



# Defending our Oceans

Every second breath you take comes from the oceans. They give us half the oxygen we need to survive. Imagine that. Hold your breath, just for a moment.



Imagine the oceans. Endless blue water, rolling waves, whales and dolphins. But below those waves is more life than in the rainforests. The oceans give life to our planet and us. About 80% of life on earth is under the ocean and only 10% has been explored.

But we respond to nature's abundance by over fishing and stealing ocean resources from the world's poorest nations; killing countless creatures as 'by-catch', including whales, turtles and sea birds; we fill the oceans with pollution and our carbon emissions make them acidic and warm, killing coral reefs. But our oceans are still resilient and it is never too late to make a difference.

We saw a dramatic start to 2006 as our ships MY Esperanza and MY Arctic Sunrise engaged in non-violent direct action against the Japanese whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Two of our activists were flipped into

the water when a harpoon line became entangled with our inflatables. The whaling mothership Nisshin Maru caused a collision with the Arctic Sunrise, and tried to blame us. Activist Mikey Rosato became known worldwide as the "whale rider" after clinging to a dead whale to prevent it being hauled aboard the factory ship. On Ocean Defenders TV we exposed the brutal death of a minke whale that took 39 minutes and 6 rifle shots to die. This footage was used by the Australian Government at the International Whaling Commission meeting in June to demonstrate how inhumane the Japanese whaling program is. Across the world thousands of Greenpeace Ocean Defenders and supporters gave voice to the atrocity of the whale hunt and convinced Nissui, the only non government financial backers of the fleet, to withdraw their funding. In addition to this huge success,

Greenpeace calculated that our active presence saved 82 whales from an untimely and unnecessary death.

In September the Esperanza returned to the Pacific as part of her Defending Our Oceans tour. The Pacific leg focused on solutions for overfishing and piracy that runs rampant in one of the largest and least patrolled stretches of ocean in the world. We exposed a shark-finning operation and the disturbing impacts of the tuna industry on some of the world's poorest countries, including the sexual exploitation of poor young women in remote Pacific communities by foreign fishing seamen.

During two months of joint surveillance with enforcement officials from two countries, the Esperanza patrolled over 30,000 square miles of ocean. We inspected 8 suspicious fishing vessels, found a warehouse full of de-finned shark carcasses and spent a night observing a long liner fishing.

In October Greenpeace activists, under our Port Watch Program, alerted authorities to a known pirate vessel berthed in Suva Port. The vessel was fined \$10 000 and is now blacklisted in the region.

Also in October, thanks to our lobbying efforts, Pacific Island leaders agreed on a declaration for the protection of Pacific seamounts and the prohibition of destructive fishing practices in the region. This was the first region in the world to have a declaration of this kind in place.

Effective fisheries management relies on accurate estimates of the size of the target fish population, as well as knowledge of the fish's biology, history and the technology that has been used to find the fish. Only then can scientists model the fish population accurately and estimate how many target fish can be caught. Our work will continue as we build on past successes. Until fishing practices are regulated against ecologically sustainable levels, the rescue mission goes on.

*Main image: Marine life in Apo Island Marine Reserve  
© Greenpeace/Ocampo*

*(From left:) Greenpeace ship MY Esperanza and her inflatables try to hinder the shooting and eventual transfer of a minke whale by the Yushin Maru No.2 catcher ship.  
© Greenpeace/Sutton-Hibbert*

*Centre: Schooling Jacks. Apo Island Marine Reserve. Philippines.  
© Greenpeace/Newman*

*Right: Greenpeace is using every peaceful available means to bring the hunt to an early end and make it the last time the Sanctuary is breached by the whalers.  
© Greenpeace/Davison*



# The people of paradise

Sep Galeva is one of the millions of people who live under the canopies of the Paradise Forests. At the invitation of his clan we began to work with the Lake Murray people in the remote wilderness of Western Province in Papua New Guinea, to help them maintain their irreplaceable forest and harvest their own timber in an ecologically sustainable way.

The Paradise Forests, stretching from South East Asia, across the islands of Indonesia, on to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in the Pacific, are being destroyed faster than any other forest on the planet. Scientific studies have shown that the industrial logging in Papua New Guinea can destroy 17 trees for every one that is felled and removed. Not only are peoples homes being destroyed, some of the world's most rare and endangered animals and plants shelter in the Paradise Forests, like the last orangutans left in the

wild. As their habitats are destroyed, many face extinction.

In 2006 Greenpeace undertook one of our most innovative and successful campaigns for the protection of the Paradise Forest. Working with community groups and using our global strength we launched 'Lukautim Bus' the Pidgin slogan for the campaign meaning 'Protect Our Forest' or, using a more literal translation, 'Look After Our Bush'.

In February we launched the Global Forest Rescue Station (GFRS) - a base camp for marking the boundaries of the tribal lands around Lake Murray. Volunteers from around the world took up the invitation from Lake Murray tribes to help protect their forests.

Together, we set about 'boundary marking' an area of over 300,000 hectares of remote forest. The boundary marking that took place was the first crucial step

The arrival of a portable sawmill in late March was a milestone in enabling the local people's dream of establishing their own eco-forestry businesses - the opposite of large-scale, destructive logging. Working from village to village, always in alliance with half a dozen community-based organisations, we demarcated clan lands and prepared them for ecoforestry. In May Asia's biggest logging company, Rimbunan Hijau (RH), intimidated and detained six Greenpeace activists after they tried to present them with a Golden Chainsaw award, representing the company's 30 years of forest destruction. Activists were harassed by people inside RH's Port Moresby compound and had to lock themselves into vehicles for their own-safety. A cameraman was assaulted while attempts were made to seize his film and his camera was broken. RH controls logging concessions in many parts of the developing world and is the largest logging company operating in PNG today, directly controlling 40 per cent of all log exports. A 2003/2004 Review of Existing Concessions documented allegations of abuse of local landowners, including various forms of physical violence.

In July Sam Moko, our PNG Solutions Campaigner, traveled to London to tell Tony Blair to "Stop trashing my forest" after Greenpeace tracked illegal logs from the

*'At Lake Murray we are saying no to loggers that come in and destroy everything. We want to do small scale logging by the landowners in a way that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.'*

*Sep Galeva from the Kuni tribe.*



Main image: Traditional Papua dancers perform at the Greenpeace flagship the Rainbow Warrior.  
© Greenpeace/Behring  
(From left:) Sep Galeva from the Kuni tribe, Lake Murray, PNG  
© Greenpeace/Sewell  
Image 2: Sam Moko with letter for Tony Blair.  
© Greenpeace/Rose

in ensuring the recognition of customary landowner rights.

In March, Greenpeace flagship the Rainbow Warrior arrived in the region to patrol the waters on the lookout for illegal and destructive timber being shipped out of the Paradise Forests. At the same time Brian Baring, a traditional landowner from PNG, went to Europe to inspire European politicians, timber traders and consumers to stop using illegally logged timber from the Paradise Forests.

Paradise forests that end up as plywood in the UK marketplace. The illegal timber was being used in renovation work on Admiralty Arch. As a result the British Government agreed to investigate Greenpeace's allegations and ensure its timber comes from sustainable sources.

Our achievements in 2006 have been crucial in ensuring the Paradise Forests and its people prosper. We will continue to confront governments and industrial loggers in order to stop illegal and destructive logging.

Image 3: Greenpeace Forest Campaigner Sam Moko talks to Rimbunan Hijau security guards  
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Image 4: 'Mud men' perform traditional dances to welcome the arrival of the Greenpeace flagship the Rainbow Warrior.  
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