Sierra Club’s three international programs work to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities, which ultimately contributes to a healthier environment and a more sustainable world. By ensuring that U.S. trade policies protect the climate and worker’s rights, transitioning international public finance beyond coal, increasing access to clean and renewable energy, and advocating for voluntary family planning and reproductive rights, our programs work to meet people’s basic needs, paving the way for healthier, more resilient communities.

**RESPONSIBLE TRADE PROGRAM**

The Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Program (RTP) has shed a light on the environmental threats posed by our current global trading system for more than two decades. We work to ensure that U.S. trade policy supports, rather than undermines, both climate protection and workers’ rights. Three major areas of our work include:

- **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).** The TPP is an expansive free trade deal that the U.S. is currently negotiating with 11 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, called the Pacific Rim. This pact, which has been negotiated for more than four years in almost complete secrecy, would endanger efforts to combat climate disruption in a number of ways. For example, as the TPP is currently written, it empowers corporations to challenge climate and other public interest policies in private trade tribunals and allows for significantly increased exports of liquified natural gas, thereby deepening dependence on fossil fuels and increasing fracking in the U.S.

- **Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).** TTIP is an expansive trade pact under negotiation between the U.S. and the European Union (EU). Because tariffs between the U.S. and the EU are already low, this new trade pact will focus on removing “non-tariff barriers” — otherwise known as critical climate, environmental, and other public interest policies. TTIP could endanger efforts to combat climate disruption by increasing exports of oil and gas from the U.S. to the EU, empowering corporations to challenge climate and other public interest policies in private trade tribunals, and changing the rule-making process in the U.S. and the EU to allow for more corporate influence in our policy-making process, just to name a few examples.

- **Illegal Logging.** Wood and paper products are an integral part of our everyday lives, but sadly, up to 30 percent of the wood traded internationally has been harvested illegally, causing deforestation, threatening communities, and contributing to more climate-disrupting pollution. The Responsible Trade Program is working to protect the Lacey Act, a landmark U.S. law that prohibits companies from knowingly importing illegally harvested wood products and wildlife. With a strong track record of success, the United States is using the Lacey Act to help lead the international fight against illegal logging.
INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY

The Sierra Club works with grassroots partners across the globe to build awareness, strengthen local voices, and transition international public finance beyond dangerous fossil fuels and toward a safe and sustainable future with clean energy access for all. The three main focuses of our work include:

- **International Finance.** International financial institutions — like the World Bank — need to transition energy investments beyond coal to clean energy. More importantly, those scarce development dollars need to be spent in a strategic way given that they are only a small percentage of a trillion dollar global energy economy. Ultimately, the best use of those funds will be to expand clean energy access at a household level by investing in distributed clean energy companies working beyond the grid.

- **Clean Energy Access.** Approximately 1.3 billion people around the world currently live without electricity. The Sierra Club is working to change this by advocating for the deployment of off-grid and mini-grid clean energy solutions in an effort to improve energy access for those living beyond the grid. Off-grid and mini-grid clean energy solutions are already available and are often better suited to meet the challenges of energy access than costly, inefficient grid extensions. Additionally, innovative business models and finance schemes are making off-grid clean energy solutions more affordable than traditional grid connections for the world’s rural populations. As we already know, access to energy helps to enable more productive, healthier lives. These clean energy technologies can do just that.

- **Supporting Grassroots Movements.** There is no way around it: coal kills. The Sierra Club partners with grassroots groups around the world as they demand a say in what happens to their air, land, and water, and as they call for an end to international public financing of dangerous coal projects. We connect locals with resources, provide expertise and training, assist in conducting research, and help raise the voices of affected people and activists as they stand against multinational corporations.

GLOBAL POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

The Global Population and Environment Program believes that healthy people and a healthy planet go hand-in-hand. We work to protect the global environment, preserve natural resources for future generations, and ensure healthy, thriving families and communities by promoting global reproductive health, reproductive rights, and sustainable development initiatives. We seek to accomplish our mission through four main areas of focus:

- **Universal Access To Voluntary Family Planning And Reproductive Health Services.** There are more than 222 million women in the world who would like to plan and space their pregnancies but don’t have the knowledge, tools, access, or power to do so. Addressing this unmet need and helping individuals and communities thrive is our primary goal.

- **Advancing Women’s And Girls’ Basic Rights.** Women make up two-thirds of the world’s poorest people and are more likely than men to be impoverished, malnourished, and illiterate. Because an estimated 70 percent of the world’s poor rely on the land for income and subsistence, environmental crises like water scarcity, deforestation, and climate disruption have the greatest effect on these people, especially women, in developing countries. Access to education, economic opportunity, and basic health care can improve these statistics drastically.

- **Youth Leadership.** Almost half of the world’s population is under the age of 25. Youth are in a unique position to advocate for better policies, programs, and standards with regards to sexual and reproductive health and environmental sustainability. And they should be — the reproductive health decisions that young people make today affect our world for generations to come. We work to promote youth leadership through campus initiatives, trainings, and by advocating for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information for young people.

- **Raising Public Awareness Of Wasteful Resource Consumption.** Unsustainable and wasteful resource consumption is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions from human sources. Climate disruption is exacerbated by a number of related factors, including the use of fossil fuels, deforestation, and agriculture and is only exacerbated by social and economic equity.