

Omo: Local Tribes Under Threat



[Tweet](#)

A field report from the Lower Omo Valley, Ethiopia

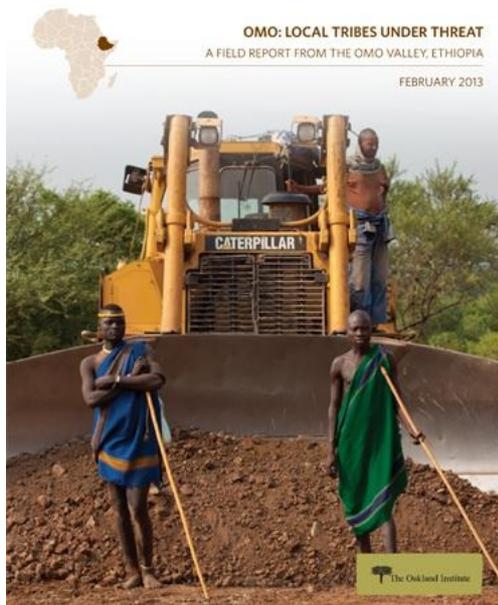
The Lower Omo Valley in Southern Ethiopia is internationally renowned for its unique cultural and ecological landscape. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Lower Omo Valley contains two national parks and is home to approximately 200,000 agro-pastoralists made up of some of Africa's most unique and traditional ethnic groups, including the Kwegu, Bodi, Suri, Mursi, Nyangatom, Hamer, Karo, and Dassenach, among others. Historically, the area has been very isolated, and the agro-pastoralists have little experience with industrial agriculture. While livelihoods differ along the length of the Omo Valley and between ethnic groups, the majority are agro-pastoralists who practice flood-retreat agriculture on the banks of the Omo River and also raise cattle where the annual flooding of the Omo River replenishes important grazing areas. For many of these ethnic groups, cattle are a source of pride, wealth, and food, and are intimately tied to cultural identity. The annual flooding of the Omo River dictates the rhythms of life and culture that permeate the area. But with the announcement of the Gibe III dam, the livelihoods and culture of the indigenous people of the South Omo Valley face decimation.

[Download the field report](#)

Watch the video [Omo: Local Tribes Under Threat](#)

[Frequently asked questions for this research](#)

Learn more about the [Indian-Ethiopian Civil Society Summit on Land Investments](#)



[OI_Report_Omo_Ethiopia.pdf](#)

FILMS



[On Our Land](#) is a full film that details the massive land rush taking place in Papua New Guinea.

[Regarder en français.](#)

MORE ON ETHIOPIA



[Want to learn more about land grabs? Click here.](#)

We Say the Land is Not Yours: Breaking the Silence Against Forced Displacement in Ethiopia



Over the past six years, the Oakland Institute has been at the forefront of exposing the social... [read more](#)

Engineering Ethnic Conflict: The Toll of Ethiopia's Plantation Development on Suri People



Recently dubbed "Africa's Lion" (in allusion to the discourse around "Asian Tigers"), Ethiopia... [read more](#)

Ignoring Abuse in Ethiopia: DFID and USAID in the Lower Omo Valley



Southern Ethiopia's Lower Omo Valley is one of the most culturally and biologically diverse... [read more](#)

[read more on Ethiopia](#)

MEDIA ON ETHIOPIA





[Want to learn more about land grabs? Click here.](#)

Indian Firms Sprawling Land Empire in Ethiopia Fails to Ensure Food Security Back Home
CNN-IBN

On the Ethiopian General Election
CounterPunch

Empty Boxes: The West And Ethiopia's Elections - OpEd
Eurasia Review

En nombre del desarrollo, se arrasan pueblos y ecosistemas
IPS Noticias

Opinion: A Development Fairytale or a Global Land Rush?
Hawaii Telegraph

[read more on Ethiopia](#)

CONTACT

THE OAKLAND INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 18978
Oakland, CA 94619
info@oaklandinstitute.org
510-474-5251

DONATE

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Your tax-deductible donation allows us to conduct independent research, analysis, and advocacy to facilitate democratic participation in critical policy decisions that affect our quality of life.