

# Statement

GREENPEACE

## **International recognition for the Great Bear Rainforest is a testament that forest protection and Indigenous rights go hand in hand, says Greenpeace**

**26 September 2016 (Vancouver)** – Following today’s exciting double announcement of the endorsement of the Great Bear Rainforest under the international Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy by their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the creation of a special trust for the region, Eduardo Sousa, Senior Forests Campaigner at Greenpeace Canada, said:

“We welcome the announcement made today in the Heiltsuk First Nation territory of Bella Bella by the Royal Couple to endorse the spectacular Great Bear Rainforest. This international recognition is further testament to the perseverance and leadership of the region’s First Nations, the true stewards of this precious place. The endorsement, along with the provincial government’s encouraging announcement of the Great Bear Rainforest Education and Awareness Trust, is a remarkable moment to be celebrated. Today makes it powerfully clear that large-scale forest and biodiversity protection that respects and enhances Indigenous rights is not only entirely possible, but also inspires the world.”

Together, the B.C. and First Nations governments, Greenpeace, Sierra Club BC, Stand and several forestry companies worked hard to move from conflict to a shared outcome rooted in 15 years of collaboration and negotiation. As of February 2016, the vision for conservation and community well-being committed to in 2006 is now established with legal and policy agreements. Eighty-five per cent (3.1 million hectares) of the beautiful region’s coastal temperate rainforests will be permanently off-limits to industrial logging. The remaining 15 per cent (550,000 hectares) of the forest will be subject to the most stringent legal standards for commercial logging operations in North America.

**For more information:**

Read more about the GBR agreements:

[http://www.savethegreatbear.org/images/uploads/RSP\\_GBRBackgrounderFebruary2016.pdf](http://www.savethegreatbear.org/images/uploads/RSP_GBRBackgrounderFebruary2016.pdf)

Read more about the QCC:

<http://queenscommonwealthcanopy.org/>

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