**Protect-an-Acre**

**Pueblo Originario Kichwa de Sarayaku (Tayjasaruta)**

$4,000 to support a delegation of Indigenous youth, women and leaders from the Kichwa territory of Sarayaku from the Ecuadorian Amazon to participate in the United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 21st convening (COP21) in Paris, France to advocate for the protection of their ancestral territories and keeping oil in the ground in the Amazon.

*Indigenous flotilla in Paris during COP 21*

**Additional information:**
The grant provided support towards a group of ten Indigenous leaders from the Kichwa community of Sarayaku, who formed one of the highest profile Indigenous delegations at the COP and articulated key messaging in dozens of fora and media articles about the central nature of Indigenous rights in addressing the climate crisis. In addition to general messaging about Indigenous rights, the Sarayaku delegation promoted their concept of the Living Forest (honoring the integral values, including spiritual, of the forest), the importance of keeping fossil fuels in the ground, and the role of Indigenous women and youth in climate mitigation and adaptation. A central cultural symbol they contributed was the Canoe of Life, which was constructed in their community, launched in the waters of Paris, and ultimately displayed at the Indigenous pavilion within Le Bourget. Having made a community-based strategic decision to engage with COP21, Sarayaku skillfully rallied diverse supporters to help insert their spokespeople into as many influential spaces as possible. These included multiple side events and panel
discussions within the Blue Zone, several others within the neighboring Climate Generations civil society space, a presentation in front of hundreds of mayors from around the world at the Mayor’s Climate Summit, and active participation in a private audience with French President François Hollande. They were similarly successful in terms of media coverage of their message. Key outputs and interviews include a beautiful documentary in *The Guardian*, an interview on CNN International, coverage of the Canoe of Life in *Democracy Now!* and dozens of citations or references in other international, French, and Ecuadorian media. The Canoe of Life inspired a high-profile Indigenous-led water action on Sunday, December 6th called the Indigenous Flotilla. Images of the action and associated press conference were used widely in subsequent COP21-related media coverage. The delegation served as an important capacity-building moment for Sarayaku, which has been leveraging these kinds of opportunities to groom new leadership. Patricia Gualinga, internationally recognized Indigenous women’s leader, ensured that up-and-coming women leaders participated and gained experience as spokespeople before large audiences and international media. The Sarayaku media team, led by award-winning documentarian Eriberto Gualinga, also included new faces who gained crucial hands-on experience. The delegation’s outstanding presence played an important role within the broader advocacy initiatives by different Indigenous Peoples at COP21.

*Sarayaku's Canoe of Life*

**UK Guardian documentary: The Amazonian tribespeople who sailed down the Seine**
RAN also provided additional support to Sarayaku this year for an emergency assembly to address a violation of the communities’ territorial rights by officials from the Ecuadorian Ministry of Hidrocarbons and the state-run oil company PetroAmazonas, which had been attempting to get small settlements within the Sarayaku collective territory to break off and apply for separate land title recognition to be able to then negotiate oil deals. The emergency assembly provided an opportunity to inform people about the situation, pass resolutions and agree on next steps regarding territorial defense.

Ceibo Alliance
$4,000 to support trainings to develop community legal advocates and monitors from the Waorani, Secoya, Siona and Cofan nationalities in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon, as well as post-training activities to document and map threats, file petitions, utilize conflict resolution mechanisms and provide on-the-ground legal accompaniment.

Additional information:
Despite five decades of widespread oil production in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon, Indigenous communities in the region continue to maintain a subsistence livelihood and develop economic opportunities primarily in their traditional territories. These territories are increasingly under threat from rapidly expanding palm oil plantations, colonization, illegal logging and new oil drilling in the region. The Waorani, Secoya, Siona and Cofan nationalities, without recourse to first-hand legal
knowledge and in the absence of viable legal representation, have seen detrimental environmental violations go unchecked, illegal settlements on ancestral lands profligate, negotiations with the government result in superficial or illusory concessions, and Indigenous representatives sign misleading and exploitative industry contracts without opposition. The Ceibo Alliance, a newly formed Indigenous-led coalition, aims to fortify the nationalities’ ability to defend their territories through local capacity building and support in areas such as territorial mapping, environmental and water quality monitoring and a legal monitor program. Trainings have developed the capacity of community legal advocates/monitors, who have learned to document and map threats, file petitions, utilize conflict resolution mechanisms, provide on-the-ground legal accompaniment and to better understand the Ecuadorian judicial system and relevant international laws. The Ceibo Alliance and its partners evaluated interested and committed Indigenous candidates and supported their enrollment in a three-month community legal monitor training program that built a foundation of legal knowledge in key members of each nationality. Post-training legal projects are focusing on significant community issues that can benefit from legal defense, advocacy or fact-finding documentation. The legal monitors are also collaborating with other Ceibo Alliance programs, including the territorial mapping and water quality monitoring programs, and EarthRights International lawyers will also support further legal action as appropriate. This project moves beyond the approach of ‘know your rights’ trainings towards implementing long-term strategies and support through developing professional skills and providing continuous follow-up.
Grassy Narrows Women’s Drum Group
$4,000 to support River Run 2016, a week of action against logging and mercury contamination on Grassy Narrows territory, including highlighting opposition to Ontario’s proposed 10-year Forest Management Plan, which calls for clear cutting forests on Grassy Narrows territory without consent.

Additional information:
In 1970 the government of Ontario banned fishing on the Wabigoon River due to mercury contamination from a pulp mill. Overnight unemployment in Grassy Narrows Asubpeeschoseewagong Anishinabek (GNAA) went from to 10% to 90%, a primary food staple was lost, and the devastating neurological health impacts of mercury poisoning set in. Forty years later a study on the health of GNAA residents showed that while mercury levels were going down, the health impacts of mercury poisoning in GNAA are worse now than they were in the 70's. Starting in 2010, every 2 years Grassy Narrows community members have organized a major awareness raising event in Toronto demanding justice for GNAA and the protection of the natural resources GNAA depends on for survival and cultural preservation. These events succeeded in bringing this issue into the spotlight and secured a commitment from Kathleen Wynne (then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, now Premier of Ontario) to rebuild the relationship with GNAA and to “get it right.” There is now an inter-ministerial committee negotiating with GNAA on the mercury issue, but there has been little progress and now Ontario has finalized plans for another decade of clearcut logging on Grassy Narrows territory. The plan includes more than 85,000 acres of clearcuts, which would again elevate mercury levels in fish above the limit for
safe human consumption. Grassy Narrows community members, who continue to maintain the longest-running peaceful blockade of logging on Indigenous territory in Canadian history, are pushing for the cancellation of this logging plan and justice for mercury survivors. River Run 2016 is a week of action against logging and mercury contamination on Grassy Narrows territory consisting of several activities to collectively engage Grassy Narrows community members, media, the public, and the Government of Ontario in order to raise awareness about logging and mercury contamination on GNAA territory and to ensure that GNAA's demands are heard. Community members from Grassy Narrows and their allies are converging in late May and early June in Toronto for a several hundred person march, a press conference and public speaking events and will also hold a strategic planning meeting with allies to further build unity and develop strategies and plans for protecting Grassy Narrows territory.

**Video from Grassy Narrows Youth #RiverRun2016**
[https://www.facebook.com/NoOneIsIllegalNetwork/videos/952120534904990/](https://www.facebook.com/NoOneIsIllegalNetwork/videos/952120534904990/)

**Climate Action Fund**

**Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation**
$2,000 to support an international tour to meet with major banks and Indigenous community and NGO allies as part of the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples’ campaign to prevent Australia’s largest coal mine from being established on ancestral land.

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*W&J protest against a proposed mine*
**Additional information:**
The Wangan and Jagalingou people in central Queensland, Australia, are attempting to prevent Australia’s largest coal mine from being established on its ancestral land. Representatives for the Wangan and Jagalingou people have formally rejected an Indigenous land use agreement that would see Indian mining firm Adani develop its huge $16 billion Carmichael mine in the coal-rich Galilee Basin region. The Carmichael mine would be one of the largest in the world, covering more than 200 sq km, and five more mines are planned for the Galilee Basin if the Carmichael mine is allowed to move forward with operations. The Wangan and Jagalingou people are opposed to the mine because the project will devastate their ancestral lands, permanently pollute water supplies, wipe out native animals and plants, and negatively impact cultural heritage and sacred sites. They have called on the Queensland Government to refuse a mining lease to Adani to prevent the mine’s development. Adani’s proposed mine would require 50,000 acres of native bushland to be cleared and use 12 billion liters of water every year. The objection from the Wangan and Jagalingou people and the assertion of their rights increases the uncertainty around Adani’s planned coal mine. Such uncertainty continues to decrease the likelihood that Adani will be able to raise the necessary funds to begin the project. Adani’s own environmental impact statement estimates the mine will release more than 200 million tons of carbon dioxide over its 60-year life, with the 60 million tons of coal produced a year giving off a further 130 million tons of carbon dioxide a year when burned. For the Carmichael mine to be economically viable, an expansion of the Abbot Point port is needed, along with an associated 180 mile rail line connecting the mine to the port, all of which would require major financing. To support its efforts to stop the mine, two representatives of the Wangan and Jagalingou people, Adrian Burragubba and Murrawah Johnson, embarked on an international tour with the primary purpose of meeting with major international banks to directly communicate that the Wangan and Jagalingou people have not granted their Free, Prior and Informed Consent and that any financing provided to the mine or port expansion would be in violation of international law. Several of these banks, including Goldman Sachs, Citi, and JP Morgan Chase, have since committed to not provide financing for the Carmichael mine and Adani announced in February it was freezing its investment in the project until world coal prices show a clear recovery. The tour also included speaking engagements, meetings with NGO partners and foundations and the opportunity to meet and strategize with several Indigenous communities in the U.S. and Canada, including the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, leaders in the fight against Alberta tar sands expansion.
**Indigenous People’s Power Project (IP3)**

$2,000 to support IP3’s Training for Indigenous Trainers bringing together Indigenous activists and organizers from the frontlines of challenging fossil fuel extraction and combating the climate crisis to support and build their capacity to carry out self-determined acts of resistance for their lands and communities.

**Additional information:**

Indigenous and frontline communities face the most adverse health, social and environmental consequences of fossil fuel projects because they are situated closest to mines, power plants and other industrial infrastructure. By standing up to industries and corporations, these communities are protecting their lives and livelihoods, while also combating the climate crisis. IP3’s Training for Indigenous Trainers brings together Indigenous activists and organizers from the frontlines to support and build their capacity to carry out self-determined acts of resistance for their lands and communities. This training equips Indigenous organizers with tools and confidence to facilitate their communities and organizations in direct action strategy and planning. This is done through a comprehensive 4-day training using a newly revised Direct Action curriculum specific for Indigenous communities. The goal is that the 30 participating trainees are empowered and have the skills to lead their communities (many on reservations) in strategically fighting fossil fuel and other extraction projects happening on their lands. Upon completion of the training, and after holding individual feedback sessions upon their return home, IP3 invited the trainees to join its Network of Trainers and Action Practitioners. In addition to
gaining the ability to plan strategic Direct Actions in their communities, the trainees serve other communities when assistance is requested. Some of the training participants engaged in fossil fuel resistance include members from Tribes fighting coal extraction in Mat-Su area of Alaska, Cheyenne and Lakota people of Montana and South Dakota fighting tar sands pipeline projects, and US and Canadian members of the Indigenous Environmental Network. Participants are also working on a number of other issues, including from the Apache Nation fighting copper mining at the sacred Oak Flat, Native Hawaiians fighting the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope at the sacred Mauna Kea mountain, cultural workers from CA, CO and Navaho tribes using creative messaging as a Direct Action strategy, representatives of various tribes in Mexico engaged in border solidarity and migrant rights fight, and members of Haudenosaunee Nation fighting against water pollution in Ontario.

**FANG (Fighting Against Natural Gas)**

$2,000 to support community organizing towards the cancellation of a proposed fracked-gas power plant in Burrillville, RI, and to build a stronger local and regional movement against the fracked-gas industry and major pipeline expansion plans in the Northeast.

![Spectra pipeline protest](image)

**Additional information:**

For over two years, FANG (Fighting Against Natural Gas) has been working to stop the billion dollar expansion of Spectra Energy’s Northeast pipeline system. Spectra is pushing three expansions that would bring fracked-gas from Appalachia and Pennsylvania through the Northeast to liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals proposed for Nova Scotia. In addition, a number of other gas infrastructure projects are being planned that would connect to the expanded pipeline system, including a LNG facility in Providence, RI and a $700 million fracked-gas power plant in Burrillville, RI that would be operated by Invernergy. Burrillville is already home to two interstate gas pipelines, two gas compressor stations and
a gas power plant. As well as the newly proposed power plant, one of the compressor stations in Burrillville would be doubled in size, twice, as part of Spectra’s pipeline expansions. After going door to door in Burrillville, FANG organized several community meetings which brought residents together interested in stopping the expansion of fracked-gas infrastructure in their town. This ultimately resulted in the formation of BASE (Burrillville Against Spectra Expansion). FANG and BASE now work closely together and coordinate on a number of local efforts including outreach, putting pressure on the town council and carrying out noise and emission testing. FANG has also led national weeks of action targeting Spectra, worked through State and Federal agencies to slow down the project proposals, put pressure on Spectra’s funders and has been the driving force behind numerous workshops, mobilizations and nonviolent direct actions. This grant supported outreach efforts in Burrillville by both organizations to engage more residents in the campaign and invite them to take part in an emission and noise monitoring program. As part of this door to door organizing work, 750-1000 residents were directly contacted. Yard signs, buttons and stickers were also distributed as part of the outreach program ensuring higher visibility to the local resistance. An emission monitoring program is necessary because residents near the site of the proposed fracked-gas plant often smell gas that originates from the existing Spectra compressor station. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has stated that they will investigate the situation, but that they need logs of when residents smell the gas. Additionally, a preliminary study done by a graduate student also found that the noise from the compressor station in Burrillville can reach up to 70 dba, far above local and federal limits. BASE was able to acquire a noise monitoring device as part of another grant. During the outreach FANG and BASE enlisted the help of residents to keep emissions and noise level logs. This data will be used for legal action and as evidence during the permitting process. Overall these activities have led to a stronger local and regional movement against the fracked-gas industry with the goal of the cancellation of Invenergy’s proposed fracked-gas power plant and large segments of the Spectra pipeline expansions.
Updates on Past Grants

Movimento Munduruku

$5,000 to support the demarcation and monitoring of the Sawré Muybu territory of the Munduruku people, the last large un-demarcated swath of Munduruku territory in the Tapajós Basin, a jewel of the Amazon and home to an incredible array of plant and animal biodiversity that is threatened by Brazil’s plans to build 3 major dams. Please note RAN secured an additional $5,000 in support for Movimento Munduruku through our role as an advisor to Global Greengrants Fund.

In April 2016, Brazil's environmental agency IBAMA suspended the environmental licensing process for the controversial São Luiz do Tapajós dam in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. This move followed the indigenous agency FUNAI's decision to proceed with the official demarcation and protection of the Munduruku people's 700 square mile ancestral territory on the Tapajós River, which would spare it from dam-driven destruction.
Save Sarawak’s Rivers Network (SAVE Rivers)

$500 to support the SAVE Rivers network’s efforts to raise awareness in Sarawak, Malaysia about the risks of building 12 proposed mega-dams on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples, which would forcibly displace tens of thousands of people and also flood more than 2,000 square kilometers of rainforest. Please note RAN secured an additional $7,500 in support since 2013 for SAVE Rivers through our role as an advisor to Global Greengrants Fund.

Protest against construction of the now cancelled Baram dam

In March 2016 the Sarawak state government bowed to protests and canceled plans for controversial 1500 MW dam project on the Baram river in Malaysian Borneo that alone would have displaced 20,000 people and flooded 412 km2 of rainforests. This was a result of a sustained multi-year campaign of blockades and protests, initiatives to map community lands and fighting companies and the state in the courts. In announcing the decision, the Sarawak State Attorney General’s chambers informed that the expropriation of the native customary rights land for the dam site and the reservoir had been officially revoked. With this new development, the right of the villagers on the native lands is being reinstated.
**Mother Nature**

$3,000 to support a movement of environmental activists, Buddhist monks, and remote communities fighting to stop the proposed Cheay Areng dam in the Areng Valley of southwest Cambodia that would flood 50,000 acres of rainforest and displace thousands.

*Tree blessing ceremony in the Areng Valley*

Mother Nature’s peaceful campaign to stop the Cheay Areng dam has drawn into the fight not just many other Cambodian civil society groups but also the attention of millions of Cambodians. After a two year long campaign, the Cambodian Prime Minister responded to public pressure and placed a verbal moratorium on the dam’s construction. Since this announcement, dam construction-related companies have left Areng Valley and the government, which had been previously maneuvering to forcibly relocate people and clear cut the planned reservoir area, has shifted gears and begun implementing long-delayed infrastructure projects like roads and schools. Now RAN is supporting Mother Nature’s work on the reinforcement of land tenure for Indigenous communities living in Areng Valley in the form of communal land titles.
**Leuser Conservation Forum**

$2,500 to support a community-led project to remove 24 illegal palm oil plantations covering 25,000 acres from within the Leuser Protected Ecosystem in Aceh and North Sumatra, the first time a project of this nature has taken place anywhere in Indonesia.

*RAN’s Executive Director Lindsey Allen cutting down illegal palm oil during her visit in January to the Leuser Ecosystem*

Our partners in Aceh started with small grants, including the one supported by World Centric in 2013, but have since increased their funding significantly, including securing through RAN’s help a multi-year grant of $2 million from Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (and fresh off his recent Oscar he made a visit to Aceh - [https://www.instagram.com/p/BDhLEyLKxKm/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BDhLEyLKxKm/)). The overall campaign to save the Leuser Ecosystem took a massive step forward in April when the Indonesian government announced a new moratorium on palm oil plantation and mining permits. Announcements by Indonesia’s President Jokowi, the Minister of Environment and Forestry, and local Acehnese leaders declared that all new palm oil permits must be cancelled and old plantation permits should be evaluated in accordance with existing national laws that govern their activities and protect the Leuser Ecosystem.

*RAN’s short video about this announcement:*