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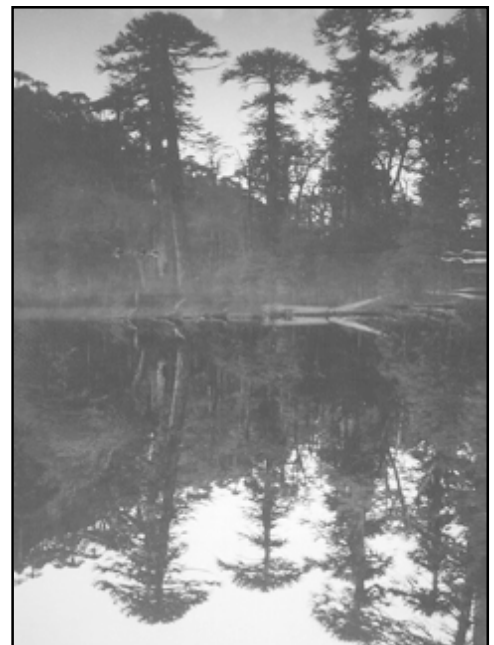
## The Gondwana Forest Sanctuary: Preserving Earth's Southernmost Forests

Conservationists around the world are rallying around the Gondwana Forest Sanctuary, a proposed intercontinental preserve for the world's southernmost forests. These fascinating forest, some of the oldest and most fragile on Earth, are endangered by exploitative multinational corporations bent on destroying them to make paper and chip board. Inspired by the successful 1960's campaign for an international Whale Sanctuary, the Gondwana campaign embodies the ideals of international cooperation for conservation and provides a positive alternative to forest-destroying "free trade" agreements.

Gondwana campaigners envision the 1961 Antarctica treaty, which preserves Antarctica in the name of international peace and cooperation, spreading northward, to protect the amazing and unique forests of Patagonia, New Zealand, Tasmania and mainland Australia. All of these far-flung forests share similar traits and similar species, for they evolved on Gondwana, the ancient supercontinent - formed and split up by plate tectonics - which included all of these landmasses and well as parts of Africa, New Guinea and other areas.



*Native Gondwanic forest along the Bullock River in Paparoa National Park, New Zealand. Similar Gondwanic forests are also found in Argentina, Australia, Chile and South Africa. Photo by Matthew Koehler/NFN.*



*Native Araucaria forest in Chile's Lake District. Photo by Phil Knight/NFN.*

**Gondwana Campaign Mission Statement:** To protect, reconnect and restore the life of Gondwana by creating an international sanctuary of Earth's southernmost forests.

**Philosophy:** No major civilization has flourished following the destruction of its primary forests. The forests that originated in Gondwana constitute the oldest and most unique temperate ecosystems in the Southern Hemisphere. In this era of economic globalization, the concept of a global commons as reflected in the Antarctica World Park needs to be expanded to protect Gondwana's far-flung surviving forests. The Gondwana Forest Sanctuary provides local, national and international communities with a new model for how humans relate to the land.

**Area of Concern:** The Gondwanniic forests are found primarily in portions of South America, Australia and New Zealand.

### **South America:**

Gondwanniic forests occur in south-central Chile and in all of Patagonia, straddling both the Chilean and Argentinian side of the Andes from the 37th Parallel south to Tierra del Fuego. These regions contain the major Gondwanniic genii and species: Nothofagus (southern beech), Alerce (Fitzroya cupressoides), the redwood of the south at up to 4,000 years old, and the bizarre, ancient Araucaria (Araucaria araucana). There are 8 nothofagus species found in Chile and Argentina including rui, roble, rauli, lenga, hualo, coihue, magellanic coihue, and nirre. Chile's native forests consist of at least 90% endemic species.

Multinational timber and paper corporations, seeking cheap fiber and labor and low environmental standards, are racing to the southern hemisphere to exploit the remaining forests there. However, they are meeting stiff opposition from determined, organized environmentalists.

Boise Cascade was recently forced to drop its plans for the world's largest woodchipping plant, thanks to a huge international campaign focused on preserving Chile's temperate rainforest.

In Tasmania, activists have recently organized massive marches against woodchipping of native forests.



*Protest at the World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings on November 29, 1999 in Seattle, Washington.  
Photo by Phil Knight/NFN.*

## New Zealand:

Gondwanic forests grow extensively on the South Island of New Zealand and in small portions of the North Island. In New Zealand, logging of native forests has nearly come to an end, thanks to years of dedicated forest defense. Much of New Zealand's ancient forests have already been converted to monocultural tree farms, but the unique and diverse remaining native forests may soon get a complete reprieve.

## Australia:

The island state of Tasmania, where the world's tallest flowering plants are found, hosts the largest extent of Gondwanic forests, while significant remnants are found on the mainland in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Three species of *Nothofagus* stretch down the Eastern Seaboard, commencing with the Antarctic beech (*N. moorei*), found in southern Queensland and sub tropical New South Wales, to the Myrtle beech (*N. cunninghamii*) in Victoria and Tasmania, and Australia's only deciduous tree, the Tasmanian Deciduous beech (*N. gunnii*).

Australia has one of the highest rates of deforestation on Earth, nearly all for woodchip exports. In Tasmania alone, over 5 million tonnes of wood chips are exported annually, 3/5 of Australia's total. Tasmania holds Australia's largest intact temperate rainforest, known as the Tarkine. This incredibly diverse area is slated for massive woodchipping, sawlog and mining operations.

On mainland Australia, native forests are being greedily demolished by corporations such as John Hancock and Nippon Paper in places like the Otway and Strzelecki Ranges and East Gippsland in Victoria.



*Woodchipping Gondwana Forests: Since 1997, all restrictions on woodchipping in Australia have been removed and companies may export all the woodchips they can produce. In the past two years, woodchip exports from the state of Tasmania are up 60%. The impact of this on native Gondwanic forests has been severe. Photo by Jake Kreilick/NFN.*

## Tierra del Fuego: Forests at the End of the Earth

The first goal of the Gondwana Forest Sanctuary Campaign is to protect the remaining primary forests on the island of Tierra del Fuego, comprising the southernmost forests on Earth, in both Chile and Argentina. These sub-antarctic forests are currently threatened by the \$200 million Rio Condor logging project initiated by the U.S. based Trillium Corp. Composed of 360,000 hectares of 10,000 year old lenga forest (*nothofagus pumilio*), this boreal forest region is highly fragile. A portion of it is recognized as Magellanic Rainforest.

## Please Take Action for Gondwana!

Please write David Syre, Trillium CEO, and ask him to sell Trillium's Tierra del Fuego holdings so the forests there can be protected as part of the Gondwana Sanctuary. Write to: David Syre, CEO Trillium Corporation, 4350 Cordata Pkwy, Bellingham WA 98226 or email to: [cmy@trilliumcorp.com](mailto:cmy@trilliumcorp.com) or [info@trilliumcorp.com](mailto:info@trilliumcorp.com).

**Adopt a Tree!** The Tierra del Fuego Adopt a Tree Campaign is designed to raise the necessary money to purchase all or part of Trillium's land holdings in the world's southernmost forests, so the forests can be set aside as part of the Gondwana Sanctuary. Send Contributions to Native Forest Network, Adopt a Tree Campaign, P.O. Box 8251, Missoula, MT 59807 USA.

## **Trans-Andean Wildlands Complex**

Argentine, Chilean and American activists are working to create a “Trans-Andean Wildlands Complex”, potentially one of the world’s largest protected areas (5,000,000 has.), 1,000 miles to the North, spanning the provinces of Neuquin, Rio Negro and Chubut in Argentina and the Lake District, Valdivian and North Patagonian regions in Chile. These areas will all be linked via the Sendero Pehuenche, a proposed trans-Andean trail.

## **Free Trade or Living Forests**

The Gondwana campaign team also continues to monitor the impacts on forests from various economic and trade policies being promoted by the World Trade Organization (WTO); Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and the Free Trade of the Americas Summit. Masked in such language as “Early Voluntary Sector Liberalization” (EVSL) and stemming from U.S. efforts to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) into South America through fast-track legislation, these trade accords represent a direct threat to both Gondwana’s primary forests and to long-term community prosperity and stability for local people.

Gondwana’s fabulous forests are just as important and just as endangered as any forests on Earth, and need your voice. Please contact the people below to offer your ideas, energy, and financial assistance.

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