



LAND RIGHTS NOW — 2018 GLOBAL MOBILIZATION

CELEBRATING WORLD FOOD DAY: OCTOBER 15-26

WHAT IS LAND RIGHTS NOW?

Land Rights Now is an international campaign to secure indigenous and community land rights. Safeguarding collective land rights is at the heart of building a just and equitable world; they are key to protecting the planet and achieving sustainable development. Land Rights Now mobilizes and engages the public nationally and globally to exercise pressure on governments to adopt, implement and enforce laws that safeguard indigenous and community land rights. More than 800 organizations worldwide have endorsed the campaign and its policy asks.

INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND DIVERSITY

Up to 2.5 billion women and men worldwide depend on indigenous and community lands to survive. These lands - which include forests, rangelands, farmlands, mountains and shores - cover more than 50% of the world's land surface. Whilst Indigenous Peoples and local communities have protected these lands for centuries, they have legally recognized ownership for just over one-fifth of them. As a result, at least 40% of the world's land surface is subject to a massive tenure crisis and vulnerable to land grabbing for large plantations or fossil fuel projects, hydroelectric dams, tourism, speculation or conservation. This crisis not only undermines the human rights of local people, but also threatens humanity's ability to achieve food security, sustainable development, and an end to poverty and climate change.

2018 LAND RIGHTS NOW GLOBAL MOBILIZATION ON WORLD FOOD DAY

World Food Day, celebrated on October 16, is about achieving zero hunger by 2030: we have less than 15 years to end hunger, saving countless lives and ensuring a brighter future for us all. Secure indigenous and community land rights are essential to stopping land grabs that threaten our food security and the diversity of foods we enjoy. This is a huge opportunity to engage urban audiences, farmers, food policy communities, chefs and passionate eaters around the world in support of land rights. On this year's World Food Day, we will show how securing community land rights helps achieve a zero hunger world. We are actively reaching out to other food and agriculture-related movements, influencers, business and other networks to build support for Land Rights Now. We all rely on indigenous and community lands for our food, and we want to appreciate and protect this vital and nourishing connection.



WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR?

Land Rights Now is calling on governments, legislators and corporations in every country to adopt, implement, enforce and adhere to legislation to protect indigenous and local community land rights. We are calling on these actors to end land grabs immediately and respect land rights as a way to ensure that current and future generations have abundant and diverse food, cultivated sustainably. We are calling on them to ensure that the food we eat around the world is not linked to land grabs but produced with respect for collective land rights.

Faced with potential eviction, communities all over the world are organizing to defend their rights and protect their lands and territories. Their peaceful actions have yielded positive outcomes, but increasingly communities and leaders are the victims of violence, harassment, defamation, threats and even murder.* In many countries, those defending land and environmental rights are labeled as "anti-development" and criminalized. We want to change this dynamic and push for the recognition of secure land rights as key to justice, sustainable development, fighting and mitigating climate change, and protecting our planet.

The global mobilization will showcase several national cases on which we hope to make specific progress, and highlight the need for food importing and exporting countries to ensure that our global food supply is free from land grabs and supports collective land rights.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

From 15-26 October, around World Food Day, we ask all of you to join the movement and our Global Mobilization for land rights and food security. As an organization or group, you can join the Land Rights Now Global Mobilization by organizing something big or small in the week around World Food Day. Activities could be anything from a flash-mob to community dinners or dinner table discussions with indigenous chefs; marches; events in schools; dinners with parliamentarians and Indigenous Peoples; traditional food markets; events with chefs cooking indigenous foods and celebrity endorsements.

Land Rights Now acts as an amplifier, supporting your activities, providing you with a campaign tool package, communication material and guidelines. We will connect you to our network of people and organizations around the globe and prepare digital petitions and social media assets to support the global land rights asks and push spotlighted national campaigns.

We are also eager to collect statements, tweets, video clips or other expressions of support that show the diversity and strength of the movement for collective land rights. For more information, please write to contact@landrightsnow.org.

CLICK HERE TO GET INVOLVED!

*Global Witness in partnership with The Guardian reported 197 people killed in 2017 alone for standing up for the environment and land rights; February 2018.
<https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/blog/new-data-reveals-197-land-and-environmental-defenders-murdered-2017/>