



We're not just about rainforests! Over the last twenty years, RAN's mission to protect forests and their inhabitants has evolved into a multi-faceted master plan. Ending resource extraction that evicts indigenous communities is connected to breaking America's oil addiction, which is connected to climate change and much, much more. In short, we're out to create a more environmentally and socially just global economy. In order to achieve this, our efforts concentrate primarily on four major environmental issues:

Forests

The Earth's forests are in crisis. We've already lost 80 percent of Old Growth forests worldwide, a figure that increases to 95 percent in the United States. According to the United Nations, at least 37.5 million acres of rainforests are lost annually – an area the size of Georgia. Despite the relatively small land area they cover, rainforests are home to about half of the planet's 5 to 10 million plant and animal species.

The good news:

Around the world, hundreds of private landowners, forest managers, manufacturers and retailers now produce and supply wood products from well-managed forests. They are supported by a network of independent certification organizations that assess their management practices under a stringent set of environmental and social criteria. With all of these precautionary measures being adopted by the industry, there is no reason that Old Growth forests should continue to be destroyed.

Climate

Clearing and burning rainforests releases vast amounts of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and nitrous oxide in to the atmosphere. Each year, deforestation contributes 23-30 percent of all carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is believed to be responsible for approximately half of global warming.

The good news:

After decades of research and heaps of visible evidence – like melting icebergs and extreme weather – people are finally realizing that our climate is changing. Many countries have signed international accords pledging to deal with emissions, and many more are considering even bigger steps.



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Energy

It's not hard to look at a graph of global energy consumption and draw some startling conclusions. We are using twice the amount of energy we did just 30 years ago and, the rate of consumption is not slowing.

Much of that energy comes from dirty, non-renewable sources like oil and coal, supplies of which are declining.

The good news:

Welcome to the Green Rush! Just like the Gold Rush before it, businesses are realizing the enormous market for renewable energy. California has pledged to spend more than \$2 billion on developing solar energy alone. With skyrocketing costs for our dwindling fossil fuels, it just makes good economic sense to make good ecologic sense.



Human Rights

Forest loss does not just affect plants and animals. It also has a direct and immediate impact on the people who live in forests. Many of these cultures have lived in the same regions for hundreds, sometimes thousands, of years.

Though incredibly diverse in language and culture, many of these groups are classified for convenience as 'tribal' or 'indigenous' peoples. The same destructive commercial practices that reduce forest cover also impact them. For example, six to nine million indigenous people inhabited the Brazilian rainforest in 1500. In 1992, less than 200,000 remained. The same kind of impacts and losses are occurring in rainforests around the world.

The good news:

Impacted communities everywhere are fighting back. In 2005, members of the Haida Nation stopped the exporting of logs from their home of Haida Gwaii in Canada's Queen Charlotte Islands until the Weyerhaeuser Corporation came to the negotiating table. The community of Grassy Narrows in Northern Ontario continues to maintain a native logging blockade on their land and is receiving support from allies all over the world.

In the US, labor unions and NGOs have banded to tell companies like Ford to stop laying off workers and start making the fuel efficient cars that people want and the Earth need.

