

Are You a Member of Rainforest Relief?

If so, thank you so much for your membership. You can see we continue to do our best to spare rainforests, and hope we can count on your continued support.

If not, please consider joining! For a donation of \$25 or more you will receive our RAINDROPS seasonal newsletter.

My Name is: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ \$1000 Jaguar (Lifetime)

☐ \$500 River Dolphin (Donor)

☐ \$100 Toucan (Sponsor)

☐ \$25 Orchid (Subscriber)

☐ \$15 Leaf Cutter Ant (Limited Income)

THANK YOU!

Mail to: Rainforest Relief • PO Box 150566 • Brooklyn, NY 11215 • (212) 879-2118

To date, Rainforest Relief has stopped the use of over 11 million board feet of destructive rainforest woods. This has spared an estimated 1.1 million acres of tropical forests from logging. This is more acres spared per dollar spent than any organization in the country. We need you to help us continue to spare the rainforests from destructive logging and clearing for export agriculture.



Rainforest Relief

P.O. Box 150566 • Brooklyn, NY 11215

(212) 879-2118 • relief@igc.org

www.enviroweb.org/rainrelief



Prada Agrees to Find Alternatives to Rainforest and Old Growth Wood for All Future Projects

Rainforest Destruction for the "Wave" Floor Found Unfashionable

Members of Rainforest Relief handed out flyers in front of the newly-opened SoHo Prada store in January after canceling a planned protest of the use of wood cut from west African rainforests for the store's floor. The unusual floor, dubbed the "Wave", has become a modest tourist attraction in the area, but it is made entirely of zebrawood, a tree species that grows only in the remote rainforests of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo.

The store, in a space leased from the Guggenheim, was designed by well-known Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture and is reported to be a prototype for other stores. After phone calls and a letter alerting the company of the issue and of Rainforest Relief's demonstration plans, Prada agreed to find an acceptable alternative to the future use of

wood from rainforests and all other old growth forests.

"Logging in Cameroon is a nightmare of environmental devastation and illegality", said Tim Keating, RR's Executive Director. The government, aid organizations and environmental NGO's estimate that 90% of logging in Cameroon is done illegally.

Millions of dollars of taxes have not been paid to the people of Cameroon as logging companies, many of them European, in collusion with sawmills and transporters, sidestep the law. Contrary to the law, few companies even have a management plan for the areas they are licensed to log.

The environmental impacts of this type of logging in west Africa are well known and tragic, eradicating species such as chimpanzees and contributing to over-hunting. One study showed logging to have precipitated territory "wars" among populations of endangered wild chimpanzees, ultimately reducing their numbers by 80%.

Loggers play a key role in the illegal trade in bushmeat – that is, wild game – which has become epidemic in the region. As more and more logging roads are bulldozed into pristine forests, greater access is provided. Loggers also give guns to hunters to kill wild game for their logging crews and then transport the hunters and their excess kills to the



Even Fluffy Finds Prada's Zebrawood Floor Unfashionable

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Protesters Link Stickley To Trade In Illegal Wood

Rainforest Relief protesters visited the Stickley Furniture's Fifth Avenue showroom last December, bringing along drums, brightly colored signs and a banner that read "Stickley Steals Illegal Amazon Wood". The protest called attention to the fact that Stickley buys mahogany from the Amazon and African Rainforests, where the vast majority of logs are cut illegally.

Though the company denied any wrong-doing, Greenpeace activists have traced their wood purchases through DLH Nordisk to two mahogany cartels: Perrachi Exports and Tapajos Timber. These cartels illegally log in the Brazilian Amazon and brutalize and even murder regional indigenous groups struggling to preserve their home. At peak season, they generate about US\$1 million per day due



RR Volunteer Christine Lucas Reaching Out to Stickley Customers

to the demand fueled by outlets 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, over-hunting and mining.

"As public awareness grows of the rainforest destruction that is associated with illegal wood, consumers will demand that companies like Stickley find alternatives to tropical hardwoods or buy their wood only from operations certified as well-managed," said Joan Roney, Rainforest Relief's NYC Coordinator. "In Brazil, environmentalists have been murdered for blowing the whistle on illegal logging operations. It's demand from companies like Stickley that is driving the black market for illegal wood."



Rainforest Relief's Bold Banner in Front of Stickley

Rainforest Relief's upstate New York campaigner Gail Evans paid a visit to the upstate Stickley Furniture store in December as well. She adds her account of protesting the furniture manufacturer.

There were very few cold days this past winter in New York, but December 12th was one of them. That day saw five of us out there – six if you include my son (sixteen months old at the time) who spent half of the demonstration in a stroller and half on my back – on the sidewalk in front of the newly constructed Stickley Furniture store. The new store is magnified in scale beside the humble one that it has replaced right across the street. Stickley has been dubbed the "largest single user" of imported mahogany – most of which is being illegally logged from parks, preserves and land reserved for native people. We had signs and held a banner which read "Shame, Stickley. Mahogany is Murder." We reached thousands of people on the busy road in White Plains, and were filmed by local television news at the scene. One radio interviewer showed and three others interviewed me that morning on the phone. I have spoken repeatedly with the purchaser at Stickley who says that we should bring up our concerns with the governments of the countries exporting the woods from endangered forests. Rainforest Relief looks for accountability at each and every stage in the marketing of these precious woods.

Environmental and Human Rights Activists Join to Protest Hess Oil



This Banner Greets Drivers at the Manhattan Hess Gas Station

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, signs, 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.

Hess 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 (U.S.) 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 U.S. activists to focus the spotlight on Hess, with its enormous stake in Premier. A responsible company cannot look the other way from the impacts of its investments. Not only should Hess seek to persuade Premier to leave Burma, but they must insist on it, or sell their stake in Premier.

What You Can Do

Tell Hess to sell its shares in Premier and stop profiting from slave labor:

John B. Hess, Chairman & CEO, Amerada Hess Co.

1185 Avenue of the Americas, NYC, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 997-8500, Fax: (212) 536-8494

Call Hess' customer service hotline: 800-437-7872

Or call Hess customer relations: 800-HESS-OIL

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towns where the taste for bushmeat is driving a demand that is devastating wildlife populations. Endangered gorillas, chimps, pangolins, deer and other wildlife all make their way to the markets in cities and towns, with the assistance of loggers.

“Indigenous forest peoples – such as the peaceful Baka ‘pygmies’ – are being displaced”, said Tim Doody, a Rainforest Relief campaigner. “Their culture is being destroyed by often violent contact with loggers who are eradicating the forest on which they depend for food, medicine and their spiritual culture.” Handing out flyers reading, “Rainforest Destruction No Longer in Fashion”, Joan Roney, Rainforest Relief’s New York



Prada’s “Wave” Floor Means Rainforest Destruction



Logging Trucks Carting Huge Logs Like This Are a Common Sight in Exploited Rainforests

coordinator said, “Architects and designers need to pay attention to the impacts of their designs and stop sourcing from endangered forests all over the world. We hope that Rem Koolhaas, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture and the Guggenheim will follow Prada’s example and end all future use of wood from the world’s endangered forests. There are alternatives.”

What You Can Do

Contact PRADA to thank them for this commitment to spare the world’s rainforests, and urge them to continue to move their business in a sustainable direction.

Miucci Prada • PRADA
50 West 57th Street • New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212.307.9300 • Fax: 212.974.2822

Write to Rem Koolhaas and urge him to follow PRADA’s suit and pledge to halt the use of rainforest and other threatened wood in his designs.

Rem Koolhaas
Office for Metropolitan Architecture
180 Varick St. • 9th fl. • New York, NY 10014
Phone: 646.230.6557 • Fax: 646.230.6558
Email: office@oma.nl

News from the Northwest

by Jeff Lockwood, Director, Pacific Northwest Chapter

The Pacific Northwest chapter of Rainforest Relief has been ramping up our rainforest wood campaign since last December when Sarah Wald, a well-known local forest activist, joined us to spearhead our effort.

Local Dealers of Rainforest Woods Surveyed

Rainforest Relief 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. We contacted these companies and requested that they avoid buying from companies known to be trading in illegally-harvested rainforest woods, and that they 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.

Ethan Allen Furniture: Selling Destruction

The PNW Chapter also is organizing to take action against Ethan Allen Furniture, a national chain that has sold furniture made from Latin American and African mahogany has stores Portland and Lake Oswego. As recently as last October Ethan Allen purchased Brazilian mahogany from illegal sources, according to Greenpeace. Although our recent survey indicates they are not currently selling this species, they have not pledged to avoid it in the future. Ethan Allen continues to sell African mahogany (khaya) in its 18th Century Collection.



RR’s Tropical Birds Fly Among the Other Protest Puppets on the March to the Waldorf-Astoria

Rainforest Relief Brings a Colorful Presence to the World Economic Forum Protests

When the World Economic Forum met in New York in February they were greeted by 10,000 protesters. While elite delegates claiming to represent the world’s “best interests” met to decide our collective future in the Waldorf-Astoria, the real debate about our present struggles was enacted out on the streets by a colorful coalition of community groups, environmentalists and labor activists. RR brought the issue of rainforest destruction into the media debate with a much-photographed “Angry Spirit” puppet flanked by a flock of tropical birds bearing placards that demanded an end to the unsustainable wood consumption levels of Western countries.

What You Can Do

Contact Ethan Allen at www.ethanallen.com or call 1-888-EAHELP1. Ask them to stop selling woods from endangered forests like the African mahogany in the 18th Century Collection. To get involved in this or any of our local campaigns call Sarah Wald at (503) 235-8270 or email rrvolunteer@yahoo.com