

THE OAKLAND INSTITUTE 2022 IMPACT REPORT



The Oakland Institute

A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Land is Life. Land is sacred. It is culture, sustenance, and spirituality for billions of people on this planet. This drives our work at the Oakland Institute. Defending one's land is a never-ending battle – it keeps unfolding on as many fronts as there are forests, rivers, deposits of mineral resources, and arable land.

Our report on Ukraine reveals land is at the core of the conflict – control of the agricultural land in the country known as the breadbasket of Europe is a major stake in the war. Our rigorous investigative research exposed the financial institutions and investors insidiously supporting the consolidation of farmland by oligarchs and Western financial interests, while Ukrainians die to defend their land.

Distress calls from the Indigenous communities in Kenya and Tanzania that we received in recent years intensified our work against “fortress” conservation. Top-down conservation and foreign tourism schemes demand “people-free” wilderness. Land without people to entertain foreign tourists is conservation colonialism – depriving local communities of natural resources that they have stewarded and are essential for their survival.

The same “development” model girds industrial agriculture, mining, and logging – that not only steals land but also rivers and waterways, which end up being depleted and polluted.

More than ever, we are steadfast in our commitment to mobilize and take action against these ravages. Partnering with farmers, pastoralists, and Indigenous communities to defend land rights is also about preventing corporate greed from destroying biodiversity, depleting our natural resources, and worsening the climate crisis.

In this 2022 Impact Report, you will read about resistance and resilience from five continents – a testimony that regardless of the odds, building cross border alliances is the way forward to tackle the many challenges of our times.

I am proud of our accomplishments – working closely together with communities from the Midwest of the United States, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC to Ukraine, Nicaragua, and Sri Lanka. And I am grateful to our partners, collaborators and all who have generously donated their time and energy. And to our donors and supporters – who power this struggle for land and life. Thank you!



In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anuradha Mittal". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anuradha Mittal
Executive Director



WHO WE ARE / WHAT WE DO

Hold Powerful Actors Accountable

We hold governments, corporations, and international institutions accountable for their actions. Our reports sunlight social and environmental justice issues; we organize advocacy campaigns, testify at the United Nations Human Rights Council, Congressional and Senate hearings, and more.

Dismantle False Solutions

Our research and advocacy exposes and challenges the false solutions put forward by international institutions like the World Bank, governments, and corporations to fight hunger, combat climate change, and spur development.

Strengthen Land Rights and Livelihoods

In partnership with impacted communities, we document threats to land rights, livelihoods, and natural resources; develop communications and advocacy campaigns to support and elevate these struggles in national and international arenas.

Support Sustainable Farmer-led Food Systems

We support sustainable Indigenous and farmer-led food systems and work to build a farm economy from the bottom up. Our research is providing blueprints of what these systems can look like and what policy changes are needed for them to flourish.

Stand by our Partners in the Face of Criminalization

The Legal Defense Fund that we started in 2015 to support land rights defenders is actively providing legal support to individuals and groups around the world. In 2022, we supported partners in Tanzania, Mali, Kenya, DRC, and Nicaragua.

Elevate People's Voices

Underlying all of our work is our commitment to elevate the voices of farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, and all those who are ignored, marginalized, and repressed in the name of development.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

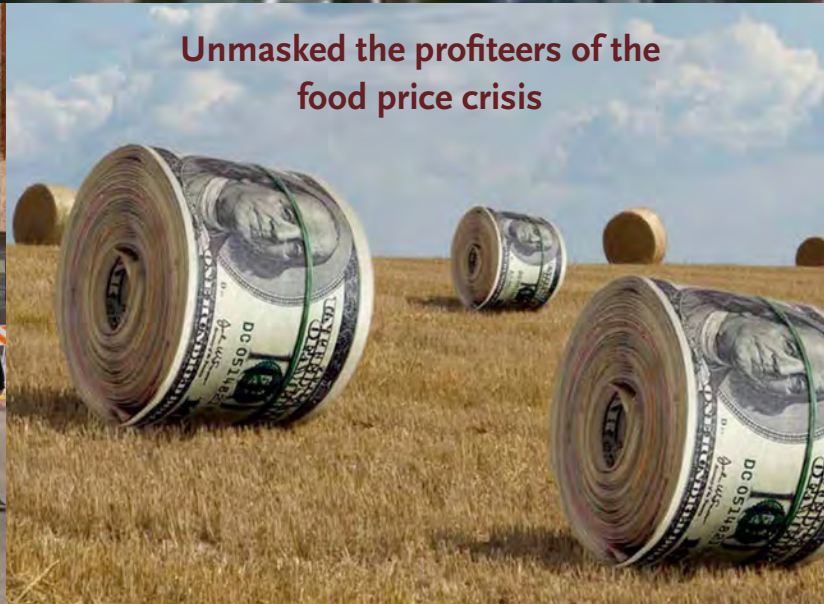
Stood alongside the Maasai to protect their land rights and livelihoods from fortress conservation in Tanzania



Debunked a major false climate solution threatening the Midwestern US



Unmasked the profiteers of the food price crisis



Uncovered the stealth takeover of Ukrainian agricultural land amidst the chaos of war



Exposed the role of the gold mining sector in driving violence against the Indigenous in Nicaragua, leading to US Sanctions





Tanzania squeezes Maasai by seizing livestock, report says

By WANJOHI KABUKURU January 27, 2023

Los Angeles Times

Tanzania squeezes Maasai herders by seizing livestock, report says

Le Monde

The war in Ukraine, an indicator of the global food crisis



'It's becoming a war zone': Tanzania's Maasai speak out on 'forced' removals

'Shocking blow to Indigenous land rights' as court dismisses Maasai herder claim

South China Morning Post

Ukraine faces an unhappy ending even if it wins the war with Russia



Ukraine's other land grab

Ukraine is the breadbasket of Europe, and its land is changing hands.



Is Conservation Becoming Colonialism in Tanzania?

Tourism initiatives and conservation of UNESCO heritage sites have led to forced evictions of Indigenous peoples.



THE LAND QUESTION

SAKAYA: Are ranches, conservancies fuelling banditry, cattle rustling?



FARM FORUM

Alan Guebert: Summit at the heart of 'The Great Carbon Boondoggle'



Chemical spill in Nicaraguan reserve raises questions about industrial mining regulations

POPULAR SCIENCE Why planting new forests could do more harm than good

LE MONDE *diplomatique*

'THE GOVERNMENT ONLY LIKE US AS A TOURIST ASSET'

Tanzania forces the Maasai from their land to make way for trophy hunters and tourists



"WAR AND THEFT". WHO AND WHY IS SEIZING THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF UKRAINE?

nwestiowa.com

CO2 pipeline a 'false' solution, report says

NATION

Tension in Tanzania's Loliondo area as troops move in to evict the Maasai

THE EXCHANGE
Africa's Investment Gateway

Critics: AGRA billions funding food insecurity in Africa



In Tanzania, the Maasai may lose their land – again

In Tanzania, a way of life hangs in the balance

Grist

Indigenous Maasai ask the United Nations to intervene on human rights abuses

Inside Climate News

Justice

In an Attempt to Wrestle Away Land for Game Hunters, Tanzanian Government Fires on Maasai Farmers, Killing Two



DISMANTLING FORTRESS CONSERVATION

In Kenya and Tanzania, our work continues in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples who are challenging the neo-colonial “fortress” conservation model that denies their rights to ancestral lands and decimates livelihoods.

Standing with the Maasai Against Their Forced Eviction and Resettlement

In 2022, the Tanzanian government's campaign to trample the rights to land and life of the Maasai escalated dramatically. Violence erupted on June 8th, after the government forcefully seized 1,500 square kilometers of land to create a game reserve for trophy hunting by the United Arab Emirates royal family. Communities protesting the theft of their land were met with violent retaliation by security forces, resulting in dozens being severely wounded. One elderly man was shot and remains missing. Thousands – mainly women and children – fled to Kenya for their safety and faced hunger and hardships of displacement, while some 70,000 Maasai lost access to dry-season grazing land, critical to the health of their livestock and their livelihoods. The Institute provided financial support for medical, legal, and food assistance to the impacted communities.

At the forefront of alerting international media, policymakers, and donors to Tanzania, we published regular press releases, amplified community voices, and dismantled the propaganda of the government. Our timely work was instrumental in driving [international condemnation](#) of the forced evictions. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and nine United Nations Special Rapporteurs took action as a result of our advocacy. Several embassies, including that of the United States, organized travel to meet with the impacted communities.

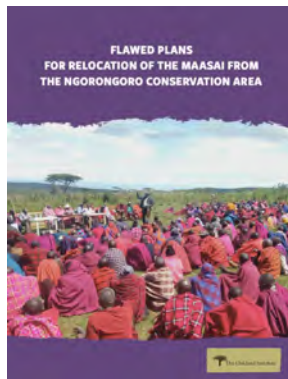




“Without the support of the Oakland Institute, the situation in Loliondo and the NCA would not be widely known throughout the world.”

– A Maasai Land Defender

Amidst the government’s violence in Loliondo, we remained engaged in exposing and condemning ongoing eviction efforts in the nearby Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). Access to basic services – including healthcare and education – has been cut for 90,000 people in the area. These cruel restrictions are being imposed to coerce NCA residents into becoming “volunteers” for resettlement. In May, our report, [Flawed Plans for Relocation of the Maasai from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area](#), identified serious flaws with the resettlement process, including inadequate sites for relocation and major discrepancies between the government’s promises and the actual situation on the ground. Follow-up field research conducted in October revealed that relocation sites lack adequate water and grazing land, while existing residents are being driven out to make way for those relocated from the NCA. This has drastically raised the risk of conflict between local communities.



In October 2022, the Institute hosted an in-person event in Oakland to honor the courage of Maasai land defenders and raise awareness of their ongoing struggle. Despite constant harassment by the government, our Maasai partners remain steadfast in their commitment to protect their way of life as we support the mobilization for global solidarity.



Beacon installed for the demarcation of the game reserve for trophy hunting in Loliondo

“Through time we the Maasai have suffered unmeasurably from people, governments and enterprises that took our lands and resources. I thus know the feelings of helplessness and landlessness. I am grateful for the Oakland Institute, you are a gift and inspiration to all of us. A fighter who chose justice, a warrior who stands against greed.”

– A Maasai community member



Land Dispossession and Corruption via NRT “Community” Conservancies in Kenya

In 2021, our report [Stealth Game: “Community” Conservancies Devastate Land & Lives in Northern Kenya](#) revealed the harsh truth about Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). Although terms like “participatory,” “community driven,” and “local empowerment” are extensively used by NRT, its operations have dispossessed pastoralist communities of their ancestral lands. Locals allege that corruption, cooptation, and intimidation and violence are used to create wildlife conservancies.

Following the widespread media coverage of the report and pressure on NRT’s Western donors, an investigation into the abuses was launched, satisfying a long-held demand of the impacted communities. The investigation was instead a [shameful attempt](#) to discredit our report and cover up accusations of land grabbing and human rights abuses in the name of conservation. Relying on a handful of paid informants, it failed to follow due process and ignored ongoing legal cases against NRT.

Resistance continues on the ground. We are proud to partner with communities defending their rights and to provide support for legal battles they have waged to defend their land rights.

“The Oakland Institute has been at the forefront advocating for land rights of Indigenous communities in Northern Kenya. The Institute’s work has created a movement of Indigenous communities against the drivers and actors of fortress conservation, such as the Northern Rangeland Trust in Kenya. The Institute’s report, which is one of a kind, not only highlighted critical human rights issues around NRT’s operations but also amplified Indigenous communities’ voices on the international stage. Part of the success story is that communities are questioning NRT’s activities and demanding accountability. The Institute has also been key in providing legal support to the impacted communities.”

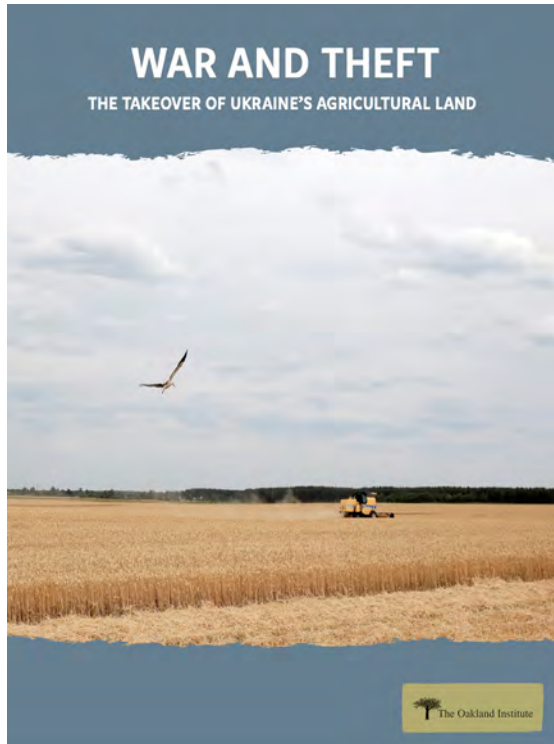
– Adan Dalacha, Human Rights Lawyer & Advocate, High Court of Kenya



CHALLENGING THE PROMOTERS & PROFITEERS OF INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

The Corporate Takeover of Ukraine's Agricultural Land

One year after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, our report, [War and Theft: The Takeover of Ukraine's Agricultural Land](#), exposed that oligarchs and financial interests are expanding their control over Ukraine's agricultural land with the help and financing of Western financial institutions.



Our groundbreaking research revealed that over 28 percent of Ukraine's arable land is now under the control of oligarchs, corrupt individuals, and large agribusinesses. The largest landholders are a mix of Ukrainian oligarchs and foreign interests – most of whom are substantially indebted to Western funds and institutions, most notably the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank.

In recent years, this Western financing has been tied to a drastic structural adjustment program that imposed austerity and privatization, pushing for the establishment of a market for agricultural land sales. President Zelenskyy enacted a land reform law in 2020 – going against the will of a vast majority of the population who feared the law's passage would exacerbate corruption and reinforce control of agriculture by powerful business interests. Our findings confirmed these concerns – showing that under the 2020 land reform law, large landholders continue to secure massive financing from Western financial institutions, while Ukrainian farmers – vital for domestic food security – receive little to no support, further driving land consolidation. The report also revealed that Ukraine's crippling debt is being leveraged by financial institutions to drive post-war reconstruction towards further privatization and liberalization, including in the agricultural sector.

“We are very grateful to the Oakland Institute for the solidarity and continuous support towards our organizations and activities. Your support is very encouraging for us. It inspires and gives us great enthusiasm to continue our work. Thank you very much!”

– Professor Olena Borodina, Ukrainian Rural Development Network

Our research generated extensive global media coverage, bringing attention to an overlooked question central to understanding the stakes of the ongoing war – who controls agricultural land in the “breadbasket” of Europe? We ensured that our research got into the hands of European Parliamentarians, US Congress members, and the heads of the World Bank, IMF, and EBRD, urging them to support Ukrainian farmers instead of large agribusinesses and oligarchs. With post-war reconstruction plans currently being drafted, our work has uplifted the calls of Ukrainian civil society, academics, and farmers to suspend the land law and prioritize an agricultural model free from oligarchy and corruption.

Exposing the Profiteers of the Food Price Crisis

The war in Ukraine has been widely reported as a threat to global food security given the importance of both Ukraine and Russia as major food and fertilizer exporters. While many attributed 2022's steep rise in global food prices to the war, we were a dissonant voice that exposed the speculation in world markets that triggered the crisis. As the climate crisis intensifies, the food price spike again made it clear that we must drastically shift from the destructive fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture model. Our research, presented in a series of three articles, identified the promoters and the profiteers of industrial agriculture – agribusiness giants, agrochemical corporations, and private investment firms.

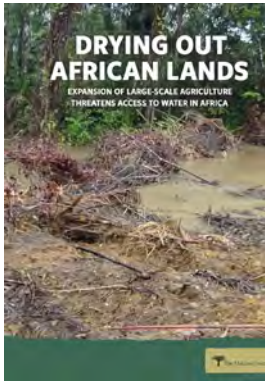
[*38 Billion Dollar Question — Who is Driving the Destructive Industrial Agriculture Model?*](#) exposed the record profits made by major agrochemical firms amidst the crisis. Private investment giants BlackRock and Vanguard – two primary shareholders in these agrochemical firms – emerged as the primary benefactors.

[*The African Development Bank Must Work for Africans, Not Agrochemical Corporations*](#) denounced the Bank's allocation of US\$1.5 billion to a facility promoting monocropping, chemical fertilizer use, and the adoption of “improved” seeds amidst rising hunger in Africa. Working against the interests of African farmers, the Bank uses public funds to facilitate the market expansion of agrochemical firms, for whom Africa is the last frontier for growth. This must be stopped!

[*Brazil: Time to End the Ravages of Industrial Agriculture in the Cerrado and the Amazon*](#) examined the devastating impacts of Brazil's agriculture, highly reliant on chemical inputs and synthetic fertilizers. This destructive approach, which harms the planet, the climate, and Indigenous communities, is not needed to feed the world. The expansion of soy monocultures is driven by corporations seeking to produce cheap meat products for mass consumption, benefitting large agribusinesses and their shareholders. As a policy think-tank, we are not just committed to denouncing the ravages caused by industrial agriculture. Above all, we seek to hold its profiteers and enablers accountable.



Land Grabs in Africa Are Also Water Grabs



In March 2022, at the Forum Alternatif Mondial de l'Eau (FAME 2022) in Dakar, we sounded the alarm on the ravages of industrial agriculture on access to safe drinking water and livelihood activities including livestock, fishing, and farming in Africa. [Drying Out African Lands: Expansion of Large-Scale Agriculture Threatens Access to Water in Africa](#) analyzed 15 agriculture projects across 11 African countries, exposing the devastating human and environmental impacts of commercial agriculture – especially oil palm plantations – on the continent.

The report revealed that while investors enjoy extensive freedom to use land along with unlimited, cheap, or free access to water, their promises of development, infrastructure, and services to communities have failed to materialize. The intensive use of chemicals and pesticides pollutes water sources and leads to the loss of drinking water, death of fish, and damage to pastures and crops.



Effluents from the Yaligimba PHC plantation polluting the river near the Midonga settlement where hundreds of workers and their families live © 2019 Luciana Téllez/ Human Rights Watch

“Grateful for Oakland Institute reports on land disputes in Africa. They always uncover how legal mechanisms are often manipulated to ultimately discredit legitimate/legal claims of people over their ancestral lands and serve colonial and capitalist interests.”

– Professor Aby Sène-Harper, Clemson University

Our research also highlighted the key role played by international financial institutions in pushing African governments to grant investors large tracts of land and favorable water access to establish plantations. Through Investment Promotion Agencies set up by the World Bank, African countries are currently advertising tens of millions of hectares of irrigable land and “underutilized” water resources despite the devastating impact of these projects on local communities.

Our findings were presented to the global water justice movement and the media present in Dakar, aligning with the civil society movement’s demand that water is not a commodity. It is sacred to our global commons – to be shared equitably and protected for future generations.

Elevating Farmer-Led Agroecological Food Systems in Africa

The climate and food price crises make it clear that the world must shift away from the failed model of industrial agriculture. The time has come to direct public funds to support just, resilient, and ecologically sustainable alternatives that farmers worldwide are calling for.

Ahead of the annual African Green Revolution Forum in September 2022, we joined African civil society, faith groups, and farmer organizations in calling for an end to the failed Green Revolution. [Our Africa, Our Agriculture: African Farmers and Faith Leaders Demand an End to the Failed Green Revolution](#) brought international attention to the urgent need to shift power away from corporate interests and towards the small farmers feeding the world.

All over the African continent, massive amounts of public funding subsidize fossil fuel-based fertilizers and harmful chemicals. [Our research](#) has demonstrated that agroecology is effective and scalable and must be supported by public funding and policy support. Our podcast episode [Agroecology: The Solution to the Food Price Crisis?](#) elevated the voices of Malawian farmers who have fully adopted an agroecological approach on their farms.



“Stuff like this is pretty discouraging, and aggravates my near terminal cynicism... except that groups like the Oakland Institute and those about whom you report endeavor to make a constructive difference. This gives me heart.”

– An Individual donor



THE CLIMATE CRISIS REQUIRES DECISIVE ACTION & REAL SOLUTIONS

Exposing false solutions to the climate crisis is paramount at a time when carbon schemes have become the new “El Dorado” for banks, speculators, and the fossil fuel industry, who foresee substantial profit-making opportunities.

Debunking the Midwest Carbon Express – A False Climate Solution Threatening the US

Our research debunked the world’s largest planned carbon capture and storage (CCS) project – the US\$5.1 billion Midwest Carbon Express. Led by agribusiness baron Bruce Rastetter’s Summit Carbon Solutions, the 2,000-mile pipeline claims it will capture carbon from ethanol biorefineries across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota, before injecting and storing it underground in North Dakota.

[The Midwest Carbon Express: A False Solution to the Climate Crisis](#) revealed the disastrous environmental impacts the carbon pipeline would have if built, as well as the checkered history of Rastetter – previously implicated in a land grabbing scheme in Tanzania that we [exposed](#) and helped defeat in 2011. Our subsequent report, [The Great Carbon Boondoggle: Inside the Struggle to Stop Summit’s CO₂ Pipeline](#), unmasked the billion-dollar financial interests and high-level political forces driving the project despite massive opposition from Indigenous groups, farmers, and environmentalists. Having failed to persuade enough landowners to cede their land, Summit has resorted to pursuing eminent domain and legal action. If the pipeline is eventually constructed, residents across the Midwest will bear the associated risks, while Summit, its financial backers, and Bruce Rastetter will reap the profits by selling carbon credits and amassing federal tax credits, grants, and loans.



“Your report is exceptional – Thank you for giving us a voice!”

– A Farmer in Iowa

“The report is seriously well-made, I’m so glad we are working with you in this fight.”

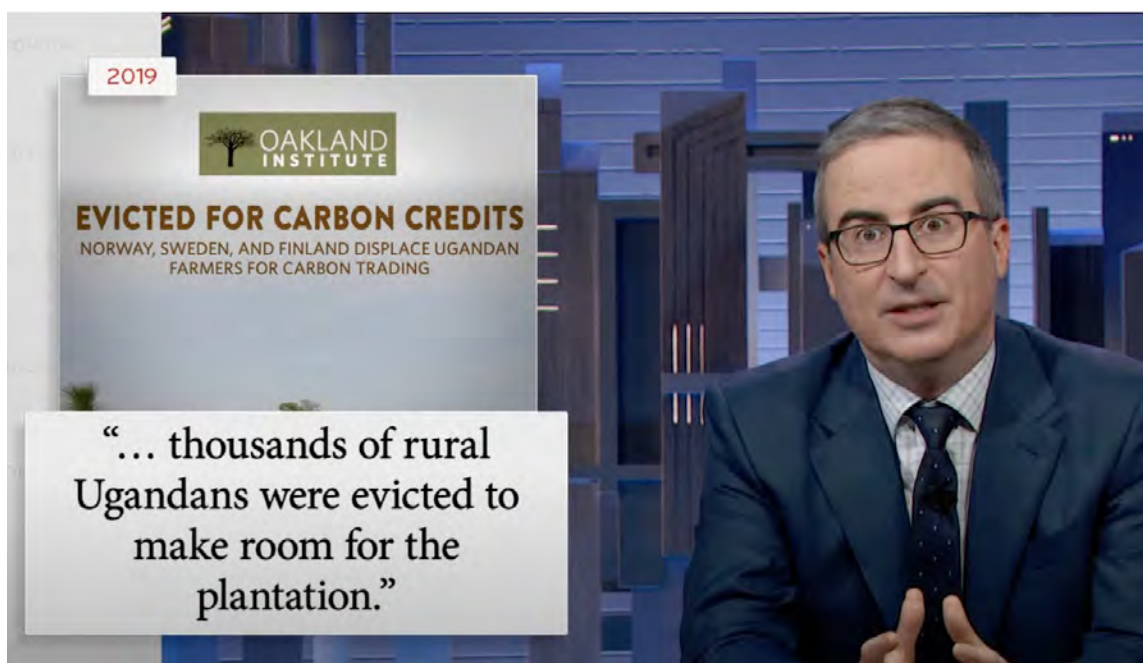
– Sikowis Nobiss, Executive Director, Great Plains Action Society

Our tireless advocacy against the Midwest Carbon Express targeted the Biden administration, members of Congress, the Iowa Utilities Board, and Governor Kim Reynolds – urging them to stop subsidizing CCS projects and oppose the pipeline’s construction. We also called on the project’s investors to divest. In October 2022, the Oakland Institute co-hosted an art build and teach-in with our partner Indigenous group, Great Plains Action Society, to educate the public about this carbon scam. Oakland Institute Fellow [David Solnit](#), a prominent climate justice, anti-war, arts, and direct-action organizer, led the mobilization. We also coordinated a protest campaign with partners in Iowa, who hand-delivered our report to the Iowa Utilities Board, the State Capitol, and Summit Carbon Solutions’ lawyers.

Our Exposé on Carbon Colonialism Featured in Last Week Tonight with John Oliver

The popular HBO television show – Last Week Tonight with John Oliver – [ran a feature](#) on carbon offsets in August 2022, highlighting our [exposé](#) on Green Resources. The subject of [several Oakland Institute reports](#), the Norwegian forestry and carbon credit company forcibly evicted villagers from the land they depended on for their livelihoods in Uganda. In 2020, our advocacy led the Swedish Energy Agency to stop buying credits from Green Resources. Communities still demand the return of their land and we are grateful to John Oliver and HBO for echoing their struggle and our efforts to dismantle such “carbon colonialism” projects.

As the carbon credit rush grows – marked by the multiplication of carbon capture and storage projects and the expansion of carbon markets – we remain committed to pushing back against false solutions and the huge financial interests that drive them.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

Sri Lanka: War Criminals Must Face Justice

In July 2022, amidst widespread protests over economic collapse in Sri Lanka, tens of thousands of citizens stormed the palace of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, leading him to resign and flee the country. The Rajapaksa dynasty, known for its wealth accumulation and war crimes, ruled the country for two decades. Under Gotabaya Rajapaksa's leadership as Secretary of Defense and his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa as the President, the Tamil minority suffered horrific massacres, including the indiscriminate bombing and killing of thousands of Tamil civilians. [*Endless War: The Destroyed Land, Life, and Identity of the Tamil People in Sri Lanka*](#) revealed that 12 years after the brutal end of the civil war, Sri Lanka is becoming an ethnocratic state – intensifying the colonization and Sinhalisation of Tamil lands and the persecution of the minority Tamil population.

With the fall of the Rajapaksa dynasty in 2022 and the former president on the run, we have mobilized the call for the urgent activation of national and international legal mechanisms to bring the Rajapaksa brothers and other perpetrators of war crimes and human rights abuses to justice.



“Since 2014, Oakland Institute’s research on land occupation and colonization projects carried out by the Sri Lankan government in the Northern and Eastern provinces has been a powerful and credible advocacy tool for Tamil politicians at home and Diaspora organizations. The Institute’s work has created great awareness among the Tamil people and the international community about land grabbing, Sinhalization, and militarization of the North and East and its impacts on the people’s livelihood. The Institute’s reports are transformative research to protect people’s rights from inequitable/oppressive systems. Apart from The Oakland Institute, I am unaware of any local or international organization that monitors and researches the land rights of the Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka. The entire Tamil community owes great gratitude to the Oakland Institute.”

– A Tamil Academic

Nicaragua: US Sanctions the Gold Mining Sector for Role in Violence Against Indigenous Peoples

On June 17, 2022, the U.S. Treasury announced sanctions against the Nicaraguan state-owned mining company, ENIMINAS, created in 2017 to regulate the issuance of land concessions to domestic and foreign companies, and its long-time executive, Ruy Delgado López. Expanding on these sanctions, an Executive Order signed by President Biden in October made it illegal for Americans to do business with Nicaragua's gold industry. This marks the first time a specific sector of the economy has been identified as "off-limits."



Following a massacre in Wilú, the colonos burnt down the homes of Indigenous Mayangnas

The sanctions follow the [Oakland Institute's research](#) into the role played by the gold mining sector in the violence against Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples on the country's Caribbean Coast. In the past several years, this violence has been accompanied by the increased government repression of organizations defending the rights of the communities.

While the Institute welcomed the news of US sanctions against ENIMINAS and the gold mining sector, we continue to call upon the United States and Canada to hold their corporations accountable for profiteering from violence and theft committed against the Indigenous communities in Nicaragua.

DRC: Investors in PHC Oil Palm Plantations Under Increased Pressure

Following our 2021 exposé, we continued advocacy to pressure Kuramo Capital Management and its investors – which include prominent US foundations and universities – to divest from the PHC oil palm plantations in the DRC. Established on 100,000 hectares of land stolen from communities in Lokutu, Yaligimba, and Boteka, the plantations are responsible for the acute hardships faced by local communities today, including hunger, poverty, and violence inflicted by security forces.

We [have shattered](#) the myths pushed by PHC to justify the ongoing violence against communities. Drawing parallels to century-old colonial practices of recruiting cheap labor and monopolizing oil palm production in the region, we shed light on the shocking degree to which exploitation continues today at the hands of the investors behind the plantations. Our advocacy efforts will not stop until the land is returned to local villagers and they secure justice.

“I really appreciate your ability to connect the conversation back to the larger themes of colonialization and power that often get lost in the technical discussions of risk and opportunity. You beautifully articulated how the colonial mindset is playing out in the investment space and called these “investments” what they were – theft.”

– Kaede Kawauchi, Intentional Endowments





Senegal: Land Acquired by a US Firm Must Be Returned to Local Communities

In May 2022, the Collectif pour la Défense du Ndiaël – representing 37 villages in the Saint-Louis region of northwest Senegal – stood up to Alan Kessler, Chairman and CEO of the US-based African Agriculture Inc (AAGR). Communities demanded the immediate return of their land as well as adequate remediation and compensation for the harm and economic loss inflicted. AAGR acquired the concession formerly held by Senhuile, an Italian-owned firm that took control of the land a decade ago, without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of the communities, as documented in [several Oakland Institute reports](#). These communities remain deprived of the land critical to their livelihoods. With AAGR now in the process of an initial public offering to expand its agribusiness operations in Senegal and Niger, we continue to stand by the local communities in their opposition. Our [press releases](#) and [podcasts](#) have drawn international attention to this important ongoing struggle and forced AAGR to amend their official filings to acknowledge the communities' land claim.

Founder of the Oakland Institute Receives the Prestigious 2022 Paul K. Feyerabend Award

“As lives are trampled upon by corrupt and abusive institutions, Anuradha Mittal is nothing less than an indomitable force for solidarity and justice.” – 2022 FEYERABEND AWARD



Anuradha Mittal, founder and Executive Director of the Oakland Institute, received the prestigious [Paul K. Feyerabend Award](#) in recognition of her outstanding work supporting the oppressed and exposing land grabbing with meticulous research, tenacious advocacy, and unflinching activism for over three decades. Anuradha proudly shares this recognition with her fellow 2022 laureate, Josefina Antonieta Tunki Tiris, the first woman President of the Shuar Arutam people of Ecuador, courageous defender of her territory and of life, in the face of the polluting mining industry.



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Team

Andy Currier, Research Associate
 Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director
 Eve Devillers, Research Associate
 Frédéric Mousseau, Policy Director
 Heather Harris, Accountant
 Josh Mayer, Fellow/Advocacy Consultant
 Kimberly Schwede, Designer
 Mimi Heft, Designer
 Nellie Skiba, Executive Assistant
 Takahiro Noguchi, Creative Technology Director

For security reasons, we do not disclose the names of researchers based around the world but we acknowledge their courageous work in defense of land and lives!

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Intern Scholars

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The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Joshua Mailman Foundation
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund

Our gratitude to the Sheppard Mullin law firm for ongoing pro bono legal support.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As this chart shows, 66 percent of every dollar raised goes directly to our programs and partners, and 15 percent to our legal defense fund. For detailed information on the Oakland Institute's finances, please see our annual 990 forms at: www.oaklandinstitute.org/about/annual-reports

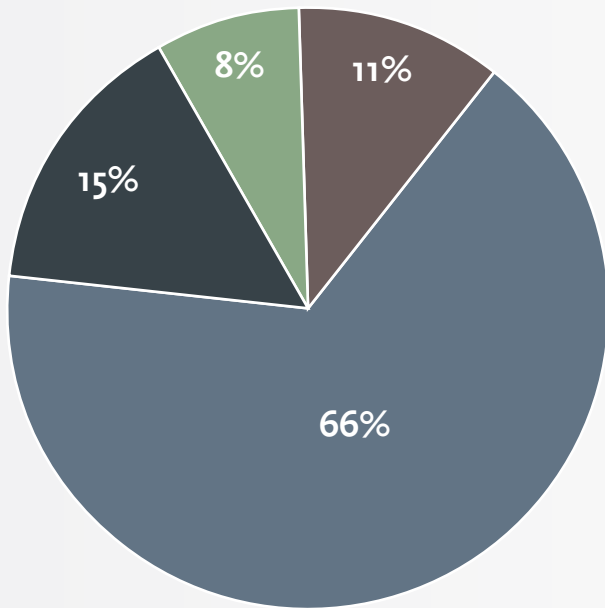


PHOTO CREDITS

Cover

Community facing evictions for the LAPSET Corridor Project in Kenya © The Oakland Institute

Highlights

View of the wheat field during the harvesting season near Krasne village, Ukraine July 5, 2019 © FAO / Anatolii Stepanov

Maasai communities gathering in Loliondo, June 2022

Protest march against the Midwest Carbon Express in January 2023 © Anthony Arroyo

The Oakland Institute's research team visiting impacted Miskitu communities living beside the Rio Coco River © The Oakland Institute

Dismantling Fortress Conservation

Maasai community gathering in Irkeepus discussing relocation plans to Msomera and Kitwai, May 2022

Armed police forces arrive to begin demarcation process in Loliondo, June 2022

Beacon demarcating new "Pololeti Game Reserve" in Loliondo, July 2022

Protest against NRT in the Sericho community

Challenging the Promoters and Profiteers of Industrial Agriculture

Cattle grazing in an area of the Amazon in November, 2015 © Bruno Kelly/Greenpeace

Oakland Institute Policy Director Frederic Mousseau speaking at the FAME 2022 conference in Dakar, Senegal

Sweet potato harvest © Aminah Jasho, KHCP

Climate Crisis Requires Decisive Action and Real Solutions

Lightboard art in protest of proposed carbon pipelines in the Midwest, created by Mahmud Fitol of Great Plains Action Society and Ní Btháska Stand © Emma Colman, Sierra Club Iowa Beyond Coal

Protest against CO₂ pipelines organized by several Indigenous and BIPOC groups and held in Des Moines, Iowa in April 2022 © Trisha Etringer

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver coverage of the Institute's work on carbon colonialism, August 2022 Screenshot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p8zAbFKpWo&t=1119s>

Updates From the Field

Families of the disappeared participated in the protest march from North to East in February 2023 declaring Sri Lanka's 75th Independence Day as Black Day

Following a massacre in Wilú, the colonos completely destroyed the Indigenous people's village. Photos taken by community members

Members of the Collectif pour la Défense du Ndiaël, 2019 © Grain

Back Cover

OI Doinyo Lengai, the Mountain of God, Ngorongoro District © The Oakland Institute





Boyle MacDonald Wines Partners with the Oakland Institute to Support Land Rights Struggles Around the World

Renowned for hand-crafted wine production, Kate Boyle MacDonald and her husband Craig's winemaking is rooted in the Foothills of the Sierras. Inspired by the struggles for land rights of the Indigenous, pastoralists, and small holder farmers, they have teamed up with the Oakland Institute to support this cause through the production of the finest wine.

Located in the whimsical Murphys – Queen of the Sierra – this 400 mourvèdre grapevine vineyard uses holistic, ecological, and ethical biodynamic approach to agriculture. Result of the produce from the farm is this limited edition of delicious artisanal wine.

Stewarding the land, building a community – inspired by Mannat, a special prayer for land and life.

Buy Mannat Rosé 2022 at \$50 per bottle or a case of 6 for \$250 + shipping

Buy Mannat Red Mourvèdre 2020 at \$70 per bottle or a case of 6 for \$350 + shipping

All proceeds support land rights struggles around the world. To place your order, send an email to mannat@oaklandinstitute.org with number of cases/bottles you wish to order and the mailing address so we can let you know the shipping costs.

POWER OUR WORK

Since 2004, the Oakland Institute has supported the struggles of communities around the world for their land and livelihoods. In the face of repression, corruption, and injustice we amplify the voices of those most impacted, reframe the debate, and mobilize for change.

Power our work by making a tax-deductible donation!

We ensure our independence by not accepting any government or corporate funding. With your support, we will continue to win major victories on behalf of pastoralists and fisherfolk, the Indigenous, and smallholder farmers.

To donate, please go to www.oaklandinstitute.org/donate or send a check payable to The Oakland Institute to:
PO Box 18978, Oakland, CA, 94619

