



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.

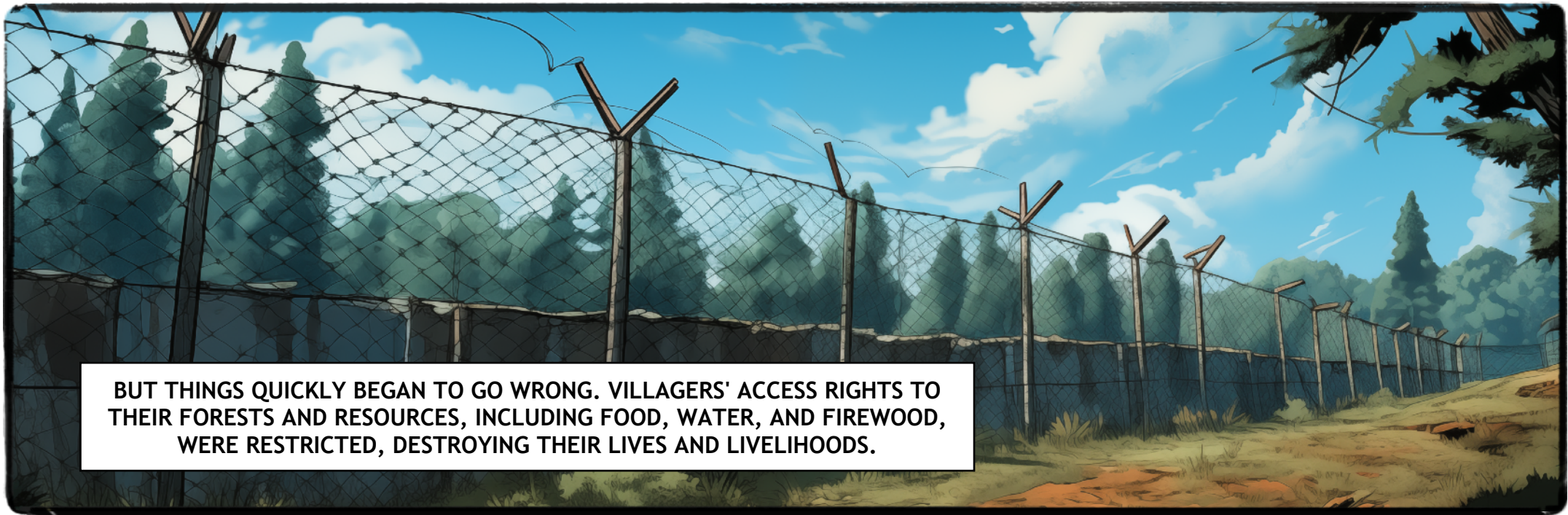
We need to be careful. We don't know these people and they're making so many promises.

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.

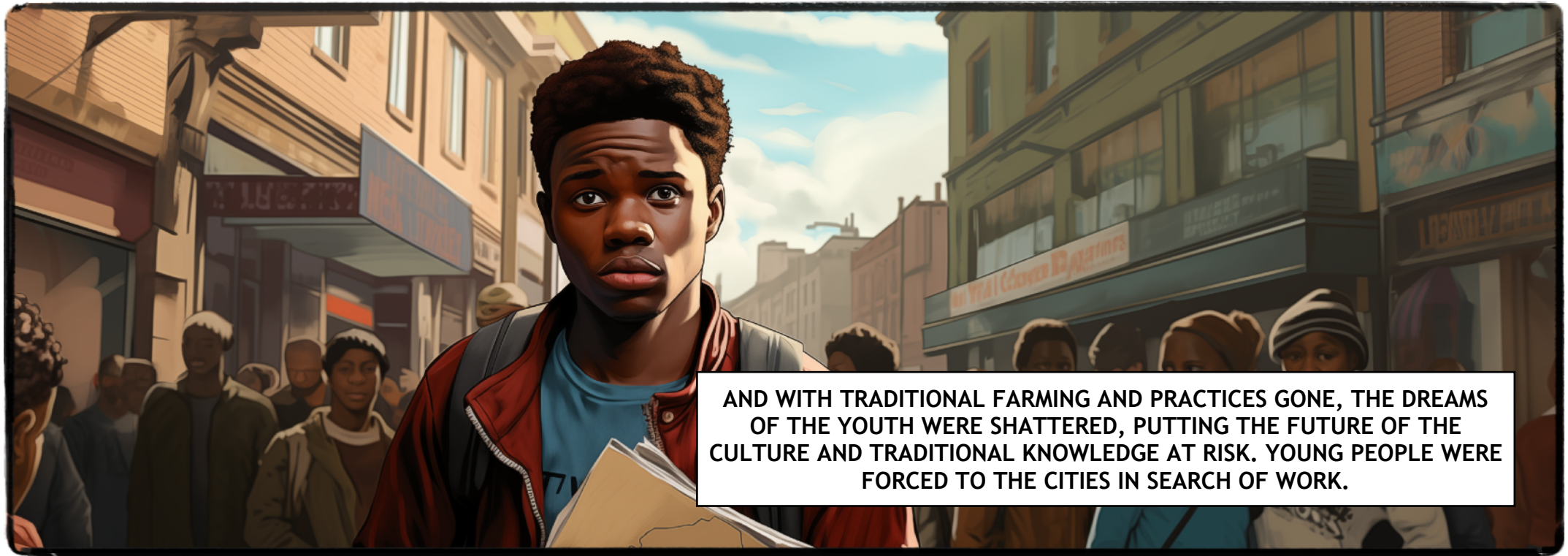




BUT THINGS QUICKLY BEGAN TO GO WRONG. VILLAGERS' ACCESS RIGHTS TO THEIR FORESTS AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING FOOD, WATER, AND FIREWOOD, WERE RESTRICTED, DESTROYING THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS.




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.

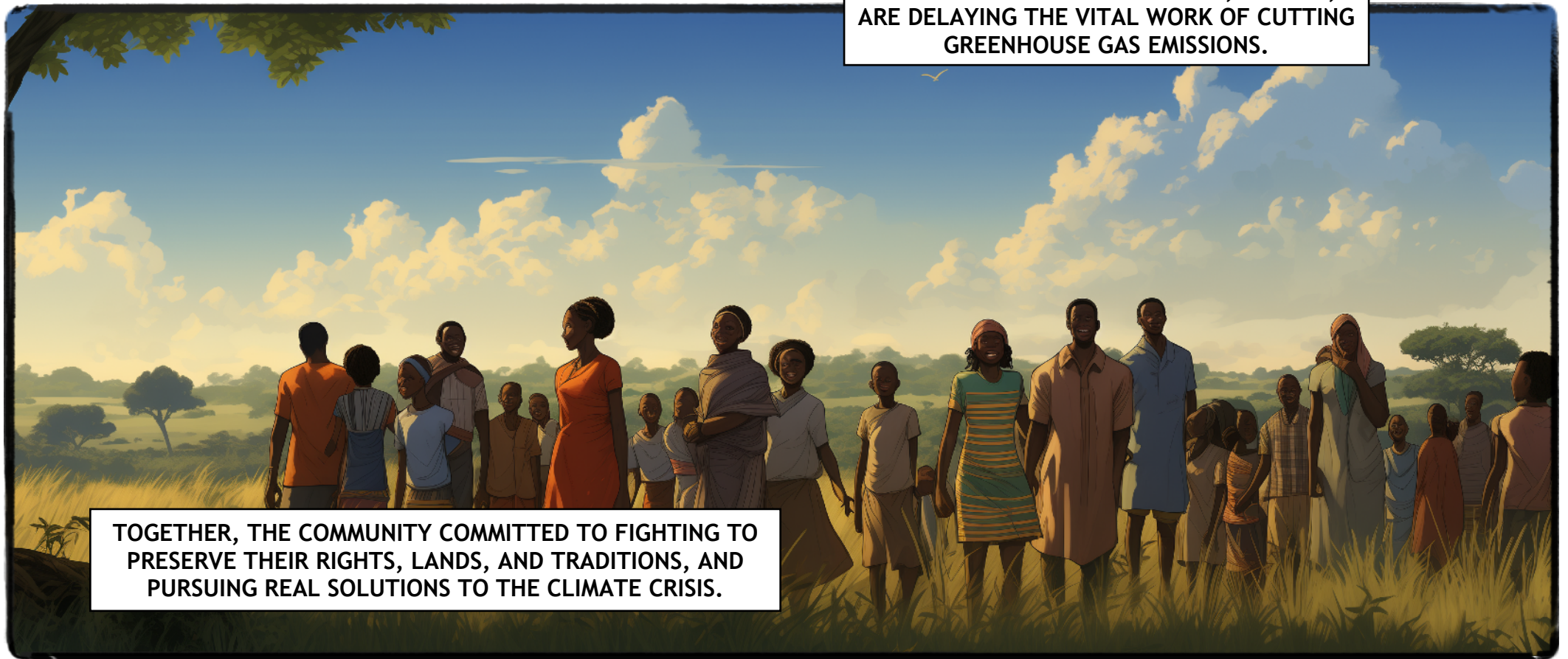
A group of nine people, seven men and two women, are sitting around a low wooden table in a village setting. The scene is set at sunset, with a warm orange and yellow glow in the sky. In the background, there are traditional houses with thatched roofs and some trees. The people are dressed in casual clothing, including t-shirts, a headwrap, and a patterned wrap. They appear to be in a serious discussion. A speech bubble from a man on the left contains text about being swindled by Greenfuel. Another speech bubble from a man on the right contains text about losing land, food security, and cultural heritage.

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!




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.






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

An aerial photograph of a wide river meandering through a vast, dense green forest. The river's surface is a mix of deep blue and lighter, silty patches. The surrounding forest is a rich, textured green, with the river creating a natural path through the landscape. The lighting suggests a bright day, with some areas of the forest appearing slightly more vibrant than others.

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