



October 13, 2021

Dear Premier Horgan,

We the undersigned—39 non-government organizations from Asia, Africa, South- and North America, Europe and Australia—are writing you together with more than a quarter million people from around the world to appeal to the government of British Columbia to keep your promise and safeguard the threatened old-growth forests of this province, which are among the most endangered of the planet.

The globally rare old-growth forests in B.C., as well as the biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge and cultures linked to them, do not exist anywhere else and are irreplaceable. When these forests are cut, they will not grow back to the same grandeur and diversity in our lifetimes.

Shockingly, after decades of industrial clearcutting, old-growth forests with big trees have been reduced to a small fraction of their original extent in this province, and the majority of what remains standing is still without protection. Your government continues to allow some of the tallest trees in the world to be cut down for short-term profit.

We are appalled by the images of police violence against Indigenous youth and other peaceful land defenders and the reports about hundreds of people being arrested to enable clearcutting of ancient forests for short-term profit in B.C.

In many countries, especially in the global south, Indigenous Peoples, civil society and governments are working tirelessly to protect the world’s forests which are home to millions of people, indispensable allies in the fight against the climate crisis, and the source of enormous biodiversity. Many forest defenders risk their life for this greater good, and some even lose their life.

Canada, as a country with one of the largest forest areas on Earth, has a responsibility to lead the fight to save forests. This is especially true since Canada's population has contributed more to the climate crisis than many other countries. Within Canada, no other province other than B.C. could do more to protect rare, carbon rich old-growth forests. To date, Canada and B.C. are

failing to live up to their responsibilities, because of companies based in your country and province are involved in reckless resource extraction and environmental destruction—at home and around the globe.

Protecting the remaining ancient forests in B.C. matters to people around the world and for the future of all life on Earth. We cannot address the interlinked climate, biodiversity and social justice crises without protecting and restoring them.

Despite your promise to take short-term action for endangered old-growth forests, clearcutting of some of the tallest trees in the world continues unabated. It is time for your government to lead on old-growth protection and to inspire other countries to do the same.

In light of the escalating climate and biodiversity emergencies around the world, including in your province, we are calling on you to immediately defer logging of all at-risk old-growth forests and implement long-term conservation solutions that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as promised by your government.

Sincerely,

Ancient Forest Alliance, Canada, Ian Illuminato, Forest Campaigner

ARA / denkhausbremen, Germany, Wolfgang Kuhlmann, Director

Borneo Orangutan Survival - BOS Deutschland, Germany, Daniel Merdes, CEO

Both Ends, Netherlands, Paul Wolvekamp, Senior policy advisor

CALG – Coalition against land grabbing, Philippines, Sisang Dela Cruz, Assistant to the Executive Director

Congo Basin Conservation Society (CBCS), DRC, Josue Aruna, Executive Director

Devcon – Development Concern, Nigeria, Martins Egot, Executive Director

Earth Island Institute, Canada, Dominick DellaSala, Chief Scientist

Ecodevelop, Germany, Hans Christian Offer, Forest ecologist

Fern, EU / Belgium, Julia Christian, Campaigner

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, Indonesia, Marison Guciano, Executive Director

Friends of the Earth United States, USA, Jeff Conant, S. International Forest Program Manager

Global Justice Ecology Project, USA, Anne Petermann, Executive Director

Jatam - Mining Advocacy Network, Indonesia, Moh. Taufik, Bachelor of Law

Kené Instituto de Estudios Forestales y Ambientales, Peru, Lucila Pautrat Oyarzún, President

National Assoc. of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), Uganda, Frank Muramuzi, Executive Director

NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark, Denmark, Mads Kjærgaard Lange, secretary

Northern Confluence Initiative, Canada, Nikki Skuce, Director

Oakland Institute, USA, Frederic Mousseau, Policy Director

Partnership for Policy Integrity, USA, Mary S. Booth, Director

Perkumpulan Hijau, Indonesia, Feri Irawan, Direktor

Quercus – ANCN, Portugal, Alexandra Azevedo, President

Rainforest Rescue, Australia, Branden Barber, CEO

Rainforest Resource and Development Centre (RRDC), Nigeria, Odey Oyama, Executive Director

Réseau CREF, DRC, François Biloko, Secrétaire Général

Rettet den Regenwald, Germany, Marianne Klute, Chairwoman

Robin Wood, Germany, Jana Ballenthien, Forest Campaigner

SADIA, Malaysia, Matek Geramn, Indigenous rights defender

Save Estonia's Forests, Estonia, Liina Steinberg, Member of board

Save Virunga, Netherlands/DRC, Tina Lain, Co-founder

Sierra Club British Columbia, Canada, Jens Wieting, Senior Forest Campaigner

The Gaia Foundation, UK, Carlotta Byrne, Earth Jurisprudence Program Coordinator

WALHI NTT - Eastern Sunda Islands, Indonesia, Uumbu Wulang, Direktor

WALHI Papua, Indonesia, Aiesh Rumbekwan, Director

WATER - Wise Administration of Terrestrial Environment and Resources, Nigeria, Chief Edwin Ogar, Program coordinator

West Kootenay EcoSociety, Canada, Kendra Norwood, Conservation Director

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), Germany/Liberia, Prof. Christophe Boesch, Founder and President

Wilderness Committee, Canada, Torrance Coste, National Campaign Director

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), Canada/USA, Candace Batycki, Program Director, BC and Yukon