local leaders to march from Cincinnati City Hall to the P&G headquarters in solidarity for forests and environmental justice — drawing attention

to the company's failure to address its role in driving the destruction of climate-critical forests around the world and bringing our demand set to their front doors.

And again in the fall, we escalated pressure in the month leading up to P&G's annual general meeting (AGM), where leaders and shareholders come together to discuss and vote on key issues. RAN led a monthlong organizing project, in partnership with a broad coalition of climate, forest, and human rights advocates. Organizers and activists led direct action trainings and community building events and built awareness around P&G's destructive policies by holding a presence at college campuses and high profile events — where P&G is typically seen as a sponsor or community leader and where the company is sheltered from negative public opinion.

The month of action culminated in a powerful statement aimed to communicate the urgency of the crisis and the role P&G continues to have in rampant destructive practices — days before the meeting, we dropped a 37 foot banner with the message "P&G: Stop Forest Destruction" over one of Cincinnati's most prominent bridges, urging P&G to take immediate action.

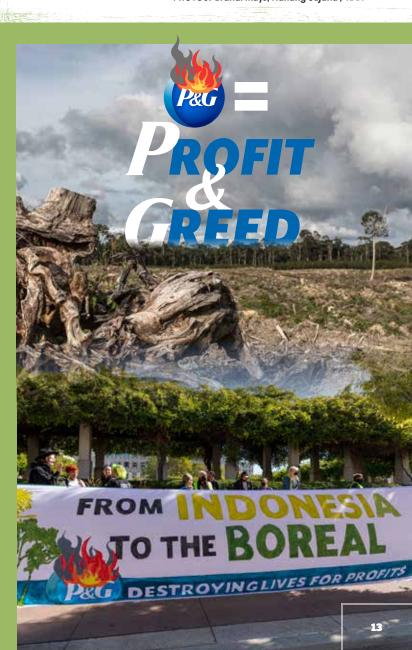
ALL BAD BUSINESS!

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The day of the AGM, we brought our message back to P&G's door, with a rally of over over 100 people, including P&G descendents, Cincinnati community members, and activists from across the globe gathering to say "Enough is Enough! The deforestation and human rights abuses must stop!"

PHOTOS: Brandi Mays; Nanang Sujana / RAN





The 2023 Banking on Climate Chaos report, released this April, is the most comprehensive analysis on fossil fuel banking produced to date. This 14th annual version of the report continued to investigate the fossil fuel financing and policies of the world's 60 largest banks.

Once again, the numbers were staggering. The report found that fossil fuel financing from the world's 60 largest banks has reached nearly \$5.5 trillion USD in the seven years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with \$668 billion financed in 2022 alone.

When it comes down to climate action, it's not about pledges or commitments — it's about cash. This report shows exactly where the money goes.

This year, Canadian bank Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) was found to be neck and neck with JPMorgan Chase who has dominated the position of the worst financier of fossil fuels each year since the Paris Agreement.

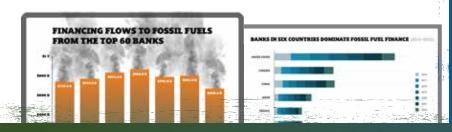
In the 14 years since BOCC was developed, it has evolved into the go-to resource for financial data on fossil fuel projects and associated human rights violations underwritten by the biggest banks in the world. And it appears to be grabbing the attention of the finance industry, as well. In August, just a few months after the report was launched, RBC, one of the biggest fossil fuel funders on the planet, announced that they would be hiring a climate transition chief to "orchestrate, unify, and advance" the company's climate-related activities.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change affirmed in its March 2023 report, the window of opportunity to remain below 1.5°C and to build a secure, liveable, and sustainable future is rapidly closing.

To give humanity a chance at avoiding unacceptable harm to millions of people alive today and countless generations to come, fossil fuel expansion must stop. And while fossil fuel companies are the ones dousing the planet in oil, gas, and coal, big banks hold the matches. Without financing, fossil fuels won't burn.

You can read the report and interact with the data at:

>>> BankingonClimateChaos.org



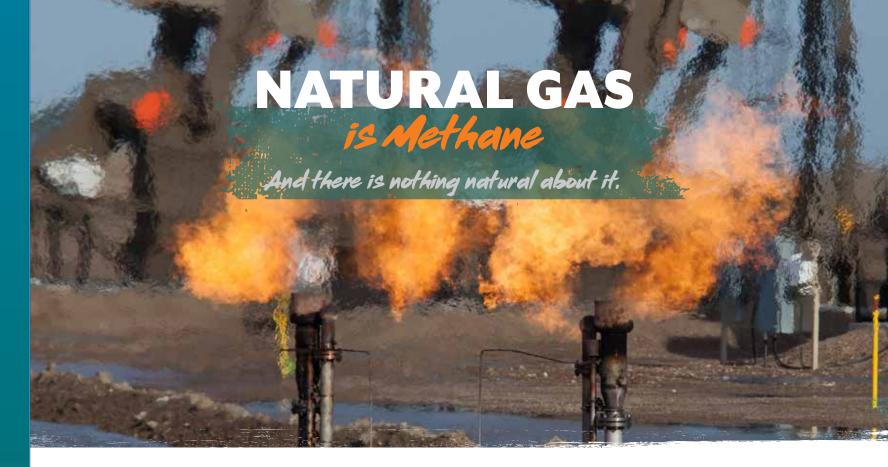


Why does the *Banking on Climate Chaos* report matter?

- » It is a critical tool for activists, politicians, the media, and concerned shareholders
- » It provides synthesized data and analysis for the movement that is not available anywhere else
- » It informs RAN's campaign strategy
- It proves that our demands on banks for climate action are backed by real numbers

PHOTOS: Erik McGrregor / RAN





A decade ago, Rainforest Action Network coined the term "Conflict Palm Oil." It was a part of a concerted effort to rebrand the most widely used vegetable oil in the world as a driving force behind deforestation and human rights abuses. And it worked. Our campaign dramatically shifted the public understanding and global narrative of the palm oil industry — and how the production of this commodity was driving massive destruction of rainforests and human rights abuses such as human trafficking and child labor.

Now we've turned our attention — and our narrative shifting strategy — to a massive threat to our sustainable future: so-called "natural gas."

There is nothing natural about Liquified "Natural" Gas (LNG), or methane gas. It is a fossil fuel with 80 times more warming power than carbon over a 20 year period. Yet LNG is slated for the largest fossil fuel build out of this generation. In the U.S. Gulf Coast alone, there are over twenty new LNG export facilities planned. According to the International Energy Association, we must stop expanding the fossil fuel sector if we are to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Yet if these LNG projects are built, it would lock us into decades of dependence on fossil fuels.

The rebranding of methane into "natural" gas has been intentionally, and successfully, done by the fossil fuel industry. It is greenwashing at its most blatant. We don't call coal "natural rocks" so why would we call fracked methane "natural gas"?

And, liquified natural gas is becoming one of the biggest fossil fuel threats to the safety of frontline communities.

# LNG Myths

- » It is natural and therefore, not harmful.
- » It is better for the environment than coal or oil.
- » It is a viable energy alternative or "bridge fuel" to transition to cleaner energy sources.
- » Because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, more LNG is needed to help the global energy market.



We need a just transition to a people-centered economy with cleaner energy sources. That's why we are calling out LNG for what it is: dirty, fracked, methane gas posing a massive threat to climate stability.

So this fall during Climate Week, we took to the streets in New York City to get the message out. We covered street corners, taxi cabs, and subways with advertisements telling the truth, and rupturing the false narratives on gas. These ads were seen an estimated 12 million times during the month of September.

It is imperative that the public is aware of the truth: there is nothing "natural" about methane.

PHOTOS: Jim West / Alamy Stock Photo; Erik McGrregor / RAN; Gasleaks.org

# **LNG Facts**

- The proposed LNG build outs in the Gulf Coast are displacing primarily Black and Brown communities without their consent
   including projects on Indigenous ancestral territories.
- » LNG is made up of mostly methane, a gas that has 80 times more warming power than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period.
- Gas accounts for almost half of methane emissions in the U.S.
- » LNG pipelines explode on average every two days in the U.S.
- In addition to the toxic methane gas in LNG, the manufacturing, storing and exporting of LNG accounts for over one-third of carbon emissions in the U.S.
- » Big banks and fossil fuel companies are making a lot of money on the planned LNG expansion.





# RAN and Partners Increase Pressure on Insurers in 2023 - A Timeline

Insurance companies are supposed to protect us from catastrophic risks. Yet when it comes to the largest threat to humanity — climate change — insurers are perpetuating dependence on fossil fuels by insuring new coal, oil and gas projects. Incredibly, at the same time they are pouring gasoline onto the fire of climate chaos, they are denying coverage for individuals living in climate-risk areas.

Over the last year and a half, RAN has worked with partner organizations within the Insure Our Future Coalition to expose the hypocrisy rampant among insurers. Our work has resulted in some targeted insurance companies adopting new, more rigorous policies and greater scrutiny of the insurance sector as a whole.

**March and November 2022:** RAN organized two high profile protests against Chubb, one of the largest North American insurers and a major laggard in adopting more responsible policies.

**November 2022:** The Insure Our Future Coalition published its sixth annual scorecard of the sector. The report showed there was industry-wide movement away from insuring coal — **but little movement away from oil and gas.** 

**March 2023:** After consistent pressure, Chubb became the **first insurer to limit insuring oil and gas**. The *Wall Street Journal* covered the new policy highlighting the RAN-sponsored actions against the company.

However, while the Chubb policy represented a major step forward, it did not go far enough.

**May 2023:** In the lead up to Chubb's annual general meeting, RAN projected demands onto massive gas tanks in North Brooklyn — pushing the company to end insuring oil and gas completely.

**June 2023:** In an open letter on the one year anniversary of an LNG terminal explosion in Freeport, TX, RAN demanded the world's largest insurers stop insuring methane gas export terminals and meet with the community members affected by these projects. Signed by over 140 groups and covered by news outlets such as *Politico*, the letter highlighted fossil fuel expansion projects that continue to be insured while individuals living in affected areas saw protections restricted.

In the same month, the U.S. Senate announced a first of its kind investigation into the largest insurance companies and their disregard for climate impacts. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse said, "By underwriting and investing in new and expanded fossil fuel projects, U.S. insurers are helping big oil bring us closer to the worst runaway climate scenarios, which threaten lives, livelihoods, and the federal budget. [This] is especially relevant as some of these companies begin to pull out of certain markets because they see the coming catastrophic climate

risks — despite continuing to provide services to the fossil fuel industry."

**August 2023:** The Gwich'in Steering Committee published their insurance industry scorecard, reporting that **20 insurers created new policies ruling out insuring projects in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge**.

**September 2023:** Insure Our Future coalition member Public Citizen reported that **insurers continue to underwrite coal, in violation of their own policies.** Their report received global media coverage in *Bloomberg, The Guardian,* and *MSN.* 

RAN and partner Better Brazoria rallied at Chubb offices to deliver a letter signed by over 22,000 supporters calling on the insurer to drop Freeport LNG.

October 2023: RAN held a rally to demand real climate leadership at the annual Insurance Leadership Forum in Colorado Springs, CO. Local homeowners who are struggling to find and afford home insurance that will cover their homes thanks to increased risk due to climate impacts — like fires and flooding — showed up to the rally in force. Then our team infiltrated the Leadership Forum and brought the message directly to top executives — explaining the disastrous impacts of LNG and methane gas.



PHOTOS: Katie Godowski; Adrian Childress; Christian O'Rourke



# This year, RAN celebrated major wins for the protection of forests and communities.

# Curbing Deforestation in Indonesia, including the Leuser Ecosystem

RAN's market campaigns have contributed to curbing some of the worst deforestation in Indonesia — including the Leuser Ecosystem, one of the most critical and most biodiverse rainforests on the planet. Protection of the Leuser Ecosystem's lowland rainforests, peatlands, and biodiversity from destruction caused by palm oil expansion has been a major focus for our forest program and has yielded tremendous results over the past decade. We have seen a steady decline in deforestation across the 6 million acre landscape — and within palm oil concessions in Aceh — and can make a direct correlation that RAN and our frontline partners' work over the last decade has contributed to this outcome.

# Aceh Communities Set to Receive Government Recognition of Customary Land Rights

In August, it was announced by the Government of Indonesia that traditional communities in the Sumatran province of Aceh may soon receive formal recognition of their customary rights — a historic first for the region. There are many communities across Aceh, including in and around the Leuser Ecosystem, that are awaiting the recognition of their customary rights by government authorities. Determination of customary forests is an important step because the government must recognize these rights in order for Indigenous and traditional communities to have legal rights to manage the forests on which their communities depend.

As shown in RAN's *Carbon Bomb Scandals* report from last year, the historic lack of clarity over boundaries for communities with legitimate customary rights has increasingly been used as a loophole for significant encroachment of illegal palm oil plantations into the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve. With this development, we are hopeful that the governments of Aceh and Indonesia can once and for all address overlapping claims with palm oil companies and revoke palm oil concessions on lands proposed on customary or village forests.

PHOTOS: KSPPM; Nanang Sujana / RAN

# Global Precedent on Corporate Responsibility to Protect Human Rights Defenders

In September, multinational packaged consumer goods company Unilever — after over a decade of negotiations and being exposed in RAN's forest campaigns — published a new Human Rights Defender policy and implementation guide. The document defines the company's commitment to support Human Rights Defenders that are under increasing risk from agricultural supply chains. Most importantly, the consumer goods giant has laid out a step-by-step guide to the implementation of a dedicated policy on protecting Human Rights Defenders. This is a global first for a multinational corporation that has a significant footprint in the tropical rainforest regions where Human Rights Defenders are under increasing attack and civic space is shrinking. Unilever has set an important precedent that must now be followed by its peers in the Consumer Goods Forum, a global organization of more than 400 consumer goods companies across 70 countries. Major brands like Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Ferrero, Mars, Mondeléz, Colgate Palmolive, Kao, and Nissin Foods all lack dedicated, detailed policies and procedures on Human Rights Defenders — and we will be pressuring them to do better.





One of the key tactics in our strategy to fight for people and planet is to continue exposing the devastation of corporate profiteering through our cutting-edge research and reporting — meaning our campaigns and demands are driven by deep data and analysis.

This has never been more important for our work to protect forests. Each year we produce case studies and reports in coalition with frontline communities and partner organizations that shed light on the corporations that must be held accountable for the destruction.

# Here are a few highlights from the last year:

# Pulping Borneo:

Deforestation in Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) Group's Supply Chain and RGE's Hidden Links to a New Mega-Scale Pulp Mill in North Kalimantan, Indonesia (May 2023)

A new investigative report we launched this year with a coalition of allies — *Pulping Borneo* — exposed disturbing events that threatened 600,000 hectares of ancient rainforests in Borneo and Papua. The report found that a new mega-scale pulpwood mill was under construction on the small Island of Tarakan in Eastern Indonesia. At full capacity, the new mill is projected to shred through 3.3 million tonnes of timber a year — that's over 100,000 truckloads of logs annually. The corporation involved — Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) and its financier Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) and business partner Procter & Gamble (P&G) — are egregiously making a mockery of their own sustainability policies.

# Keep Forests Standing:

# Evaluating Brands and Banks Driving Deforestation and Human Rights Abuses (November 2023)

Released this fall, our annual *Keep Forests Standing* scorecard continues to reveal that major multinational brands are failing to stop deforestation and human rights abuses in their business practices. In this year's evaluation, we found that there is not a single brand that does not have a long way to go towards receiving an 'A' grade on these critically important issues. Procter & Gamble, Mondeléz, Ferrero and Nissin Foods are the worst performing among the 10 brands evaluated. And we know the brands exposed in this report are paying attention. After nearly seven years of engaging with RAN on cases involving the intimidation of frontline forest defenders, multinational packaged consumer goods company Unilever published its new Human Rights Defender Policy and Implementation Guide in September. This sets a new global precedent during a time when defenders are under increasing risk in agricultural supply chains.

# Leuser Watch: Deforestation Crisis

# Exposure in the Leuser Ecosystem (July 2023)

For nearly a decade, RAN has documented the destruction of primary and secondary forests within the Leuser Ecosystem for palm oil — and we have traced the culprits responsible back to the supply chains of major brands such as P&G, Mondeléz, Nestlé, Unilever, and PepsiCo. Using field investigations and new time lapse footage by open source forest monitoring platform Nusantara Atlas, we found that some of Indonesia's most important rainforests within the nationally protected Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in the Leuser Ecosystem suffered a spike in deforestation for new and illegal palm oil plantation development. This is an alarming trend that has increased over the last two years, despite the national trend in Indonesia of deforestation in primary forests declining in 2022 for the first time in three decades. In the first six months of 2023 alone we have documented a loss of 920 acres in this protected area. In addition, RAN used satellite and drone footage to expose at least 16 miles of new canals that have been dug in the area so far in 2023.





At the heart of Rainforest Action Network's mission lies a deep commitment to transformative partnerships. 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 dedication and tireless efforts of local and Indigenous partners.

Not only do partnerships serve as a strategic cornerstone of our campaigns, they also embody an intrinsic core value that guides our

strategy. A central tenet to RAN's theory of change is the firm belief that local communities, especially Indigenous communities, are best positioned to act as stewards and decision makers in regards to their traditional territories.

Here are some notable highlights from the past year, demonstrating how the nexus of strategy and collaborative alliances with partners gives rise to pivotal moments of campaign progress.

PHOTOS: Brandi Mays; Jes Azner / Getty Images

# **Bridge to the Ancestors**

One of our biggest fights is against the expansion of methane, also known as liquefied "natural" gas (LNG). Methane expansion projects result in massive emissions and are causing irreversible damage to the ecosystem and frontline and Indigenous communities in the Rio Grande Valley. The Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas is a leader in resisting extractive industries of all kinds: from oil and gas to Space X and border wall construction.

This spring, RAN staff joined these activists in their Bridge to the Ancestors: an Indigenous, youth-led walk spanning over 600 miles along sacred sites of their customary lands. This is also the route across which methane is transported in the U.S. before being exported and burnt around the world. The inspiring action brought awareness to the immense impact extractive industries continue to have across communities across Texas and the Gulf Coast.

During the week-long walk, French mega-bank Société Générale withdrew its financial support from the highly controversial Rio Grande LNG shale gas export project planned in South Texas.

### From North Sumatra to Cincinnati

Delima Silalahi knows a thing or two about holding corporations accountable: Her recent campaign work turned the tide in a decadeslong struggle between Batak Toba Indigenous peoples, stewards of some of North Sumatra's last intact rainforests, and a notoriously destructive pulp and paper company connected to the Procter & Gamble supply chain — Toba Pulp (TPL).

Silalahi's organizing helped six Batak Toba communities secure the legal land rights of 17,824 acres, a feat which won her international acclaim and a 2023 Goldman Prize. But her work is far from over: Nearly two dozen Batak Toba communities could lose their customary lands and livelihoods indefinitely due to TPL's activities.

In May, a delegation of Indigenous Batak Toba activists joined Delima in Cincinnati at the Procter & Gamble headquarters to protest a notable instance of rights violations. A broad coalition of Ohio activists and RAN staff protested alongside Silalahi and the delegation, including outraged descendants of P&G's founders. The delegation was granted a meeting with P&G executives where they shared their grievances in great detail.

# **Protect Verde Island Passage**

Right now, there are 45 methane gas (LNG) import terminals and power plants proposed in the Verde Island Passage (VIP) in the Philippines — the most biodiverse marine habitat in the world, with over two million people relying on it for sustenance and livelihoods. The LNG terminals would make the region the epicenter of fossil fuel expansion in Southeast Asia, and Filipino communities are fighting back.

RAN and international climate finance groups are partnering with Filipino based Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) to stop the gas buildout in the VIP area. In June, the CEED team headed to San Francisco for the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) conference. RAN and CEED hosted a session on Protect Verde Island Passage, including an exhibit of powerful images that captures the heart and momentum of this important fight.



# CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

EVERY TWO DAYS
ON AVERAGE

health

From the vilification of virologists fighting a pandemic, to claiming any opposing viewpoint is fake news, to the filing of RICO charges against forest defenders and racial justice activists, we are seeing consistent and concerted attacks on science, journalism and the right to protest. And we continue to hear people with vested interests in fossil fuels — from politicians to corporate executives — deny the reality of climate change while using blatant greenwashing tactics to justify incremental progress and business as usual. That is why, in times like these, it is more important than ever to raise our collective voices and speak truth with clarity.

A core strategy at RAN is to use our voices and our communications platforms to pressure our targets to change their destructive behaviors.

Our campaigns to change the practices and policies of major corporations and banks are based on impeccable research, on the ground investigation, and overwhelming data. But it is a growing challenge to cut through the noise and make these facts heard loud and clear.

That's why we tirelessly work to connect with our our Network to sign petitions, send emails, write letters, and show up on doorsteps and corporate headquarters — showing our campaign targets that we are watching and we are holding them accountable. And that's why we work with media outlets around the globe to make sure the facts are known to as wide an audience as possible.







# You care about Indigenous rights?

Then you should know what FPIC is.

Our social media audiences at RAN are growing rapidly, with followers increasing every quarter. RAN digital campaigns are critical elements of our Climate and Energy and Forest teams. We have laid new groundwork to support our storytelling — using infographics, case studies, first person videos and more to build energy and support for the work.

And our traditional media work continues to thrive even in the increasingly crowded news cycle. Our Banking on Climate Chaos 2023 report earned more than 400 media mentions across the globe, with major stories in the Financial Times and other key outlets.

And we earn media in regions where our campaigns touch down directly, such as Indonesia and Japan. We have seen more than 75 articles this year alone generated in Bahasa Indonesia covering deforestation issues. Our Leuser Watch blog posts consistently generate media coverage, while our Carbon Scandal report on the deforestation in Singkil has been covered in depth.

Whether through traditional media, Instagram or email, we will continue to raise the voices of our partners and speak truth to the crises we face in the fight for people and planet.



# Newsweek

Methane Gas From LNG Production Is a Climate Emergency | Opinion

By Aditi Sen

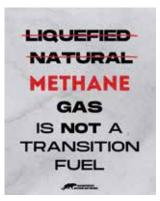
Climate and Energy Program Director, Rainforest Action Network

ue to climate change parts of india, where I'm from, are questioning for humans in the future. Last year heatwayes killed \$1,500 people in Europ for a day in Washington, D. C., felt like inhaling 22 cogarties because of the cwildfrees. Over 20 million acres of wild lands are burning there, 21 lines also

Secontly more than 100 million coopie in the United States were under heat weather burns crops, delivers skilling heat strokes, and threatens cower oridi stay cool manipolities air conditioners all printings. This is on top of firms a Valley will experience the hottest temperatures ever recorded on the planetand 2021.



Lapona Rasinbest Arthon Berwick (MAS) 2009 mempelot, semi langu seng dimasan di budan pasahir basis hatapasan hasin-si Singidi. Provinsi Arch, vish-dipasakan persodhan nakasan ringah basis duata babun seja bidawa Harida, Papalot, Mondoles, General Milla, Kelinggi, Mars dan Hershey Gensio Tilanh, Doekor Rehiphon SAN menyangkan, sejambah persakhan basar terabuh Halih benganjung sahijakan seriah mengahiri deberana dakan sesiah panikan.



# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Insurer Chubb Demands Energy Producers Cut Methane Emissions for Coverage

Restrictions fall short of demands by climate activists



Oil-and-gas companies will provide plans to manage emissions or lose underwriting from Chubb.

By Leslie Scism Follow and Rhiannon Hoyle Follow

 $Global\ in surer\ Chubb\ Ltd.\ is\ tightening\ its\ requirements\ on\ insurance\ policies\ for\ oil-and-gas\ producers,\ demanding\ that\ they\ reduce\ emissions\ of\ methane,\ a\ potent\ greenhouse\ gas.$ 

Chubb CB-0.445 ▼, which is a top-10 insurer in the worldwide oil-and-gas market by premium volume, will also stop underwriting projects in areas designated as protected by state, provincial or national covernments, effective immediately.







# The Washington Post

Activists are looking to regulations to combat c







"Our work has real impact and **creates change**.
Our campaigns are **designed for leverage**, and we do a lot with little so your dollars go a LONG way."

- Anna Hawken



# Thank You ANNA HAWKEN, for 16 years of service

Anna Hawken joined the RAN board in 2007 and over her tenure held several roles including Board Chair, Vice Chair, and the chair of the Development Committee.

Anna was born and raised in Australia and graduated from the Flinders University of South Australia with a degree in political science and economics, before living a truly global life. She has also lived and worked in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Europe before settling and having a family in California.

Anna is a long time supporter of progressive causes and has been a consistent leader on the board at Rainforest Action Network. She has been a critical driver of our annual REVEL event, helping to create inspiring programming, successful fundraising, and fun for staff, supporters, and activists alike. Assuming leadership in one of the most

challenging times for the preservation and protection of rainforests, our climate, and human rights is a challenge that Anna both welcomed and exceeded.

When asked about her long tenure and dedication to RAN, Anna says "Our work has real impact and creates change. Our campaigns are designed for leverage, and we do a lot with little — so your dollars go a LONG way."

We are forever grateful for Anna's commitment to Rainforest Action Network and will miss her leadership, unique perspective, and deep passion for people and planet on our Board.

For 16 years of incredible, dedicated service, all of us here at RAN say: Thank You Anna!



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Clement & Molly Quoyeser

Craig Stout
Curtis Heikkinen

Cynthia Beard & Tom Downs

Cynthia Linton Charitable Fund at The Chicago

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David Fuchs
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Karen MacKain and Arnold Shapiro

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Katharine King Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation

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Zahavah Levine & Jeff Meyer Zhou Zhang & Kevin Curry





Alnor

Amoeba Music

Anonymous (15)

Anonymous Fund at Community Foundation of

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**Arcus Foundation** 

**ARIA Foundation** 

Arkansas Community Foundation

**Arntz Family Foundation** 

Artistic Resources in Action Foundation

Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation

Clarence F. Heller Charitable Foundation Donor

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Hampshire Foundation

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Highfield Foundation

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March Conservation Fund

MMHBO Fund

Nia Community Foundation

NobleLight Foundation

Overbrook Foundation

Padosi Foundation

Re:wild

Reed Family Foundation

REVERB

Rick Steves' Europe Fund held at the Community

Foundation of Snohomish County

Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation

San Francisco Foundation

Sierra Club

Silver Family Foundation

Sobrato Foundation

Sol de Janeiro

Stephanie and Lawrence Flinn Jr Charitable Trust

Stoller Family Charitable Lead Annuity Trust Sustainable Solutions Foundation

The Arkay Foundation

The B and L Ranch Trust

The Davidson Family Foundation

The Dines Zipes Fund

The Frank Pace Jr Foundation

The Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the

Environment

The Laney and Pasha Thornton Foundation

The Lumpkin Family Foundation

The Maue Kay Foundation

The River Foundation

The Tilia Fund

The Waterloo Foundation

The Zephyr Fund

Thomsen Trust W

**Tides Foundation** 

Trade-PMR, Inc

Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica

Urgewald

Wallace Global Fund

White Cedar Fund of Tides Foundation

Whitman Family Foundation

Wild Woods Foundation

William C. Bannerman Foundation

Winky Foundation

Woka Foundation

woka Foundatio

World Centric

Yip Harburg Foundation

# Bequests

Anonymous (2)
Barbara J Barr Trust
Carse O McDaniel Estate
Luschei Outermost Fund
Moenke Estate
Odette Ricard Estate
Richard Kaplan Revocable Trust
Wanda Broadie Alexander Living Trust

# In-Kind Gifts

Google AdWords/Grants Microsoft Ads/Grants Mother Jones Magazine



PHOTOS: Nanang Sujana / RAN; Khairul Abdi / RAN



# LASTING IMPACT

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Christin Swearingen

Christina Clarke Christine Aliff Christine Brunetti Clarice Rheault David Quisenberry Deborah Wigain Denisse Camacho Diana Carroll Donald Kluever Edward and Marianne Fisher Flaine Weihman Elena Court Elizabeth Osborne **Emily Brown** Erika Rains Fletcher Wolfe Forrest McGregor Gabriel Lopez George Ford

Ginny Jordan

Gloria Mahin Heather Brown Henry Cancel Holly Hunnicutt Ikuko Hibbs lack Titelman Jackie Shedrow Jacquelyn Jacobs Jacqui Zink James Hoy James P. Rodell James Stent Jana and Jeff Zanetto Jared Blake Jared Meagher-Zayas Jazzlyn Watson Jeffrey Lane Jeffrey Nytko Jemma Redgrave Jenna Flohr lennifer linot Jeremy Avins Jessica Beam Jill Corsiglia Jill Johnson **Jodie Evans** John Belknap Jon Spar and Karen Kulikowski Joseph Feinberg Joseph Wasserman Judith Klien

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# **SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

Individuals	\$2,232,888	17%	
Major Gifts	\$1,821,875	14%	
Bequests	\$856,767	7%	
Special Events (Net)	\$192,000	1%	
Grants	\$7,509,310	57%	
In-kind (contributed nonfinancial assets)	\$414,390	3%	
Other	\$142,517	1%	

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE** \$13,169,747

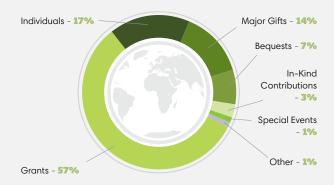
# **EXPENSES**

Program Services	\$9,247,756	81%	
Management and General	\$745,420	6.5%	
Fundraising	\$1,448,957	12.5%	

\$11,442,133 **TOTAL EXPENSES** 



\$12,080,818 Beginning End \$13,808,431





RAN's complete independent financial audit is available at **RAN.org**. If you have further questions, you may contact Zanne Garland at zanne@ran.org.

PHOTOS: Andy Poole / shutterstock; Nanang Sujana / RAN

# STAFF & BOARD

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