



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEART OF THE AMAZON

Thousands of Indigenous people form human banner in the rainforest



In January, the ninth annual World Social Forum was held in the Amazon, featuring the largest Indigenous delegation in the event's history. In an extraordinary and inspirational demonstration, more than one thousand Indigenous leaders from throughout the Amazon and around the world gathered to form a giant "human banner, using their bodies to spell out the words, "Salve Amazonia" ("Save the Amazon" in Portuguese).

The demonstration was led by COIAB (the Federation of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon), COICA (Indigenous Organization of the Amazon Basin), Amazon Alliance, Amazon Watch, and RAN. On the eve of the event, COIAB issued the following statement urging others to join in protecting our planet:

"With the permission of our ancestors' spirits, we indigenous peoples are here with our friends from all corners of the earth. We build this symbol with our bodies as the cry of living beings from this green forest, this planet, for our continuity as humans and diverse creatures. The symbol of the bow and arrow has three meanings: The first, our aim that every man, woman, and child will

decide to care for our planet; The second, the position of defending the rights of indigenous peoples, of nature, of the planet, and of our home the Amazon; The third, to send a message to the world so that each of us helps to protect our home, our air, our water, our food. The Datsiparabu ceremony is the purification of our minds, our spirit, our soul, and our hearts. Save the Amazon!"

Nearly 20 percent of the Amazon has been deforested over the past four decades, and each year between 11,000 and 27,000 square kilometers of additional forest are destroyed. Scientists predict that the entire Amazon region – recognized as a key to climate stability – will be at the brink of permanent ecological collapse within the next 10 to 20 years if current development plans are allowed to continue. Similarly, the destruction of the Amazon would release massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, accelerating global climate change.

RAN is committed to protecting the Amazon, stopping the expansion of giant agribusiness, supporting Indigenous and forest peoples, and working to stop climate change. Together we will make a difference.

BANK OF AMERICA ANNOUNCES NEW POLICY RESTRICTING MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING

By Rebecca Tarbotton, Global Finance Campaign Director



PHOTO: APPALACHIAN VOICES / FLIGHT COURTESY OF SOUTH WINGS

RAN and allies celebrated in December when Bank of America announced a policy to phase out financing of mountain top removal coal mining. This is a grassroots gain we couldn't have done without you! Bank of America's announcement came less than three weeks after a RAN day of action against coal and coal finance, which included demonstrations in more than 50 cities. The policy is a step

forward in the fight against mountaintop removal coal mining, which has devastated Appalachian communities and the mountains and streams they depend on. A significant portion of coal burned in the United States is derived from this horrific practice, and RAN has helped make it a centerpiece of the growing movement against coal by supporting the communities on the front lines of this devastating practice.

RAN commends Bank of America for taking this important step, but will continue to pressure them to completely phase-out coal financing and increase their investments in energy efficiency and renewables. We are also encouraging other banks such as Citi and JPMorgan Chase that are actively financing coal as well as mountaintop removal mining to follow Bank of America's lead.

You can help us send these banks a clear message that it's time to time to invest in a clean energy future, not dirty fossil fuels. RAN is encouraging citizens to cut their carbon debt by switching accounts to low-carbon banking alternatives such as green banks and credit unions.

Take Action! Go to DirtyMoney.org and tell Citi and Bank of America to stop funding coal-fired power plants!

You can help support this campaign! Make a donation today at RAN.org/give.

RAN TAKES AIM AT CANADIAN BANKS' DIRTY INVESTMENTS

On November 19, RAN released a report ranking the carbon footprints of Canada's top banks: RBC, TD, Scotiabank, CIBC, BMO, Vancity and Desjardins. *Financing Global Warming: Canadian Banks and Fossil Fuels* is the first report to analyze and quantify the greenhouse gas emissions of Canadian banks based on their financing of the fossil fuel sector. Based on the report's findings, Canada's five top banks provided more than \$155 billion in national and international corporate financing for fossil fuel extraction in 2007, including substantial investments in the world's largest and dirtiest fossil fuel development project: the expansion of Alberta's tar sands.

In addition to the report, RAN unveiled a new website, ClimateFriendlyBanking.org, featuring a carbon calculator that enables citizens to view the footprint of their personal deposit account and to compare it to their potential footprint with other banking options.

The campaign launch coincided with a series of demonstrations exposing each of the banks at select branches across Canada.

Visit ClimateFriendlyBanking.org today!



PHOTO: TAVIS FORD

The PANTHER

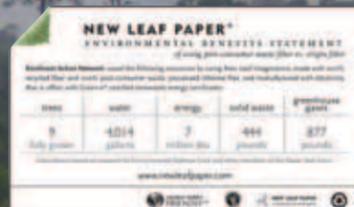
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From the Canopy

By Michael Brune, RAN Executive Director

A Greenprint for Change



Dear friends,

It's an exciting time in the world, and we at Rainforest Action Network have never been more optimistic about the challenges that lie ahead. The dawn of a new U.S. administration means a fresh start and the chance to start working together to build a sustainable future. It also heralds new and exciting opportunities to engage a growing groundswell of support for our work.

But the challenges we face remain daunting. Change may be in the air, but it's still business as usual on Wall Street. Corporations are using the collapsing economy as an excuse to continue their plunder of the environment. Taking action to stop global warming, breaking our crippling addiction to oil and coal, halting the rapid conversion of the world's tropical rainforests, and defending the rights of Indigenous communities are all too important to be left to Washington insiders with cozy ties to powerful corporations. It's going to take a grassroots movement using tried-and-true strategies to effect the change we seek.

At Rainforest Action Network, we've been doing just that. For nearly a quarter of a century, we have pushed companies to balance profits with principles and convinced once intransigent corporations that environmentally and socially destructive practices are not welcome in the global marketplace.

Since our founding in 1985, RAN has grown from a tiny grassroots operation into a dynamic organization capable of running multiple campaigns against several of the world's largest corporations. Our efforts have produced some of the most important environmental victories in recent history, and your support has made it possible.

Today, RAN's longstanding history of protecting rainforests remains at the heart of our work to confront the climate crisis, just as our

ongoing solidarity with frontline and Indigenous communities remains a cornerstone of all our work. Though each of our campaigns focus on different sectors and have distinct goals, they are inextricably connected by the results they aim to achieve. It is clear that we cannot solve the climate crisis without protecting the world's remaining forests, just as we cannot protect forests without curbing the causes of global warming elsewhere. This inescapable truth guides and informs our work and is the reason that we are dedicated to:

- 1) Protecting the world's remaining old-growth forests; and
- 2) Fighting climate change and accelerating a clean energy transition by ending our addiction to oil and coal.

This coming year will be pivotal for RAN and our planet. The world continues to demand answers to the challenges we all collectively face, as evidenced by the tremendous showing of youth at the UN Framework Convention on Climate change in Poznan, Poland and by the thousands of Indigenous leaders who stood together to send a message to the world to save the Amazon rainforest. It's an exciting time indeed, and I believe RAN's campaigns are uniquely positioned to help lead them forward. I hope you will join us.

For a better world,

Michael Brune
Executive Director



Michael Brune is the author of *Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal*. Check ComingCleanBook.org for more information.

RAIN FOUNDER HONORED BY PEERS

Randy Hayes Inducted into Environmental Hall of Fame



RAN founder Randy Hayes was honored with an Individual Achievement Award at the 2008 BENNY Awards, an annual conference and award ceremony hosted by Business Ethics Network (BEN). BEN is a project of Corporate Ethics International, which represents the largest network of non-profit, marketplace advocacy activists and organizations in the U.S. The BEN Advisory Committee and staff selected Randy to receive the award because of his decades of innovative activism and the victories he has won for endangered forests and Indigenous people.

The award follows Randy's June 2008 induction into the first Environmental Hall of Fame ceremony in Los Angeles, coinciding with World Environment Day 2008. Twenty-two nominees were chosen from a field of several hundred entries, all sharing a common commitment to providing the most effective solutions to help humanity's survival and to restore balance to planet Earth.

RAIN FOUNDER RANDY HAYES IN TASMANIA VIEWING THE TALLEST FLOWERING TREES IN THE WORLD, OVER 90 METERS HIGH. PHOTO: VICA BAYLEY

GIVE A TRIBUTE GIFT *to* RAN

Honoring loved ones by supporting Rainforest Action Network is a unique way to share a lifelong commitment to protecting the earth for future generations. We've made it easy for you to support RAN in whatever way is most convenient.

Celebrate a loved one or friend by making a special Tribute Gift to Rainforest Action Network. We'll notify the honoree with a personalized card acknowledging your gift. A Memorial Gift to RAN is a wonderful way to commemorate the memory of a relative or friend. We'll send a special acknowledgment to the family of the person memorialized.

You can also make a lasting contribution to the preservation of the world's rainforests by naming RAN as a beneficiary in your will, living trust or other estate plans.

You can find out more ways to give to RAN by visiting www.RAN/give, or by calling our development department at (415) 659-0542.