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HOPES AND VICTORIES



RAINFOREST FOUNDATION US

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

VICTORIES IN 2002

VICTORIES iN 2002

- *The Panará people of Brazil won a legal guarantee of payment for damages from construction of a highway that almost led to their extinction.*
- *The Saramaka Maroons were the first traditional people in Suriname to use international law to block land grabs on their territory by mining and logging companies.*
- *Amerindians in Guyana beat a lawsuit by a mining company to evict them from their rainforest home.*
- *The Macuxi, Ingaricó, Wapichana, and Taurepang peoples of Brazil defeated an attempt to reverse the legal right to their ancestral lands.*

MISSION

The Rainforest Foundation US (RF–US) is dedicated to preserving the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples of the rainforest. It achieves this goal by creating and supporting projects in collaboration with partner organizations and grassroots groups. At the request of these groups, our work in recent years has focused on land tenure issues with an emphasis on legal and policy initiatives.

Our mission is to support indigenous and traditional populations of the rainforest in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfill their rights by assisting them in:

- securing and controlling the natural resources necessary for their long term well-being and managing these resources in ways that do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future.
- developing the means to protect their individual and collective rights and to obtain, shape and control basic services from the state.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hopes and Victories, the title of this year's Rainforest Foundation US Annual Report, is no mere turn of a phrase. It embodies the spirit of where we stand as an organization that for thirteen years has worked to defend the rainforest and the peoples who have always lived there.

The Amazonian Rainforest is home to more than a vast diversity of plant and animal life, it is also the ancestral home of widely diverse indigenous and traditional cultures. RF–US has always understood that biodiversity and cultural diversity go hand in hand. The future of the Rainforest depends on respect for the history of these forest peoples.

Over the years, RF–US has adapted to meet their evolving needs for international solidarity. They are organized, dedicated, and still fighting for recognition of their basic human rights.

What they ask from us—from you—is the kind of support that will let their voices be heard in the court rooms, in the legislatures, at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and in our children's classrooms.

Your support of the Rainforest Foundation US ripples down to the most remote indigenous villages in the Amazon. As you will read in this report, the people who call the rainforest their home are spinning your solidarity into concrete achievements. Victories of peoples who have been forced—some for decades, others for more than 500 years—to fight for cultural survival.

Their historic perseverance offers hope for the endurance of the rainforest for generations to come. RF–US is privileged to stand with them on the bridge between the ancient past and the faraway future. We are grateful to all those standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us—our partners on the ground, and you.

Thank you again,



Larry Cox
Member of the RF–US Board of Directors



NEW FACES, NEW DIRECTIONS

In February 2002, I arrived at the Rainforest Foundation US with the mission to strengthen the channels between the Indigenous villages of the Amazon and the rest of the world. Coming from longtime RF–US Brazilian partner the Socio-environmental Institute, I had the ground-level experience of an Indigenous rights lawyer and environmentalist to help shape the future of this organization.

In the last year we consolidated our efforts to streamline administrative operations both in the US and with our country partner organizations. Smoother coordination has enabled us to concentrate more actively on the projects in the field. To that end, we hired new staff and redirected the work of those already here. With our home team in place, we could then dedicate more time to work directly with our country partners.

Under the able leadership of our new Director of Finance and Administration, Athos Gontijo, and Administrative Assistant (*cum* office manager and website master) Daniel McGowan, office operations were creatively integrated to render them more efficient and responsive.

Development Director Lisa Stamm and Development Officer Beverley Hadfield launched a new campaign to transform the broad popular support for the Rainforest and the people who live there into a stable base for our work. The two of them formed a marketing powerhouse that packed the calendar with events to raise both funds and awareness for our cause. We also developed a strategy to diversify our sources of income, including foundations and corporate sponsorships. To further reinforce our crucial ties with the public, we recruited Jennifer Tierney as our Information and Press Coordinator.

In October, Isabela Figueroa, who served as the lead lawyer on Ecuador's first successful Indigenous case against an oil company and has years of experience working in the field with Indigenous communities, became the RF–US Legal Program Coordinator. Isabela spearheads one of the principle new directions we are taking as an organization: to prepare Indigenous leaders to defend their heritage on both the international and national levels.

The new Legal Program is designed to assist forest peoples in Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, and Ecuador to use domestic and international law to fight for their rights and lands. While there is a plethora of projects by international nonprofit groups to provide legal defense for forest peoples, we see a dearth of support for Indigenous peoples to stage that fight for themselves.

The ultimate goal of this program is to meet a need specified by our partners: to support their efforts to use law as a tool in the defense of their ancestral lands and human rights. Indigenous people in the Amazon know first hand how certain trends in globalization can lead to destruction of their environment and human rights. But they have also witnessed how international law can offer protection. At their request, last year RF–US developed a two-pronged approach to strengthen their defense of their rights and the rainforest.

In addition to the Legal Program, Christine Halvorson, our Program Coordinator, reconfigured our training efforts into a new Capacity Building Program. This vital component is designed to bolster the long-term sustainability and autonomy of Indigenous organizations through administrative training and technical support. In order to foster true autonomy in the 21st century, Indigenous organizations recognize a need to update their skills and level the global playing field.

The Capacity Building program not only provides hands-on assistance to improve administrative and managerial operations, we also sit down and discuss new organizational techniques for long-term planning and strategies.

The following report is not a full account of all the work we did, or hoped to do, in 2002. It does present the highlights of our projects, and the victories achieved by Indigenous communities in the Amazon.

I am confident that fully supported, our new directions will go far toward indigenous peoples' struggle for social and environmental justice. A struggle that starkly illustrates the symbiosis between humankind and nature, between the past and the future.

At this crucial point in history, as a generation we are taking a stand on the issue of integrity—of ancient peoples and of ancient forests. Our action, or inaction, will ultimately decide the question of Vestige versus Vitality—whether our generation will bulldoze Indigenous cultures into museums and pulp the rainforests for paper towels, or find a more intelligent way to live together.

RF–US deeply appreciates all those who take a stand with us to defend the cultural and natural heritage of the Amazon and its peoples.

Ana Valéria Araújo
Executive Director



▲ *The green border delineates the Amazon in South America. The green shaded areas are the principle focus of our work.*

WHERE WE WORK

The Rainforest Foundation has been working through creative collaborations to defend the rights of forest peoples since 1989. RF–US works side by side with Indigenous and grassroots groups to reinforce their good efforts. Our international expertise provides a natural complement to their local, national, and traditional knowledge.

HOW WE WORK

In each country, our work is the fruit of active partnerships with groups on the ground. Most are associations created and run by Indigenous and traditional peoples themselves. Others complement the efforts of these communities through professional and legal support. From national court rooms to village meeting houses, these are the people on the frontlines. Together we have built a new model of cooperation that is already showing results.

Amerindian Legal Services Center

HOPE

In Guyana the government has granted as much as 85 percent of its land—the rainforest home of thousands of Amerindians—to multinational mining and logging companies.

Based on the knowledge that once Indigenous peoples understand their rights, they can stand up for them, three years ago, RF–US and the Amerindian Peoples Association created the ALSC. The Center holds village workshops on Indigenous rights, offers legal protection, establishes case law, and provides a scholarship to the country's first Amerindian law student, David James.

Joanna Simmons, Staff Lawyer, ALSC; Martin Cheong, Director, ALSC; Christine Halvorson, Program Coordinator, RF–US



VICTORY

Last year ALSC trained Amerindian communities to map out their territory as a basis for legal defense against land grabs. The Center also worked with the Amerindian village of Arau to beat a lawsuit by a miner trying to evict them from their land. Inspired by their success, other Indigenous groups requested training to document their territories. Last year RF–US also trained ALSC staff on administration, proposal writing, and planning.



Amerindian Peoples Association

In 1993, the Guyanese government announced that it would revise the country's antiquated Amerindian Act, and then never mentioned it again.

HOPE

Last year, the government finally initiated the process to update the Amerindian Act, the country's most important law on Indigenous rights. Guyana's largest Indigenous organization, the APA moved quickly to ensure the participation of Amerindian people. RF–US is now helping the APA prepare Guyana's sixty thousand Indigenous people for the discussions ahead.



Jean La Rose

VICTORY

The APA is giving Amerindians the first real opportunity to voice their ideas on the revision. The Association started working village by village to inform Amerindians about their basic human rights and how to protect them under the law. Last year the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize was given to APA's program administrator, Jean La Rose, an Arawak Amerindian woman.

HOPE

In 2001 the Saramaka Maroons—descendants of escaped slaves who live in traditional communities in the rainforest—began to map their lands as a defense against devastation caused by foreign logging companies. These companies are often protected by the Surinamese military. The RF–US, in collaboration with the Forest Peoples Programme, teamed up with the Association of Saramaka Authorities to use the maps as a legal basis for their land claim.

VICTORY

Last year the Saramaka presented the government with a detailed map, created with Global Positioning System technology, of land they have occupied for more than 300 years. The Saramaka are the first traditional people in Suriname to bring the government before an international human rights body to account for its negligence. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ordered the government to suspend all land concessions to miners and loggers on Saramaka territory until a full investigation is completed.

Association of Saramaka Authorities

Suriname is the only country in the Americas that does not recognize Indigenous and traditional peoples' rights.

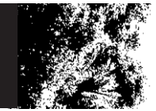
> *They cut hundreds of trees. For us, it is terrible to see cedar trees cut down. All this destruction made the animals flee away."* —SARAMAKA EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

HOPE

In an environment of intimidation, CIR fights for the rights of more than 40 thousand Indigenous peoples who live in the northern Brazilian state of Roraima. RF–US supports CIR's legal department, directed by Brazil's first female Indigenous lawyer, Joênia Wapichana. We also provide technical assistance to strengthen CIR's organizational core.

Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR)

Despite 25 years of violence and constant land invasions, the struggle for Indigenous Territory Raposa Serra do Sol grows stronger.



VICTORY

Legal assistance to the Macuxi, Ingaricó, Wapichana, and Taurepang peoples helped defeat an attempt by the state government to overturn the demarcation of Raposa Serra do Sol. Lawyers from RF–US partner Socio-environmental Institute (ISA) worked side by side with Joênia.



Joênia Wapichana

HOPE

The Panará Project

After twenty years' perseverance, the Panará have moved back to their ancestral lands. In 2001, they were the first Indigenous people in Brazil to win compensation from the state for material and moral damages. RF–US, in collaboration with ISA, is helping the Panará prepare for full autonomy in a 21st century reality—keeping their traditions despite encroachment by miners, loggers, and other invaders.

VICTORY

When they receive the monetary award from the government in 2003, the Panará will need to be prepared to manage it for their long-term benefit. Last year, RF–US and ISA conducted capacity-building workshops for the Panará community association. We also assisted the Panará to guard their borders against illegal mining and logging on their lands.



The ongoing struggle of the Panará people of the Brazilian Amazon is a story of hope and victory for the environmental and human rights movements worldwide.

Lisa Stamm, RF–US Director of Development,
Jimmy Nicholas, RF–US Board Member, Akâ Panará, Community Leader,
Stephan Schwartzman, Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense



HOPE

In ten years, the Socio-environmental Institute (ISA) has established itself as the pre-eminent expert in the defense of environmental, social, and cultural rights in Brazil. ISA works with Indigenous communities throughout the country to promote sustainable development and protect cultural and biological diversity. RF–US collaborates closely with the legal and policy programs, as well as the Panará project.



André Lima, Legal Program Coordinator, ISA.

VICTORY

ISA's attorneys secured a final enforcement motion from the Attorney General's Office for the Panará compensation award, which could have taken years.

Socio-environmental Institute

There are 218 Indigenous peoples in Brazil who speak more than 180 different languages.



Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname



The Association of Indigenous Village Leaders (VIDS) and RF–US are collaborating on a community mapping project to document the territory of the Arawak and Kinya peoples. Last year VIDS opened a national office in the capital, staffed by two Indigenous women.

Forest Peoples Programme



The Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) works with RF–US on the ground in Suriname and Guyana. The FPP's Legal and Human Rights Program assists Indigenous and traditional peoples with litigation efforts and legal strategies, advice on the use of international human rights law in national cases, and workshops on Indigenous rights.



The **Radio Project** is an ongoing effort administered by RF–US to provide solar-powered, two-way radios to Indigenous communities in Guyana and Suriname. The radios contribute to improved national and international communications, particularly around environmental issues.

Legal and Human Rights

AIDESEP/Shinai Serjali, for a meeting to prepare a map and file a land claim for Indigenous peoples in Peru

ASA/Stichting Tooka to complete Indigenous community maps and provide copies to those affected, hold a press conference, and present maps to the government in Suriname

COAIB, the largest Indigenous organization in the Brazilian Amazon, for emergency support for the head of its legal department, Brazil's first native lawyer, Paulo Pankararu

CCPY, for the Yanomami Education Project to protect a people particularly threatened by miners, conflict, and disease in Brazil

CRIMA, for a meeting among Indigenous groups of the Upper Caquetá in Colombia to discuss land claims

Land is Life US/International to bring three Indigenous leaders to attend the first session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May

Moiwana 86, to research and prepare for a case brought to the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights regarding the massacre of a Maroon community in 1986 in Suriname

Small Grants Fund



OGPTB, the General Organization of Ticuna Bilingual Teachers, to support the Ticuna Education Project in Brazil

Racimos de Ungurahui, to organize a fact-finding mission and later a meeting among Indigenous peoples to discuss potential risks of an oil drilling project in Peru

Warã Brazilian Indigenous Institute, Brazil's first association of Indigenous professionals created to provide technical and legal advice to this community, for operational seed funding

Raising Awareness



Word of mouth is the first step toward global change for environmental, Indigenous, and human rights. RF–US is dedicated to helping forest peoples bring their messages of hope and victory to as many people as possible.

- In April, two leaders of the Yanomami people of Brazil headlined the event, *Voices in the Rainforest: A Yanomami Perspective*, organized by RF–US and the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies in New York City.

  Davi Kopenawa and Totó Yanomami, along with Jô Cardoso de Oliveira from the Pro-Yanomami Commission, recounted how this society of hunter-farmers fought for and won the rights to their traditional territory. They also detailed their current work to safeguard both the culture and the tropical forests of the northern Amazon where they live.

- In November RF–US and the Bildner Center organized a panel discussion on *Indigenous Peoples in Brazil and Guyana: A View from the Frontlines*. RF–US Brazilian partners André Lima of the Socio-environmental Institute and Joênia Wapichana of the Indigenous Council of Roraima, and partners Jean La Rose of the Amerindian Peoples Association and Joanna Simmons of the Amerindian Legal Services Center, from Guyana, discussed the struggles and milestones of Indigenous peoples in these countries to defend their rights and the environment.



l–r: Jean la Rose, APA; Ana Valéria Araújo, RF–US; Joanna Simmons, ALSC; Joênia Wapichana, CIR; Christine Halvorson, RF–US; André Lima, ISA.

RF–US Executive Director Ana Valéria Araújo moderates



2003 Calendar



- Last year the RF–US website was entirely redesigned to provide a constant flow of information about our work with the people who live in the Amazon rainforest. The new site is more accessible and geared toward raising awareness on all levels: from the third-graders wondering how they can protect the rainforest to their grandparents, who want to keep the world wonderful for them.

- The Rainforest Foundation US 2003 Appointment Calendar serves as both a weekly appointment calendar and an awareness-building tool on Indigenous peoples and the rainforest. This 200-plus page collector's item was filled with celebrity messages and original paintings by the Ticuna Indians of the Brazilian Amazon.

- The winter 2002 RF–US newsletter provided an update about our collaboration with partners, as well as awareness-and fund-raising news. It forges an important link between our work and all the people, institutions, and companies who support it.

- Public Campaign: Government recognition of the Raposa Serra do Sol territory (RSS) is the principle demand of the Indigenous peoples of the northern Brazilian state of Roraima, and of the Indigenous movement as a whole. In a last ditch effort to pressure Brazil's outgoing president, RF–US teamed up with the Indigenous Council of Roraima and the German group Pro Regenwald to run an international campaign for final ratification of RSS. We generated wide public support, but RSS was still not ratified. Campaigns such as these complement our work on the ground.



RF–US Newsletter

Last year the Rainforest Foundation US reached out to wider audiences in an effort to provide a variety of individual and corporate opportunities to defend the rainforest and the peoples who live there.

RF–US First Annual Theatre Benefit: In February, the famous *21 Club* was the site of a pre-theatre benefit in support of our work. The event, underwritten by the Austrian crystal company Swarovski, featured a buffet dinner and tickets to the first revival preview of the award-winning Broadway musical *Oklahoma*!

Rainforest Awareness Week: From April 6th–13th RF–US hosted a series of events to increase public knowledge about the devastation and preservation of the rainforest and the cultures indigenous to the Amazon. To mark the event, Swarovski's flagship store donated 5% of all sales for the month of April.

Rainforest Foundation Photographic Exhibit: June was the month, New York City the place, of a benefit exhibit curated by photographer Michael Tammaro at the C&M Art gallery. The three-day exhibit, underwritten by Calvin Klein, featured the works of 100 photographers who donated proceeds from the sale of 135 images.





l–r: RF–US Executive Director Ana Valéria Araújo and Board Member Larry Cox at the theatre benefit; Carolyn Farb, Lucho Florez and Rainforest Foundation Fund Chair, Dr. Franca Sciuto in Houston; Film actress Hillary Swank checks out photos.

Ellen Tracy/Vogue Event: In August, the fashion design house Ellen Tracey and *Vogue* magazine hosted a benefit for RF–US in New York City that included live Brazilian music and a silent auction.

Houston Gala: In November, the Eleventh Annual Houston Gala, co-chaired by Gala creator Lucho Flores and philanthropist Carolyn Farb, was a sold-out event.

2002 Licensing Agreements

Artoria Limoges, one of the oldest china companies in the U.S, created a line of figurines of endangered species of the rainforest and donated a percentage of the annual sales.

Natural Decorators Incorporated, a wholesale manufacturer of artificial plans and flowers, donated a percentage of the annual proceeds from a specially-designed rainforest line.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2002

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,521,741	-	1,521,741
Unconditional promises to give	30,756	-	30,756
Property and equipment, at cost, less accumulated depreciation of $13,620	13,823	-	13,823
Prepaid expenses	9,477	-	9,477
Security Deposit	14,790	-	14,790
Other	11,185	-	11,185
Total assets	1,601,772	-	1,601,772
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	118,857	-	118,857
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	1,482,915	-	1,482,915
Total liabilities and net assets	1,601,772	-	1,601,772

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2002

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue and support			
Affiliate support	353,093	-	353,093
Donations	1,210,245	-	1,210,245
Contributions and net revenue from special events			
Donations	238,823	-	238,823
Special event revenue	550,364	-	550,364
Less: Costs of direct benefits to donors	(333,961)	-	(333,961)
Interest and dividends	16,480	-	16,480
Net assets released from restriction			
Restrictions satisfied by payments	249,077	(249,077)	-
Total revenue and support	2,284,121	(249,077)	2,035,044
Expenses			
Program services	741,943	-	741,943
Supporting services			
Development	484,802	-	484,802
General and administrative	155,481	-	155,481
Loss on sales of investments	8,203	-	8,203
Total expenses	1,390,429	-	1,390,429
Changes in net assets	893,692	(249,077)	644,615
Net assets at beginning of year	589,223	249,077	838,300
Net assets at end of year	1,482,915	-	1,482,915

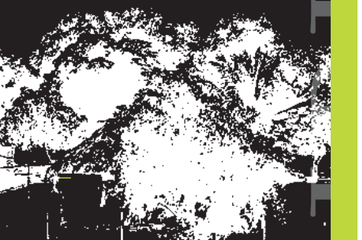
CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rainforest Foundation US honors our partners in each country. Their commitment and hard work are our inspiration.

We would also like to thank the individuals and corporations that have donated their time, services, and resources for the rainforest and the peoples who live there.

FOUNDATIONS

- **Wirthwhile Trust—California Community Foundation**
- **Rainforest Foundation Fund**
- **Sustainable Solutions**
- **Verdant Trust**



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Katia
Kenneth Cole Productions, LP
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M. C. Kelly Galleries
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HOPES IN 2003

HOPES IN

- ***In Brazil, forest peoples will use the Inter-American Human Rights system to protect their ancestral land rights.***
- ***In Guyana, Amerindians will actively participate in the revision of the most important law on Indigenous rights.***
- ***In Ecuador, Indigenous peoples will formulate legal strategies to obtain prior consultation in government projects on their land.***
- ***In Suriname, Indigenous peoples will fight to be included in preliminary discussions on their rights before the law.***