



# Survival International

The myth of fortress  
conservation





# 50 years





**Survival**



**50**

**years** fighting for tribes,  
for nature, for all humanity

Since 1969

Offices in Berlin, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris, San Francisco

Supporters in over 100 countries

→ We help tribal peoples defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures.

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## Our work

- Commitment to land and self-determination rights of indigenous peoples
  - Lobbying
  - Education
  - Support the recognition of their legal rights
  - Campaigns
    - > Let them live! (uncontacted tribes)
    - > Decolonize Conservation
    - > There you go! (forced development)
    - > Tribal Voice
- \* Financed almost exclusively through private donations

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## My role

—> Assistant to the Coordinator

- Assistant to office management
- Supporter communication
- Shop
- Events
- Admin

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Our work



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEH7PrYnw7s>





## Tribal peoples in Africa - Bushmen -







## Tribal peoples in Africa - Baka -





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## The myth of fortress conservation

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO2Ey-Bka5s&t=2s>





## Tribal peoples' opinion is ignored

- Protected areas assumed to be “wilderness”
- Illegal evictions of tribal peoples around the world in the name of “conservation”
- Tribal peoples can't hunt and gather to feed families or access sacred sites
- When tribal communities lose their land, they will rarely accept this
- But resistance can have dire consequences...





## Bushmen - Botswana

- Illegally evicted from CKGR in the name of “conservation”
- Although they won historic legal battle to return to their land, government imposed nationwide hunting ban
- Accused as poachers, they face arrest, beatings and torture, while private game ranchers are allowed to hunt
- Meanwhile mine development continues in “protected areas”





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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLELF2Ln4p0>





## Baka - Cameroon

- Ancestral land has been designated as national parks
- Regularly harassed, arrested and even tortured by park rangers when they enter their forest
- “Anti-poaching squads” are financed and supported by big conservation NGOs such as the WWF
- Without access to the forest, health problems and addiction among Baka rise





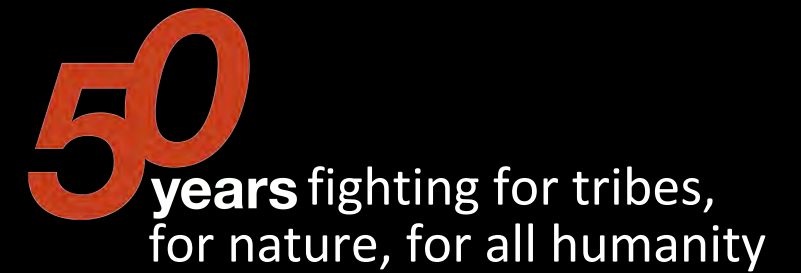
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[https://youtu.be/\\_gFUN7vtbgQ](https://youtu.be/_gFUN7vtbgQ)



## Baka – Republic of Congo

- Messok Dja = designated Protected Area (PA)
- Forests are not pristine, Baka managed forests of Messok Dja since time immemorial
- Establishment of PA lead to land theft and human rights abuses
- Now: funders are aware of abuses and investigate





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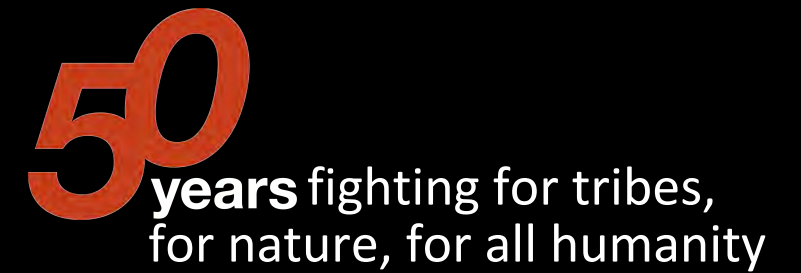
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNOrLoL4tP4>

## The best conservationists

- 80% of the world's richest areas in biodiversity are the territories of tribal communities
- World Bank (2011): Indigenous peoples are key to preserving the world's forests
- Conservation reserves that exclude indigenous peoples suffer as a result
- Satellite data: forest fire rates were lower by about 16% in indigenous areas between 2000-2008







## The best conservationists

- Tribal peoples have extraordinary conservation skills and knowledge of their environments
- Baka prevent over-hunting and even benefit animal neighbors
- Bushmen consume over 150 species of plants and have always hunted sustainably



## The solution

- Most effective and cheapest solution: Governments and conservation NGOs must recognize tribal peoples' land rights
- Should work with tribal peoples as real partners and experts and protect their territories from outside threats
- Creation of protected areas requires FPIC by tribal peoples
- ICCAs (indigenous and community conserved areas) can be alternatives





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## Latest threat – #BigGreenLie

- 30% target for protected areas
- Won't mitigate climate change or enhance biodiversity
- Will increase suffering and destruction
- Biggest land grab in history
- To find out more, visit [svlint.org/biggreenlie](http://svlint.org/biggreenlie)





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## 3 things to take away

1

Evidence proves that tribal peoples are better at looking after their environment than anyone else.

They are the best conservationists and guardians of the natural world





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## 3 things to take away

2

The big conservation organizations don't speak out against tribal evictions. They partner with governments, the industry and the tourism sector and destroy the environment's best allies.



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## 3 things to take away

3

They say they're powerless to get things right – it's all too complicated.

But that's no excuse: They have immense influence and resources, and control huge areas of land.





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It's all a con, and it's harming the environment.





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**With support from some conservationists and in partnership with many tribal peoples, Survival is fighting these abuses:**

**For tribes, for nature, and for all humanity.**





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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYcmcuddqBc>

**Only to the white  
man was nature  
a “wilderness”**

Chief Luther Standing Bear United States

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## See here for more information

[svlint.org/parksneedpeoples](http://svlint.org/parksneedpeoples)

[svlint.org/get\\_involved](http://svlint.org/get_involved)

[svlint.org/ConservationKIT](http://svlint.org/ConservationKIT)

[svlint.org/biggreenlieKIT](http://svlint.org/biggreenlieKIT)

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Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/survivalintl>

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