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**The Hon Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister of Australia**

Per Fax: + 61.(0)2 6273 4100

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **Save Tasmania's unique forests!**

Dear Prime Minister Rudd,

we, the undersigned German Environmental Organisations, ask you to act immediately to stop the felling of all Tasmania's high conservation value forests! These rainforests and other forests with the world's biggest broadleaf trees are spectacular examples of the natural heritage of our earth. Please ensure that these forests are protected soon!

Of particular concern are the endangered Tall Eucalypt Forests in the Upper Florentine Valley, the Styx Valley, the Weld Valley and numerous other valleys that border the World Heritage Area. Tasmania is fortunate to have one of the largest intact tracts of temperate rainforest in the world in the Tarkine Region and other high conservation value forests in eastern Tasmania that are home to unique, endemic wildlife. These forest ecosystems deserve the highest level of protection.

Although some of these forests fulfil the World Heritage criteria, they were not taken into account when the great protected area in the west of Tasmania was created. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has already asked your government to consider extending the existing World Heritage Area boundary to include these globally significant forests. Their biodiversity and their species composition are unique. Many animal and plant species are endemic to these forests.

Moreover, these primeval forests clearly accumulate more carbon than most other forests in the tropical and temperate climate zones. The destruction of these forests and their transformation into commercial forests would cause significant harm to the climate.

Dear Prime Minister, we await your early reply.  
Our world heritage and our climate are at stake!

Yours sincerely,



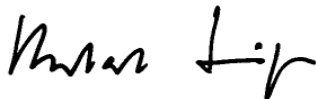
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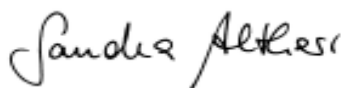
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