

RAINFOREST RELIEF

Our Mission:

To end the loss of the world's rainforests by reducing the demand for unsustainably extracted products and materials through education, advocacy and non-violent direct action.

Rainforest Relief

actively opposes the logging, import and use of all timber from tropical and temperate rainforests (unless certified by an independent certifier accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council).

Rainforest Relief opposes the production, import and use of agricultural products from rainforest areas (such as bananas, beef, coffee, cocoa and orange juice), unless they are produced in a way that is not detrimental to the ecosystem and the human stakeholders.

Rainforest Relief



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2001 Annual Report



RAINFOREST RELIEF

From the Executive Director

The world has changed a lot since our last annual report. The attack on the United States on September 11 was a tragedy that shook our world. Those events affected us here in many ways. I watched the World Trade Center collapse live on television, like most of the country, from 1,000 miles away, knowing that my partner of seven years was working just a block from Ground Zero. I found out many horrible hours later that she was okay but learned weeks later that I had lost another friend in the collapse, a former girlfriend whose wedding I photographed. Rainforest Relief's NYC Coordinator, Joan Roney, spent a turbulent and often despairing 24 hours assisting relief efforts at Ground Zero (for her story, see *Raindrops*, Fall 2001).

After the initial shock began to wear off, for me, this violent and tragic act called to mind other tragedies that have befallen indigenous and ethnic groups in this country and elsewhere. It was a reminder of the impact that our global culture has had on other cultures. America is an outgrowth of European occupation of the Americas that lead to the destruction of the rainforests of the Caribbean, Central America, the Atlantic Coast of Brazil and now the Amazon. Early America was a major player in the forced relocation and enslavement of hundreds of thousands of natives from Africa's rainforests and elsewhere, used to build this and other Western countries' agricultural and industrial infrastructure.

Our hearts go out to the victims of the attack on the United States and as well go out to those impacted around the world by the overconsumption and indifference of US corporations and oftentimes our government.

We go along consuming 30 times the global average of materials and 20 times the global average of energy and committing 30 times the global average of pollutants to the atmosphere, land and water.

The American economy – the corporations that benefit from it, the government that promotes and protects it and the consumers that support it – are the most destructive cultural forces the biota and peoples of Earth have ever seen. I only hope the tragedy of September 11 and the nascent awareness of how some other cultures view us sensitizes the citizenry to

Income & Expenses

Expenses

Total Cash Expenditures	17,211.17
Total Donated Salaries	95,000.00
Total Donated Services	0.00
Total Expenses	114,361.17

Income

Total Cash Donations	5,136.20
Total Sales	0.00
Total Presentation Fees	1,450.00
Total Grants	6,525.00
Total Memberships	455.00
Total Events	0.00
Total Dividends	127.30
Total Equipment Donations	0.00
Total In-kind Donations	95,000.00
Total Income	108,693.50

Breakdown

Administrative Expenditures	10,966.20
Fundraising Expenditures	8,425.02
Program Expenditures	91,306.71
Percent Administrative	9.59%
Percent Fundraising	7.37%



FINANCES

Rainforest Relief's income continued to increase in 2001. However, we are in need of greater efforts in fundraising.

Major donors this year included Keith Swindle, and again Dr. Douglas Hansen and Family and Sunil Somalwar. For those supporters we are sincerely grateful. Thank you. Know that you are partly responsible for whatever rainforests are still alive beyond 2050.

BALANCE SHEET

Assets as of January 1, 2002

Cash & Banks	Main Account	4,026.01
	Escrow Account	2.00
	Payroll Account	84.00
	Stock Account	103.19
Stocks & Bond		1,558.67
Fixed Assets	Office Equipment	2,093.00
	Merchandise	200.00
Total Assets		8,066.87

Liabilities as of January 1, 2002

Salaries & Social Security	0.00
Other Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00

Net Equity as of January 1, 2002

Assets	8,066.87
Liability	0.00
Total Net Equity	8,066.87

both the horrors of war and to the human suffering and the biological holocaust caused by our unsustainable consumption.

Rainforest logging (by, in some cases, US corporations) generated by our insatiable appetite for timber from endangered forests continues to drive forest destruction around the world, further perpetrating Mass Extinction.

During 2001, Rainforest Relief continued to work to end US imports of destructive tropical hardwoods from uncertified sources. We made progress, but much more needs to be done.

- In the fall we found out that Greenport, NY had indeed followed through on their commitment to use only certified wood on the remaining phases of their boardwalk;
- We moved Asbury Park, NJ closer to a policy of using only certified wood for boardwalk renovations;
- New York City continued to phase in recycled plastic lumber for benches and playsets in new or renovated parks;
- The town of Long Beach, NY, passed an ordinance to never again use uncertified tropical hardwoods for their boardwalk;
- Our banana project in Costa Rica is moving forward as we assist shade-grown banana producers with building infrastructure and expanding their markets in Costa Rica.

Rainforest Relief continues to play a lead role in the US regarding consumption of destructively-produced rainforest products. Like no other group, we continue to work the second front line of the battle for the world's rainforests – the line between the consumer and the store shelf.

Years ago there was a dreaded disease that claimed the lives of many. What we now call tuberculosis was then known as “consumption” because it was a slow, painful death, as the victims wasted away. Rainforest Relief needs your continued and renewed support to continue our battle against the new “consumption” that's quickly eating away the world's rainforests.

– Tim Keating, Executive Director

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

RAINFOREST WOOD

Rainforest Relief aims to end the use of unsustainably harvested tropical and temperate rainforest wood.

Rainforest-Free Boardwalks and Municipalities

New York City, New York

The Big Apple Takes a Bite out of the Rainforest

Again in 2001, Rainforest Relief's top priority has been to continue to pressure NYC municipal agencies to end their uses of tropical hardwoods.

RR again organized several demonstrations targeting NYC Parks Department and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT). Parks uses rainforest wood for 8.5 miles of coastal boardwalks (such as Coney Island), tens of thousands of park benches as well as some pedestrian bridges in the parks (such as the Bow Bridge in Central Park) and children's play equipment.

DOT uses tropical hardwoods for the pilings and bumpers in the Staten Island Ferry terminals and Battery Park and for the decking of the Brooklyn Bridge.

This year we found out the Parks has tried recycled plastic lumber (RPL) for a ramp to the boardwalk in Brooklyn, further progress towards a total shift (they've already shifted many of the benches and all of the playsets to recycled plastic).



Tropical hardwoods form a virtual dead forest at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

development efforts, coordinate volunteers in NYC, as well as coordinate much of the organization's NYC-based campaigning.

Tim Doody continues to serve as volunteer NYC actions coordinator, pulling together demonstrations targeting New York City agencies and area companies. Tim coordinated much of the Stickley protest as well as the large demonstration around a "critical mass" bike ride and the DOT banner action, both highlighting City agencies' continuing use of rainforest woods.

Gail Evans continued as part-time campaigner from her home in upstate New York. She continues to work on Hilton Hotels, Marriott, Morgan Trucks, The Museum Company and others to end their uses of rainforest woods.

Thanks also to Sarah Wald for her part-time work with the Northwest Chapter office. Sarah conducted the surveys of area companies and initiated negotiations with regional targets.

In 2001, RR welcomed a few new hard-working volunteers to the New York City office. Thanks to Mara Zusman for her development work, Christine Lucas for her membership outreach and artwork, and Gabby Silverman for her canvassing.

Thanks to Cindy Rosin for her layout work on RR's newsletters and annual reports.

At the end of 2001, the Rainforest Relief Board of Trustees consisted of:

Tim Keating, *President and Executive Director*,
 Jeff Lockwood, *Vice President*,
 Sunil Somalwar, *Coast Campaign*,
 Jonathan Maslow, *Media and Guyana*,
 Lisa Curran, *Indonesia*,
 Tim Geiselman, *co-founder*,
 Dave Kolar, *Acres*,
 Michael Laffey, Esq., *Legal*.

STAFF, TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS

Tim Keating continued to serve as Executive Director on a voluntary basis. However, in the fall of 2001, Tim took a sabbatical from full-time work at Rainforest Relief, contracting with Greenpeace to research tropical wood imports.

Jeff Lockwood continued to serve as Director of the West Coast Chapter in Portland, OR.

Joan Roney joined with RR in 2000 and has shown herself to be an essential component in our New York City operations and campaigns. Joan Roney has worked on numerous actions as well as development and special events. While Tim Keating was on contract with Greenpeace, Joan assumed the role of coordinating RR's efforts in New York City. Joan has continued to coordinate RR's foundation



Some of the RR crew during the Indigenous Rights caravan.

Parks, however, has still not tried RPL for any of the boardwalks – their largest remaining use of uncertified tropical hardwoods – or for the “World’s Fair” design benches.

DOT has still refused to even acknowledge the issue, and repeated calls to DOT have not been returned.

In the fall of 2001, Rainforest Relief protested DOT by dropping a banner on the front of 40 Worth Street. The banner was painted to look like two large orange and black road signs that read, “NYC DOT Destroys Rainforests!”

Cindy Rosin, the activist that climbed a light pole in front of the building to hang the banner, was removed from the pole an hour and a half later, pulled into a third floor window and arrested. She was later released.

Rainforest Relief has FOIed the City under the Freedom of Information Laws, asking for information on volumes and costs of tropical hardwoods purchased each year by each agency, but we have yet to receive a reply (in other words, the City continues to flaunt the law, while we are the ones continually arrested). We are working with a local lawyer on a law suit to impel the City to comply with our requests for information.

RR continued to work with City Councilmember Gifford Miller and his staff to promote passage of a version of the bill that was introduced in 1998 to bar the City’s use of uncertified rainforest woods.



Going to great heights to protest NYC's rainforest wood use.

The new bill, after many rewrites, has been up for hearings in the Contracts Committee, but has yet to pass through the committee due to needed revisions.

Rainforest Relief also organized a protest that aligned with Times Up's Critical Mass bicycle protests. The theme of the ride was NYC's rainforest destruction. Even though the weather was inclement, hundreds of people came out for the ride. Cyclists passed banners at various spots along the pre-chosen route, each highlighting another use of rainforest woods nearby: benches (NYC Parks), South Street Seaport's decking, subway track ties (NYC Transit Authority), the Staten Island Ferry (DOT) and the decking of the Brooklyn Bridge (also DOT).

Thanks to Tim Doody, Joan Roney and Cindy Rosin for their work on these demonstrations, which keep the issue in the forefront of public attention.

South Street Seaport

South Street's Fun, Just Don't Look Down

A meeting between RR and the management of South Street Marketplace (the market part of South Street Seaport) resulted in SSM verbally pledging to never again use tropical hardwoods for pier decking unless they come from sources that carry independent certification accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The company had used an African rainforest wood called bengossi (known as ekki and azobe elsewhere) for the decking of the entire pier, bench areas and steps in 1985. Replacement of the wood won't be necessary for a few more years but we wanted to head SSM off now and get a policy created.



A "Critical Mass" of cyclists calls attention to rainforest destruction.

EDUCATION

Rainforest Relief works to educate students and the public about the connection between overconsumption of certain products and the loss of rainforests.



photo by Judith Kimmerling

An oil drilling site in Ecuador. Rainforest Relief's slide presentations focus on the overconsumption of materials for which rainforests are destroyed, such as tropical hardwoods, petroleum products, beef, bananas, coffee, cocoa and gold

Rainforests in Your Shopping Cart™

Rainforest Relief presented to numerous schools including Connecticut College, William & Mary and Ithaca College, as well as to high schools, middle schools and civic organizations.

The presentation continues to evolve and offer alternatives to rainforest destruction.

Colombian artist working on educating the US and Europe on the plight of the African Colombian communities living in or around the rainforest. Gina Maria highlighted her cause by telling the story of her husband, a journalist and inspector for Colombia's environmental agency.



Juan Gualinga of the Sarayacu community in Ecuador.

At the well-attended FTAA-Reportback in New York City, Christian Bello, a teen from Brooklyn, joined the panel. Christian works with Urbanmindz, a youth of color group that focuses on issues of racism and global justice. The so-called "war on drugs", he said, is not about stopping drugs but about increasing wealth at the expense of minority and poor communities all over the world as resources are extracted and peoples and lands exploited. "If they cared about stopping drugs why has funding for drug treatment programs in poor urban areas in the US so drastically decreased as US funding for the Colombian military and paramilitaries increased, and why is Gina Maria's journalist-husband's life threatened by paramilitaries when he writes about the gold and oil companies' illegal mining and drilling practices in the rainforest communities of Colombia?"



The panel of the Indigenous Rights Caravan speaks to an audience in Vermont of the potential impacts of the FTAA.

Paul Harnett, manager for the company, was very open to hearing our concerns, did some research on his own and was definite about wanting to do the right thing. He will be exploring the use of recycled plastic lumber and also following up with suppliers of wood certified and accredited by the FSC.

Asbury Park, New Jersey

Greetings from Dead Rainforest

In late 2000 and early 2001, Rainforest Relief took on Asbury Park, New Jersey due to that town's then-proposed use of 100,000 board feet of unsustainable tropical rainforest hardwoods for phase one of the three-phase boardwalk renovation project. Joining forces with New Jersey Sierra Club, the groups stalled the awarding of the contract using the unsustainable wood for months.

Having only found out about the proposed use after the bids had come in, RR mounted a quick campaign, attending City Council meetings and alerting the press.

A meeting with City staff resulted in a postponement, but not for long. The City voted to award the contract for the wood in early January of 2001.

But all was not lost. Sierra Club campaigners Sunil Somalvar and Bill Wolfe "discovered" a 1993 New Jersey state executive order that mandates the use of recycled materials by grantees when they fall within 10% of the cost of virgin materials. Since Asbury Park was using state Green Acres money for the renovations, the law applied.

Michael Halfacre, a lawyer in Tinton Falls, NJ, kindly donated his time and for the first time, RR went to court. We informed Asbury Park of our intent to sue and the Council voted to postpone signing the contract pending a review by NJDEP, providing another delay.

The court case came up the following month and unfortunately we lost. The judge didn't agree that recycled plastic lumber met the

specifications of what Asbury Park was ordering in this case, tropical hardwoods, even though they had also bid for softwoods.

As always, there are numerous twists and turns to these campaigns.

One of our early tactics had been to try and get the City to use certified wood, but the suppliers couldn't compete with the conventional supply of Timber Holdings, Ltd. (THL, a top importer of uncertified ipê and other tropical hardwoods).

We had also gotten in touch with another company, called Aquatic Cellulose, which was advertising their sales of wood logged from beneath the surface of the Tucurui dam impound lake. The Tucurui dam was flooded in 1985, creating one of the largest ecological catastrophes in history, flooding 600,000 hectares of primary tropical rainforest, submerging perhaps millions of species of unique life forms never to be seen on Earth again.

Aquatic Cellulose is putting a new twist on the disaster – by logging the submerged dead trees and selling the timber, they will be offsetting logging in living forests.

Aquatic couldn't compete with THL either, but at the 11th hour THL and Aquatic struck a deal. Aquatic would supply THL with all their best wood and THL would use part of that for the Asbury boardwalk project, thus giving Aquatic a "showcase" project.

Rainforest Relief relaxed and moved on to other campaigns.

In the final twist, however, Aquatic has yet to be able to supply wood to THL. Problems with contractors in Brazil prevented any wood from getting to the US. Now Aquatic has bought the company in the Amazon and should be able to get wood to the US shortly.

So, to our chagrin and to the detriment of the rainforests, Asbury Park went ahead and used conventional ipê for Phase I and is looking to Phase II. Aquatic hopes to be able to supply the rest of the famous boardwalk with the reclaimed wood from the Tucurui. We still hold

GLOBALIZATION

Rainforest Relief aims to highlight increased destruction of rainforests due to expanding global markets.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

Quebec

In a daring action, Rainforest Relief's Joan Roney hitched a ride with a pilot flying over the City of Quebec during the protests that ensued around the meeting for the FTAA.



Joan Roney and her ride into Quebec City.

Joan reached a good part of the city from the air by dropping flyers (printed on recycled paper, of course) that highlighted President Bush's forest-destructive policies and how passage of the FTAA would increase demand for forest products, thus increasing destruction of forests.

Indigenous Rights Caravan

In April and May 2001; through coalition building with several other groups such as ACERCA, NYC Anti-FTAA Coalition, Times Up, NY Greens and NY Direct Action Network; Rainforest Relief organized an Indigenous Rights Caravan to provide an alternative forum to the Free Trade Area of the Americas summit. The caravan featured Juan Gualinga, a traditional healer from the Sarayacu community in Ecuador and Gina Marie Eschevarry, an Afro-

Constitution rewritten – which currently gives indigenous peoples autonomy over their land and their culture. This is a measure similar to Mexico revoking article 27 in 1993 to prepare for inclusion into the North American Free Trade Agreement – a step which led to the Zapatista uprising.

Burma

Hess is a Mess

Rainforest Relief joined with the Free Burma Coalition and other groups to create a New York presence for the International Day of Action against Hess and Premier on December 8th. Banners, drums and lots of creative chants made their way to a Manhattan Hess gas station to get the word out about Hess' mess in Burma.



A message to greet Manhattan drivers.

Hess currently owns 25% of Premier Oil, a British company that is a business partner of the Burmese military dictatorship, one of the world's most repressive and violent regimes.

Premier's partnership with the Burmese military dictatorship has built the Yetagun natural gas pipeline in Burma, which runs parallel to the Yadana pipeline, built by Unocal (US) and Total (France). The construction of these pipelines has led to a massive militarization of the region; the soldiers providing security for the pipeline have conscripted forced labor, ordered forced relocations, and committed rape, torture and murder of villagers who stood in the way. The pipelines cut a swath through one of the largest intact tracts of rainforest in Southeast Asia.

British activists have been pressuring Premier to leave Burma. They have asked US activists to focus the spotlight on Hess, with its enormous stake in Premier. Rainforest Relief joined the effort to demand that Hess seek to persuade Premier to leave Burma or sell their stake in Premier.



Logging of huge trees in the Amazon.

out hope of RPL being tried there as well.

We continue to monitor the situation and are ready to start campaigning again to get Asbury Park to pass an ordinance against uncertified rainforest woods.

Greenport, New York

Diligence Pays

Finally realizing the outcome of our campaign in Greenport (begun in 1998), we learned late in 2001 that Greenport had indeed purchased certified wood for Phase II of their new boardwalk. This purchase, supplied by Timber Holdings and sourced from CIKEL in Brazil, further adds to the record of Rainforest Relief campaigns generating the largest purchases of certified tropical hardwood in US history.

The top four purchases of certified tropical wood are Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion Bridge (120,000 board feet of curupau); Disney's boardwalk in California (30,000 board feet of ipê); Long Beach, CA's Pine Avenue Pier at the Queensway Bay waterfront (23,000 board feet of ipê); and Greenport's boardwalk (20,000 board feet). All of these purchases emanated from Rainforest Relief campaigns.

Rainforest Relief does not actively promote the use of certified tropical woods. Our position continues to be that we will not campaign against the use of certified woods. Research has shown, however, that rainforests are permanently damaged by even low-impact logging. Recovery of species diversity can take as long as ten

million years. Therefore, we continue to promote the use of non-wood alternatives as the first choice for waterfront construction, but over and over we have only become aware of rainforest wood projects at the 11th hour when switching to certified is the best that we can wrest from an ensuing tragedy.

Municipal Selective Purchasing Agreements

Portland, Oregon Region

Sleepless in Portland

The Portland based Northwest Chapter of Rainforest Relief continues to work closely with the Oregon Chapter of Sierra Club and the Oregon Wildlife Federation Collective to convince the Metro Regional Government, County of Multnomah and City of Portland to adopt ordinances that would prohibit the governments from using wood products from old-growth forests (including all tropical forests) in projects they build or fund, unless the wood is independently certified.

RR Northwest ensured that a prohibition on uncertified tropical hardwoods was included in a resolution passed in early 2002 by the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Metro Regional Government requesting that the Executive Officer direct staff to undertake an analysis and make recommendations concerning changes in Metro's purchasing practices to support the procurement of wood products from sustainable resources.

Rainforest Relief Northwest also worked with Portland Parks and Recreation Department to ensure that the ipê wood used for the boardwalk in the Jamison Square project that opened in the spring of 2002 was independently certified. We convinced the city's architectural consultant to avoid the uncertified ipê ripped from the pristine forests of the Brazilian Amazon that was marketed by Timber Holdings Ltd.

bring further violence, environmental and cultural destruction, oil spills from guerrilla bombings and deforestation from new access roads.

Occidental began drilling in 2001, amid statements by the U'wa that they would pray to "hide" the oil – the blood of Mother Earth – from Oxy's drills.

Having drilled for months and come up dry, in late 2001 Occidental announced that it was pulling out of the project.

While this was seen as a clear victory, the Colombian state-owned oil company recently began test drilling on the site of the Oxy project.

Oil is only one of the battles facing the U'wa and other indigenous people living in Colombia. Plan Colombia, supported largely by the lobbying efforts of Occidental Petroleum and three major weapons manufacturers in the northeast – General Dynamics, Sikorsky Aircraft and Textron – continues to pour vast sums of US taxpayer money earmarked for militarization into the area. These companies and others (such as Monsanto, which produces the herbicide being sprayed by US-made helicopters that brings sickness to many rural Colombians and destroys their agricultural base) are profiting at the expense of Colombians, such as the U'wa. The U'wa have been calling on US citizens to help in ending military intervention in Colombia and to pressure the administration to send humanitarian aid.

Colombia is now preparing itself for inclusion into the Free Trade Area of the Americas, an extension of NAFTA to the entire Western Hemisphere. This will allow multinational corporations easy access to the resources of Colombia and anyone in the way of this process is threatened with death. In months past, several indigenous leaders have been targeted by paramilitary groups. If the FTAA is implemented, the world will be seeing more indigenous massacres in Colombia as first peoples reside on the richest natural resource base. Currently President Pastrana is pushing to have the Colombian

RAINFOREST OIL

Rainforest Relief aims to end the destruction and contamination of rainforests for petroleum.

Colombia and the U'wa

Oxy Comes Up Dry – and Notorious

"We ask that our brothers and sisters from other races and cultures unite in the struggle that we are undertaking... we believe that this struggle has to become a global crusade to defend life." - Statement of the U'wa, August 1998.

For thousands of years, the U'wa – a peaceful indigenous community of 5,000 people – have lived in the cloud forests of northeast Colombia, protecting their land and culture from outside encroachment. U'wa culture remains one of the least influenced by Western ways in Latin America. Their traditions, economy, religion, and political system rely on their relationship to the land. Today, as in the past, the land and its ecological health are fundamental for the continuation of the U'wa's collective well being.

For years, Rainforest Relief joined with other groups across the country to protest the impending drilling for oil by Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) on U'wa customary and owned land – a project condemned by environmental and human rights groups around the world.

The U'wa had non-violently resisted Oxy's project since the company was granted drilling rights by the Colombian government in 1992 and had stated that they were willing to die if necessary to stop the drilling. Oxy began construction of its first drill site, known as Gibraltar 1, in early 2000. This project had already led to a dramatic increase in human rights violations and environmental destruction. In the ensuing year, the U'wa homeland had become heavily militarized. The U'wa warned that unless the project was canceled, it would only

Long Beach, New York

High School Students Get It Done

Following up on the agreement by Long Beach, NY to not use rainforest wood for their boardwalk repairs in 1999, Rainforest Relief volunteers, Nechama Levy and Amanda Kaufman, approached the town to convince them to make it final – to pass an ordinance to never again use rainforest woods from uncertified sources.

After just four months of work, advised by RR's director, the women were successful, ending the possibility of Long Beach's two-mile coastal boardwalk ever again destroying rainforests.

Furniture Construction

Stickley

Protesters Link Stickley To Trade In Illegal Wood

Rainforest Relief NYC members demonstrated at Stickley Furniture's Fifth Avenue showroom in December, joining with Greenpeace to target the top user in the US of bigleaf mahogany imported from Brazil, where 80% of logging is done illegally.

That same week, Rainforest Relief's upstate New York campaigner Gail Evans, along with five other protesters, paid a visit to the White Plains Stickley gallery as well, carrying signs that read, "Shame, Stickley" and "Mahogany is Murder!".

Stickley is a high-end furniture maker, with mahogany pieces ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Contracted by Greenpeace and working with other Greenpeace researchers, Tim Keating, RR's director, traced Stickley's wood purchases through DLH Nordisk to two mahogany cartels: Peracchi Exports and Tapajos Timber. These cartels illegally log in the Brazilian Amazon and brutalize and even murder regional indigenous

groups struggling to preserve their forest homes. During the logging season, the head of one cartel, Osmar Ferreira, is reported to make US \$1 million a day due to the demand for illegal mahogany fueled by manufacturers such as Stickley. These huge profits pay for new roads and other infrastructure that soon leads to further devastation by providing access to the rainforest for clearing for cattle ranches, plantations, wood gathering, overhunting and mining.

Rainforest Relief, along with Greenpeace, will continue to target Stickley until they end their use of unsustainable and illegal mahogany and other rainforest woods.

Truck Bodies

Morgan Trucks

Sometimes in the Least Likely of Places...

In 1999, Rainforest Relief first contacted Morgan Trucks, the largest manufacturer of small truck bodies in the United States. Morgan, along with a few other truck body manufacturers like Supreme Corporation and Utility, uses tropical hardwoods – in Morgan's case, apitong from Malaysian rainforests – for the floors of tens of thousands of truck bodies they build annually.

While the Morgan conversation has been convoluted, to say the least, at one point Morgan was close to announcing a shift to a non-wood material for the floors. The staff person with whom we were dealing, however, has since left the company and we are working to reestablish a relationship with the company.

We will continue to follow up with this company and other truck body manufacturers.



Rainforest Relief's bold banner in front of Stickley's Fifth Avenue showroom.

Rainforest-Free Timber Pledges

Portland, Oregon Region

Convincing Companies to go Rainforest-Free

Rainforest Relief's Northwest Chapter continues to work on convincing regional companies to end their use of uncertified rainforest woods through the use of the Rainforest-Free Timber Pledge.

Prompted by RR, several Portland area companies have taken the pledge to avoid uncertified rainforest wood use and sales. Environmental Building Supplies; Sera Architects, Interiors and Planning; Rock Soft Futon; Holly Hill Construction; and Joseph Millworks have all made this commitment. Also, The Joinery has agreed to stop using mahogany in furniture it manufactures.

The Northwest Chapter, with the help of campaigner Sara Wald, completed surveys of rainforest wood sales by a number of businesses with a presence in Portland, including regional lumber chains (Parr Lumber, Keith Brown Building Materials and Tualatin Valley Builders Supply) and several specialty wood dealers. The companies were contacted and RR requested that they avoid buying from companies known to be trading in illegally-harvested rainforest woods and pledge to phase out sales of woods from endangered rainforests.

Keith Brown, which was initially hesitant to respond to us, called to set up a meeting after a joint Rainforest Relief and Forest Ethics protest at one of their locations. Companies that refuse to work with us are likely to become future campaign targets.

At the national level RR is resuming negotiations with Hilton Hotels to work toward a policy to avoid woods from endangered forests. Locally, we succeeded in ensuring that the large new Hilton in downtown Portland will not have an interior of Latin American mahogany like its predecessor across the street.