

# Land-grabbing 2.0 – climate-forced displacement of indigenous people

Szilvia Csevár

*The Hague University of Applied Sciences*

*UN Studies in Peace and Justice*

*s.csevar@hhs.nl*



## The indigenous experience

- ‘Indigenous’ – ancestral roots embedded in their lands
- ‘people’ – a distinct community with a continuity of existence
- Commonalities and differences
- Extractive pressures – ‘most significant source of abuse of rights’
- Disproportionate climate impact



# Climate change impact



## Difference in experience:

- Slow or sudden
- Depending on region
- No isolated events
- Intersects with pre-existing power dynamics and environmental damage
- Loss of lands



## Impact on indigenous rights – some examples

- *1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* – obligation to prevent and avoid conditions leading to displacement
- *Art 11 ICESCR* – right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, housing
  - *GC 12*: ‘acceptable within a given culture’
  - *GC 7*: indigenous people suffer disproportionately from the practice of forced evictions
- *UNGA Res 64/292* – right to safe drinking water
- *Art 27 UDHR & Art 15 ICESCR* – the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage, the right to engage in one’s own cultural practices (many other provisions)
  - Specific standards for cultural rights of indigenous people, e.g. *Art 31 UNDRIP*, ‘maintain, control, protect and develop’
- SR on cultural rights – impact of climate change on cultural rights must be addressed as a matter of priority

## Importance of indigenous knowledge

- Environmental insecurity weakens ability to cope with and adapt to climate change impact
- Indigenous environmental knowledge is crucial for climate change resilience
- Tight physical and spiritual connection with their lands creates unique knowledge
- Indigenous practices in response to extremes
- Integration of indigenous knowledge into climate change regulations is lacking