

# ONE PLANET

# ONE LAND

**WHOSE LAND  
DEMANDS  
COUNT IN THE  
GLOBAL LAND  
RUSH?**



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# LAND HAS TAKEN THE WORLD STAGE AS A BEAMING SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and drought are pushing our planet to its limit.

To help recover, governments and global actors set their sights on land-intensive measures for climate action – such as restoration, reforestation and carbon removal – to make leaps towards achieving urgent climate goals.

But so many hopes sewn into soil have spurred an unsustainable influx of competing demands for land – a vital yet finite resource.







# CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENTS REQUIRE SWELLS OF LAND & LAND USE CHANGES

As a result, many countries' climate pledges rely unrealistically on land-based measures. Collectively, their commitments encompass over 1 billion hectares (ha) of land – an area larger than the combined territories of the European Union, India, South Africa, and Turkey.

Over half of this land (633 million ha) would need to be transformed: as one example, converted from cropland into forests. This shift could displace critical food production and undermine the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.





# LAND COMMITTED TO CLIMATE ACTION IS NOT EMPTY

Local communities and Indigenous People inhabit it, and weave their lives, cultures and futures into it. Yet, the global land rush has already unleashed waves of violence, dispossession, and the erosion of their livelihoods and cultural heritage.

This clashes with country's other obligations to human rights, as well as their commitments to climate action. Reports show that secure land tenure enables communities to outshine governments and private landholders in sustainable land use practices, like conservation.





# WE LIVE ON ONE PLANET THAT HOSTS ONLY ONE BODY OF LAND

Countries over-reliance on land already inhabited reveals a **dangerous misconception**: that land is infinite and up for grabs.

The outcome? Land demands – from local needs to political interests to elite capture – continue to be **piled higher and higher on top of the same areas of land**. This distorts how global goals can realistically be achieved and who has the power to decide whose land demands count.

It's time for a shift in perspective.

It's time to **treat land as one finite system, on one planet, and place people at the heart of change.**







# LAND RIGHTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF JUST CLIMATE ACTION

Many land-based measures are pivotal for global climate action, biodiversity and restoration.

However, a lack of robust legal safeguards blares the need for climate and environmental action to be built around the steadfast commitment to rights-based land governance. This approach must embrace a diversity of tenure arrangements to ensure people can **claim their rights to the land they depend on.**

The starting point to achieve this is clear.

Only by treating land as one finite system – on which people critically depend – can we sustainably root our futures into it.