

## Resources about Indigenous peoples and the Global 30x30 program

**2024**

**The Atlantic, 04.17.24** \*paywall

'THIS WILL FINISH US': How Gulf princes, the safari industry, and conservation groups are displacing the Maasai from the last of their Serengeti homeland

[https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2024/05/maasai-tribe-tanzania-forced-land-evictions-serengeti/677835/?utm\\_medium=cr&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=04\\_16\\_2024\\_issue\\_promo\\_may\\_expires\\_cancels\\_large\\_copy\\_value\\_prop\\_10\\_10\\_80\\_winner&utm\\_content=Final&utm\\_term=Expired%2FCancelled+Subscribers](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2024/05/maasai-tribe-tanzania-forced-land-evictions-serengeti/677835/?utm_medium=cr&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=04_16_2024_issue_promo_may_expires_cancels_large_copy_value_prop_10_10_80_winner&utm_content=Final&utm_term=Expired%2FCancelled+Subscribers)

**Common Dreams, 04.11.24**

5 Things to Know About the Global Land Rush and How to Stop It

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/5-things-global-land-rush>

**The World, 03.08.24**

'It's lose-lose situation': Carbon 'offset' project in Cambodia accused of human rights violations

<https://theworld.org/stories/2024/03/08/it-s-lose-lose-situation-carbon-offset-project-cambodia-accused-human-rights>

**New York Times, 02.20.24** \*paywall

Kicking Native People off their land is a horrible way to save the planet

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/20/opinion/indigenous-peoples-biodiversity-climate.html>

**2023**

**Webinar: Colonial Urge to Commodify the Climate Crisis: Uplifting Real Solutions, 11.16.23**

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?si=EzMuyXVzuETNpcw2&embeds\\_referring\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F&source\\_ve\\_path=MTY0OTksMij2NjQsMTY0NTA2&feature=emb\\_share&v=AXMrwtj\\_3JA](https://m.youtube.com/watch?si=EzMuyXVzuETNpcw2&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F&source_ve_path=MTY0OTksMij2NjQsMTY0NTA2&feature=emb_share&v=AXMrwtj_3JA)

**Forest Peoples Programme, 11.13.23**

Press Conference with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB): Turning rights into reality: Advancing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Vital Role in Biodiversity Conservation

<http://www.forestpeoples.org/en/2023/press-conference-IIFB-8j>

**REDD Monitor, 07.04.23**

The sale by the Government of Guyana of forest-based carbon credits was fraudulent

<https://reddmonitor.substack.com/p/the-sale-by-the-government-of-guyana>

**Penn Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media, 06.27.23**

Are carbon offsets unscalable, unjust, and unfixable—and a threat to the Paris Climate Agreement?

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8fi7isjorcxowxn/Joe%20Romm%20OffsetPaper7.0-6-27-23-FINAL2.pdf?dl=0>

**Grist, 04.13.23**

How the world's favorite conservation model was built on colonial violence

30x30 has been pitched as a key tool in the climate fight. Indigenous peoples say it threatens their lives.

<https://grist.org/indigenous/30x30-world-conservation-model-colonialism-indigenous-peop/>

**The Commoner, 02.11.23**

Fortress Conservation and Indigenous Sovereignty: Reflections on Cop 15

<https://www.thecommoner.org.uk/fortress-conservation-and-indigenous-sovereignty-reflections-on-cop-15/>

**Grist, 01.09.23**

The new global target aims to protect 30 percent of land and waters. But is it a powerful goal or an empty slogan?

<https://grist.org/article/30x30-is-conservations-flashy-new-goal-now-countries-need-to-figure-out-what-it-actually-means/>

**2022**

**Wired, 12.17.22**

The '30x30' Conservation Goal Divides and Inspires at COP15

<https://www.wired.com/story/the-30x30-conservation-goal-divides-and-inspires-at-cop15/>

**African Arguments, 12.08.22**

Why 30x30 would be the worst possible outcome of COP15

[Why 30x30 would be the worst possible outcome of COP15](#)

**Indigenous People's Letter - UN Biodiversity Conference, 12.06.22**

2022 Sign-On Letter: Indigenous peoples' concerns about the 30x30 Target

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bShtda3rMLye-o6SOo89Of5lzCD59jvYpzD2sFU0YwY/edit?pli=1>

**Project Expedite Justice, 12.05.22**

Indigenous Peoples voice concerns regarding 30x30 target at COP15

<https://www.projectexpeditejustice.org/post/cop15-concerns>

**Survival International, 12.01.22**

Cultural Survival: Leading NGOs warn 30x30 plan will 'devastate Indigenous lives' in run-up to COP15

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/13573>

**Euronews, 08.12.22**

Plans to protect 30% of the planet by 2030 could be 'devastating' for Indigenous people

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/12/08/why-the-plan-to-protect-30-of-the-planet-by-2030-is-terrible-news-for-indigenous-people>

**Foreign Policy, 07.01.22**

Western Nonprofits are trampling over Africans' rights and the land

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/07/01/western-nonprofits-african-rights-land/>

**The Guardian, 04.22.22**

Tanzania's Maasai appeal to west to stop eviction for conservation plans

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/apr/22/tanzania-maasai-appeal-to-west-stop-evictions-due-to-conservation-plans>

**2021**

**MIT Technology Review, 05.10.21**

A nonprofit promised to preserve wildlife. Then it made millions claiming it could cut down trees

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/05/10/1024751/carbon-credits-massachusetts-audubon-california-logging-co2-emissions-increase/>

**Vox, 04.12.21**

The hottest number in conservation is rooted more in politics than science

<https://www.vox.com/22369705/biden-conservation-biodiversity-collapse-30-by-30>

## **2020**

### **The Guardian, 11.26.20**

Large scale human rights violations taint Congo national park project

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/26/you-have-stolen-our-forest-rights-of-baka-people-in-the-congo-ignored>

### **The Guardian, 11.25.20**

Report clears WWF of complicity of violent abuses by conservation rangers, but Independent review criticizes wildlife fund's inconsistent approach to human rights

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/25/report-clears-wwf-of-complicity-in-violent-abuses-by-conservation-rangers>

## **2019**

### **Science Advances, 04.19.19**

The leading scientific paper by E. Dinerstein (head scientist at WWF for 25 years) et al., advocating for 30x30. Necessary background. 2019

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aaw2869>

### **Buzzfeed, 03.08.19**

WWF says Indigenous people want this park. An Internal report says some fear forest ranger "repression."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/katiejmbaker/wwf-eu-messok-dja-fears-repression-ecoguards>

## **2018**

### **Foreign Policy, 07.16.18**

How Conservation became colonialism. Indigenous people, not environmentalists, are the key to protecting the world's most precious ecosystems

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/07/16/how-conservation-became-colonialism-environment-indigenous-people-ecuador-mining/>

## **2016**

### **The Guardian, 08.28.16**

The Tribes paying the brutal price for conservation

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/aug/28/exiles-human-cost-of-conservation-indigenous-peoples-eco-tourism?ref=thecommoner.org.uk>

## **Undated**

### **Wikipedia: Fortress Conservation**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortress\\_conservation#cite\\_note-FP0722-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortress_conservation#cite_note-FP0722-6)

### **Campaign for Nature**

<https://www.campaignfornature.org/30x30-and-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities>

### **Survival International**

The Big Green Lie

<https://survivalinternational.org/campaigns/biggreenlie>

### **Buzzfeed Collection**

[Twenty more reports from BuzzFeed about WWF's war on Indigenous people in the name of conservation](#)

## THE ELITE PERSPECTIVE

### **Council on Foreign Relations, 03.06.23**

The Push to Conserve 30 Percent of the Planet: What's at Stake? See how six countries are faring amid efforts to protect 30 percent of the planet's land and waters by 2030, and what will be saved if they succeed.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/goal-conserve-30-percent-planet-2030-biodiversity-climate>

### **Oxford University Seminar, 02.17.23**

Monetary valuation of nature: pragmatic conservation or unhelpful commodification?

<https://www.biodiversity.ox.ac.uk/events/event/monetary-valuation-of-nature-pragmatic-conservation-or-unhelpful-commodification-of-nature/>

### **PARKS VOL 25, 11.02.19**

A review of the evidence for area-based conservation targets for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

<https://naturebeyond2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Woodley-et-al-Targets-PARKS-25.2-proof-3.pdf>

### **Nature Conservancy**

Why We're Committing to 30x30

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/effective-area-based-biodiversity-conservation-defra/>

### **ResearchGate, 09.15**

Ecological economics perspectives on ecosystem services valuation

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/gnny4nlofpbt6rg/GomezBaggethunMartinLopez2015\\_11.Ecologicaleconomicsperspectivesonecosystemservicesvaluation%20%20HISTORY.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/gnny4nlofpbt6rg/GomezBaggethunMartinLopez2015_11.Ecologicaleconomicsperspectivesonecosystemservicesvaluation%20%20HISTORY.pdf?dl=0)

## EXCERPTS

**New York Times, 02.20.24** \*paywall

Kicking Native People off their land is a horrible way to save the planet

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/20/opinion/indigenous-peoples-biodiversity-climate.html>

NYT Excerpt: “the Tanzanian government believes it can attract many more tourists seeking the safari adventure of a lifetime: five million by 2025, [bringing \\$6 billion with them per year](#), according to a recent plan.

That’s why government officials recently announced a change in the legal status of Ngorongoro that will prohibit human settlement inside and near it. The [decision](#) will force authorities to remove nearly 100,000 people — mostly Maasai pastoralists who have used Ngorongoro’s vast grasslands to sustain their semi nomadic cattle-herding way of life for generations — from the protected area. According to the [government](#), the Maasai must be removed to conserve the land and protect biodiversity. The [Maasai](#) argue that removal puts their lives and cultural survival at risk and that the government should instead expand tourism in a way that respects their rights.

As countries around the world pursue environmental goals like [preserving 30 percent of the planet’s land and seas by 2030](#) — goals that can also yield opportunities for eco-tourism development and [carbon credit](#) sales — they’re converting lands rich in natural beauty and biodiversity into protected areas. Often they do so with financing and guidance from the biggest conservation organizations, such as the World Wildlife Fund and Wildlife Conservation Society, and wealthy countries like the [United States, France, Germany and Japan](#).

### Foreign Policy, 07.16.18

How Conservation became colonialism. Indigenous people, not environmentalists, are the key to protecting the world’s most precious ecosystems

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/07/16/how-conservation-became-colonialism-environment-indigenous-people-ecuador-mining/>

*Like many other indigenous communities whose ancestral homes sit inside state-sanctioned conservation zones, the Cofán are victims of a sort of green colonialism. Cayambe Coca and parks like it may have been founded with the best of intentions: to safeguard endangered biospheres. But the way these protected areas have been established and maintained has damaged the lives of the indigenous peoples who live within their borders, forcing them into what is effectively a landlord-tenant relationship with the state that deprives them of control over their land.*

*Conflicts involving native communities, governments, and industry are common throughout the world’s more than 100,000 protected areas, a designation that covers parks, reserves, and heritage sites. Today, protected areas take up more than 15 percent of the Earth’s land surface — an area twice the size of Canada. Many of the largest protected areas, and the most significant from a climate change and biological conservation perspective, are located in the rainforests of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.*

*In the language of social science, protected areas are known as development interventions. For decades, conservationists advocating the creation of such areas insisted on drawing a clear line separating nature — understood as raw, unpopulated wilderness — and culture, meaning any human activity that impacted the local environment. As a result, both governments and conservation groups viewed the forests’ traditional inhabitants as obstacles to be removed, if they were considered at all. Advocates for expanding protected areas saw indigenous displacement, and the disruption of traditional practices, as the sad but necessary consequence of environmental protection. The model based on this trade-off has resulted in social conflict and brutal violations of human rights while degrading the very land it purported to protect.*

### **Forest Peoples Programme, 11.13.23**

Press Conference with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB): Turning rights into reality: Advancing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Vital Role in Biodiversity Conservation

<http://www.forestpeoples.org/en/2023/press-conference-IIFB-8j>

*"The world's eyes are on the implementation of the 30x30 target," says Jennifer Corpuz of the IIFB. "If we get it wrong, it will be the new coming of colonization. We need to make sure the language on Indigenous and Traditional Territories and Free, Prior and Informed Consent is honored."*

### **Survival International, 12.01.22**

Cultural Survival: Leading NGOs warn 30x30 plan will 'devastate Indigenous lives' in run-up to COP15

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/13573>

*"Fiore Longo, head of Survival's Decolonize Conservation campaign, said today: "The idea that 30x30 is an effective means of protecting biodiversity has no basis in science. The only reason it's still being discussed in the negotiations is because it's being pushed hard by the conservation industry, which sees an opportunity to double the amount of land under its control. Should it go ahead, it will constitute the biggest land grab in history, and rob millions of people of their livelihoods. If governments are really meaningful about protecting biodiversity, the answer is simple: recognize the land rights of Indigenous peoples."*

### **Sign-On Letter: Indigenous Peoples' Concerns about the 30x30 Target, 11.30.22**

Please consider endorsing this letter of concern in relation to the impacts of protected areas and fortress conservation on indigenous peoples' rights. The letter was prepared by Project Expedite Justice in anticipation of a target to be adopted at the Convention on Biodiversity COP15 to protect 30 percent of the world's lands and oceans by the year 2030. It makes specific calls to action to respect indigenous peoples' rights in the creation or expansion of protected areas. The letter in English, French, and Spanish is at [this link](#).

<https://un.arizona.edu/sign-letter-indigenous-peoples-concerns-about-30x30-target>

### **Sign-on Letter: Indigenous peoples' Concerns about the 30x30 Target, 12.06.22**

The letter in English, French, and Spanish is at [this link](#).

#### **Sign-on Letter: Indigenous peoples' Concerns about the 30x30 Target**

December 6, 2022

Re: Human Rights Abuses Against Indigenous Peoples and the Proposed "30x30" Target

Dear Participants of the UN Biodiversity Conference and Executive Secretary of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema,

As you gather with country representatives from around the world for the U.N. Biodiversity Conference this week and consider the 30x30 proposed target to protect 30% of the Earth's land and seas by 2030, we, Indigenous Peoples from across the globe, urge you to commit to a genuine Indigenous-centered and human rights-based approach to conservation, taking into consideration our rights as ancestral stewards of these lands and waters.

While we welcome the pursuit of solutions to mitigate climate change and reduce the loss of wildlife and biodiversity, the 30x30 proposed target as currently drafted will likely lead to permanent displacement and threaten the existence of Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

The creation and expansion of “protected areas” for conservation purposes implementing the “fortress conservation” model keeps Indigenous Peoples from freely and safely accessing our sacred, ancestral territories, burial sites, and traditional hunting and foraging grounds.<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Mrema is acutely aware of how land dispossession is impacting the Maasai people who have been forcefully evicted from their ancestral homes under the guise of conservation in her home country of Tanzania. In the [Ngorongoro District](#), an eviction has endangered the lives and livelihoods of 150,000 Maasai, using tear gas and live ammunition as enforcement. This is one of many examples where Indigenous Peoples are excluded from the decision-making process when creating protected areas.

In addition to forced displacements, eco-guards in protected areas perpetrate sexual violence, looting, extrajudicial killings, and destruction of property. All of this is extensively documented in several reports, including Project Expedite Justice’s ["Trapped Outside the Conservation Fortress"](#); World Wildlife Fund’s ["Embedding Human Rights in Nature Conservation: From Intent to Action"](#);<sup>2</sup> and Survival International’s ["How Will We Survive?"](#)

The 30x30 policy ([Target 3 in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)) threatens our cultural and spiritual traditions as stewards of Earth’s biodiversity since the beginning of time.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay, wrote to the U.N. General Assembly in his [latest annual report](#): “[f]or centuries, Indigenous peoples’ scientific knowledge, land tenure systems and sustainable management of resources have preserved and conserved the planet. Respect for Indigenous peoples’ collective rights is, therefore, a fundamental step towards the sustainable and effective achievement of conservation goals.”

We echo his remark that: “[r]eal drivers of biodiversity decline, such as industrialization, overconsumption and climate change, must be addressed. Simply enlarging the global protected area surface without ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples dependent on those areas is not the solution.”

It is undisputed that Indigenous-led conservation solutions have and will continue to deliver better results than approaches that disregard our land and collective rights. Rhetoric is not enough. Conservation must center on and include Indigenous Peoples in order to succeed.

Specifically, the signatories set forth below, in representing Indigenous Peoples worldwide, call for the following principles to be central to your decision-making as you discuss the 30x30 proposed target at the UN Biodiversity Conference:

1. We, Indigenous Peoples, must maintain or secure ownership of our land, territory, and natural resources.
2. We, Indigenous Peoples, must be fully included as rights holders and peer stakeholders with equal decision-making authority.
3. We, Indigenous Peoples, must not experience any violence as part of the enforcement of conservation policies.

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<sup>1</sup>Fortress conservation is a conservation model based on the belief that biodiversity protection is best achieved by creating protected areas where ecosystems can function in isolation from human disturbance. Fortress, or protectionist, conservation assumes that local people use natural resources in irrational and destructive ways, and as a result cause biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Protected areas following the fortress model can be characterized by three principles: local people dependent on the natural resource base are excluded; enforcement is implemented by park rangers patrolling the boundaries, using a “fines and fences” approach to ensure compliance; and only tourism, safari hunting, and scientific research are considered as appropriate uses within protected areas. Because local people are labeled as criminals, poachers, and squatters on lands they have occupied for decades or centuries, they tend to be antagonistic toward fortress-style conservation initiatives and less likely to support the conservation goals”, see Sage Encyclopedia of Environment and Society, Paul Robins, 2007, available at <https://sk.sagepub.com/reference/environment/n432.xml>.

<sup>2</sup> This report was commissioned by WWF after serious accusations of human rights abuses in protected areas where WWF operates were uncovered by BuzzFeed news in 2019. See <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/tomwarren/wwf-world-wide-fund-nature-parks-torture-death>; <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/katiejmbaker/wwf-executives-marco-lambertini-warned-abuse> and <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/collection/wwfsecretwar>. The report provides credible evidence of the occurrence of the abuses and the operation of fortress conservation.

We appreciate that the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework acknowledges Indigenous Peoples in its purpose statement, theory of change, and action goals, as well as the protection of our “customary sustainable use” of land (Target 9), the inclusion of our knowledge (Target 20), and our participation in decision-making (Target 21). Nonetheless, these issues must be included in the core of the 30x30 policy and the protected areas' design and implementation. If Indigenous Peoples do not maintain or secure ownership of our land nor have equal authority in the decision-making process, the U.N.'s 30x30 policy may be the biggest land grab in history and further threaten the physical and cultural survival of Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

Thank you for your consideration of this paramount matter.

Sincerely,

[https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcnnk8VinSwZ2tSzMqb0ATTgXHPwY0on3gCWqN-sjyzsv3dA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcnnk8VinSwZ2tSzMqb0ATTgXHPwY0on3gCWqN-sjyzsv3dA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link)