



# The Carbon Conspiracy

False Promises,  
Real Threats



**CLARA**



ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITY ...

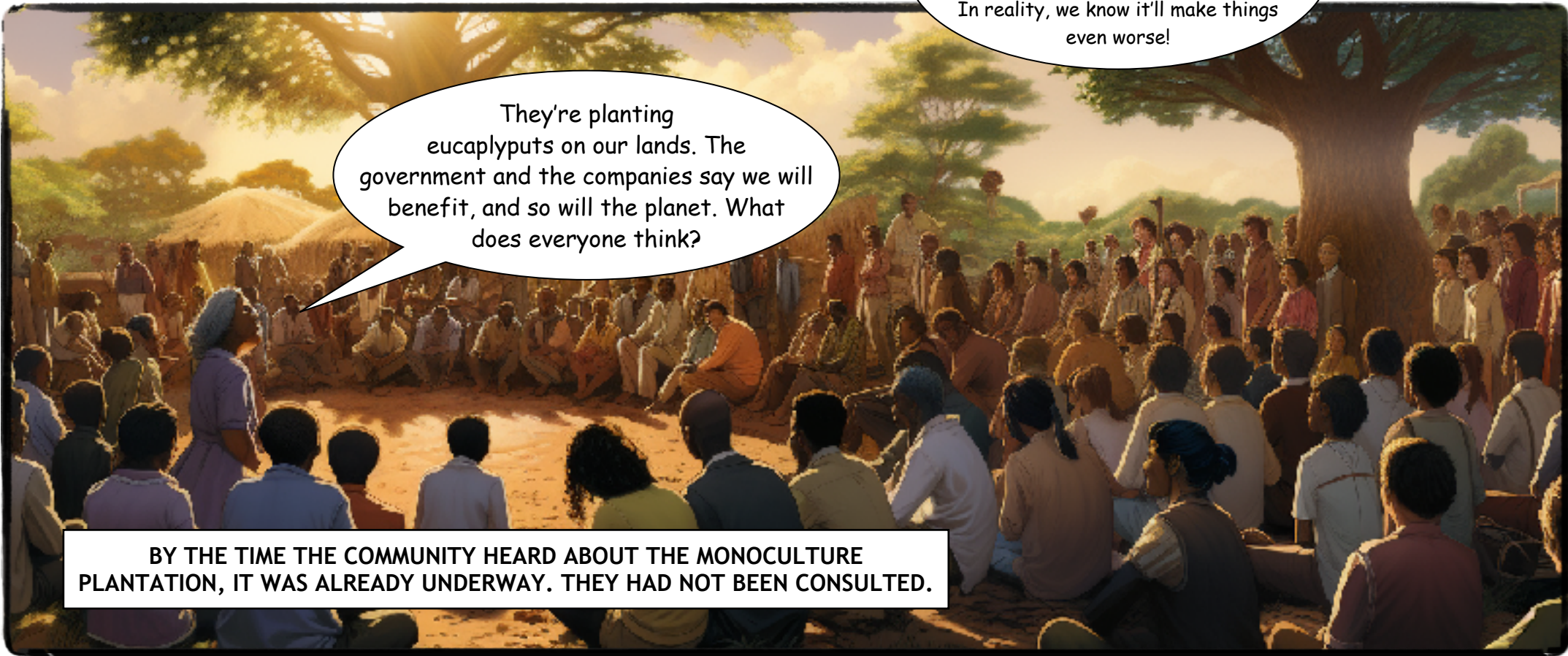


HA!  
HA!

Have you heard of "carbon offsets"? We can get others to pay for our greenhouse gas emissions. It's genius!!

MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN THE OFFICES OF GREENFUEL CORPORATION

We'll convince them cutting down old-growth forests and planting monoculture plantations instead can absorb pollution. In reality, we know it'll make things even worse!



They're planting eucalypts on our lands. The government and the companies say we will benefit, and so will the planet. What does everyone think?

BY THE TIME THE COMMUNITY HEARD ABOUT THE MONOCULTURE PLANTATION, IT WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY. THEY HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED.



Trust us, this project will bring jobs and development to your community and help to stop climate change at the same time!

WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS FINALLY MANAGED TO MEET WITH THE PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES, PLENTY OF PROMISES WERE MADE.

But Grace, I've heard so many good things about carbon offsets. The government, the UN and all the companies support it. It must be trustworthy.

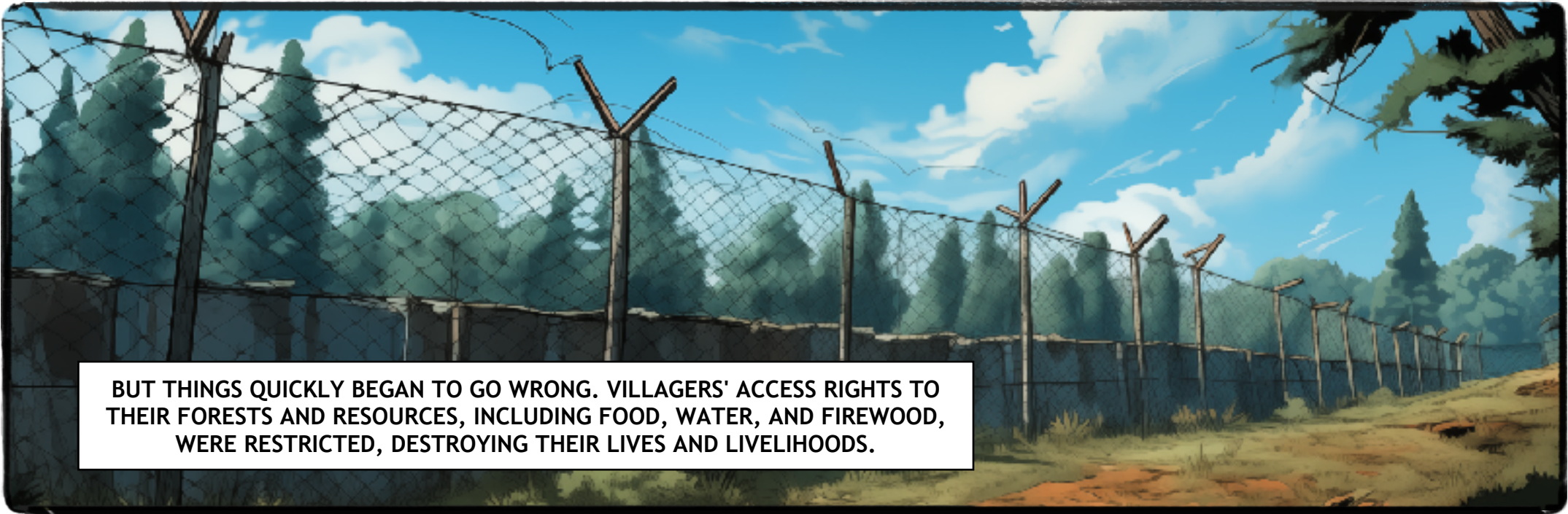


We need to be careful. We don't know these people and they're making so many promises.

Ken's right! They say we'll be paid for the carbon the trees we plant soak up. We can make more money from that than trying to sell the crops we grow now.

Yeah, they say our income will be guaranteed; with climate change, our crops are not.

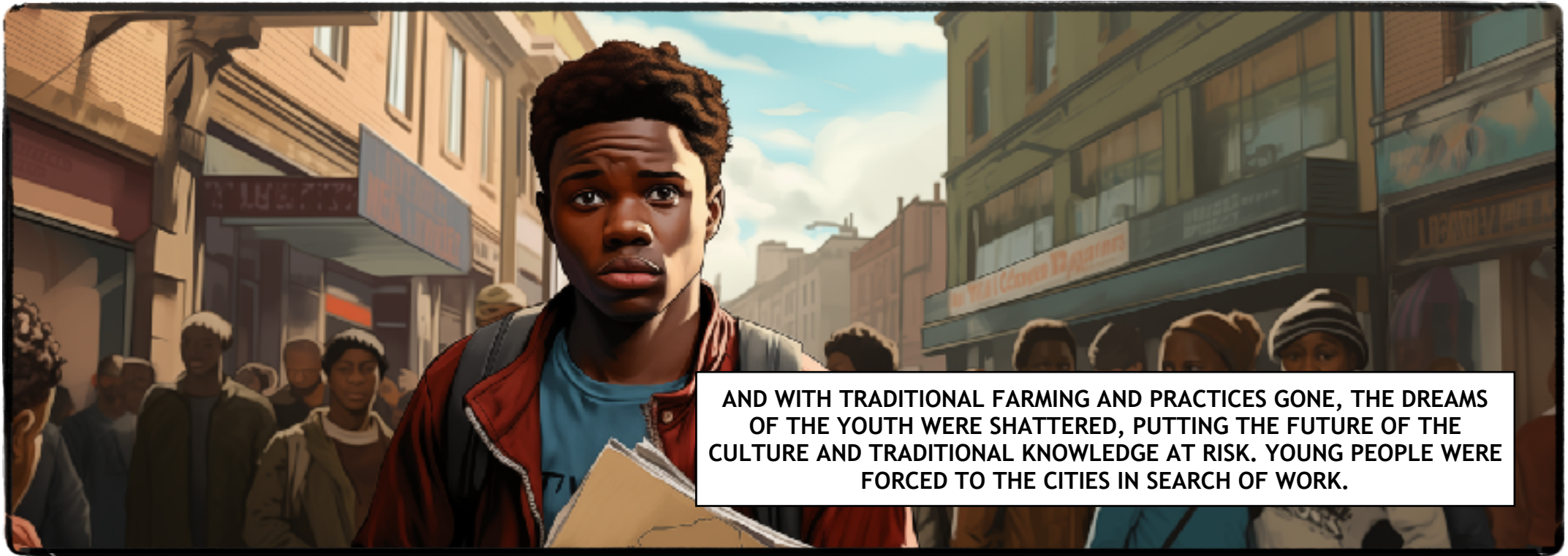
EVENTUALLY, THEY AGREED, WITH PROMISES OF PROSPERITY AND PROTECTION OF THEIR LANDS.



**BUT THINGS QUICKLY BEGAN TO GO WRONG. VILLAGERS' ACCESS RIGHTS TO THEIR FORESTS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING FOOD, WATER, AND FIREWOOD, WERE RESTRICTED, DESTROYING THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS.**




**THEIR CROPS NO LONGER GREW DUE TO THE MONOCULTURE PLANTATIONS. WOMEN, THE PRIMARY FOOD GROWERS AND DOMESTIC PROVIDERS, WERE HIT HARDEST.**



AND WITH TRADITIONAL FARMING AND PRACTICES GONE, THE DREAMS OF THE YOUTH WERE SHATTERED, PUTTING THE FUTURE OF THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AT RISK. YOUNG PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO THE CITIES IN SEARCH OF WORK.



ALL THE WHILE, THE CORPORATIONS CONTINUED TO PUMP CLIMATE-DESTROYING EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

A group of nine people, including men and women, are sitting around a table in a village setting. They are engaged in a discussion. The background shows traditional thatched-roof huts and palm trees under a sunset sky. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and one at the bottom right.

We've been swindled by Greenfuel. Grace was right. Nothing they promised was delivered! No good jobs, no schools.

We're not just losing our land and food security, but also our traditions and our cultural heritage. Our young people aren't using our traditional medicine and they're losing the language. They've gone to the city. Even the birds and the insects are leaving!

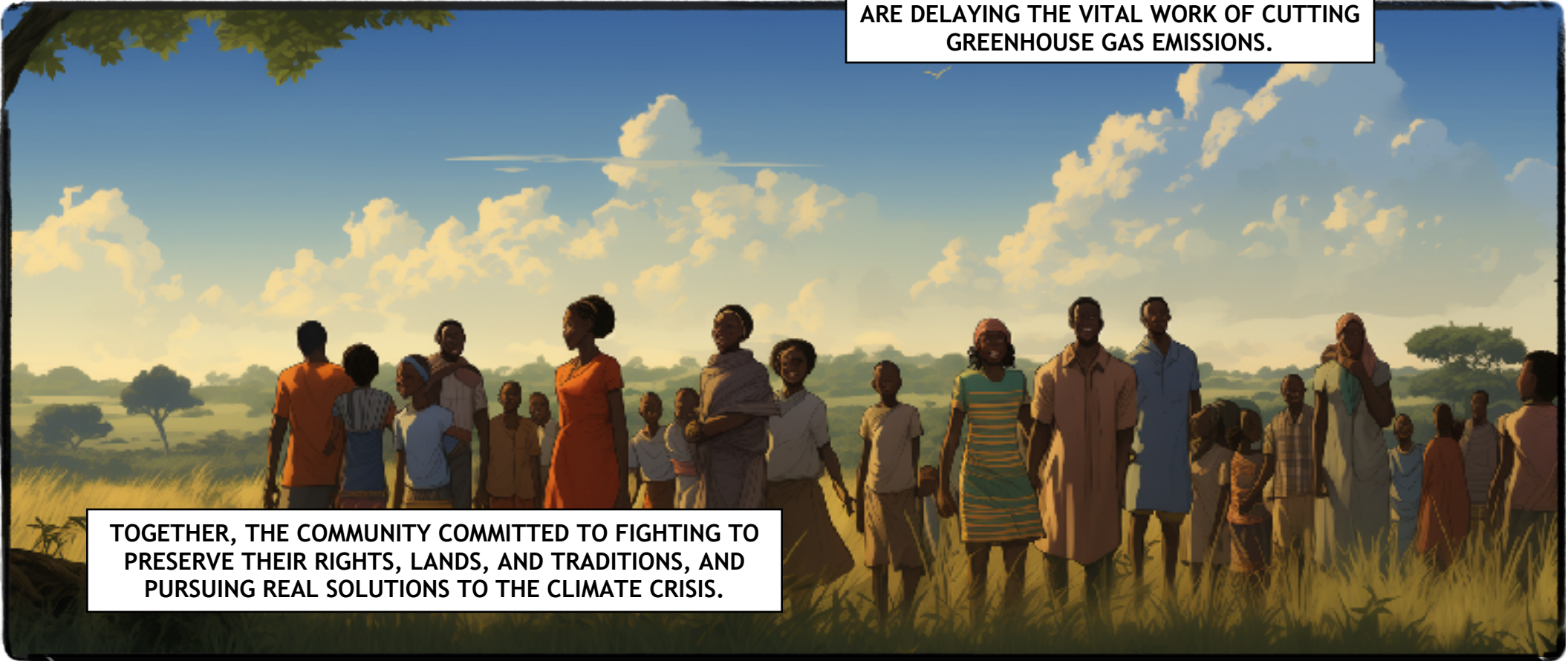


Beware of false promises!  
Protect your lands!

THE COMMUNITY ORGANISED TO FIGHT BACK AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS.



SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE PROVED THAT CARBON OFFSET PROJECTS ARE DOING NOTHING TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND, IN FACT, ARE DELAYING THE VITAL WORK OF CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.




TOGETHER, THE COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO FIGHTING TO PRESERVE THEIR RIGHTS, LANDS, AND TRADITIONS, AND PURSUING REAL SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS.



**BECAUSE OUR LANDS, OUR PEOPLES,  
OUR PLANET, AND OUR FUTURE  
DESERVE BETTER.**




An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a vast, dense green forest. The river is a bright blue-green color, contrasting with the deep green of the trees. The forest extends to the horizon, with some distant hills visible under a hazy sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Carbon markets and offsetting do not lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is a continuation of business as usual for the Global North and rising consumption whilst shifting responsibilities for climate action to the Global South.

They are a threat to Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and especially women in all their diversities. Let's choose real solutions for a sustainable, gender-just, and rights-based future. Because a just and sustainable future for all is possible. The Real Solutions are already out there and already being implemented.

Take action today because tomorrow may be too late.



*In “The Carbon Conspiracy,” a peaceful rural community’s existence is rocked by the arrival of a carbon offset project. What at first appears to be a win-win deal for all involved is quickly exposed as a con by the Greenfuel Corporation.*

*The community is hit by the human rights and environmental impacts of the greenwashing exercise aimed at shifting climate action to the Global South while corporations in the Global North continue their climate-destroying activities.*

*Story and illustrations by Ismail Wolff*