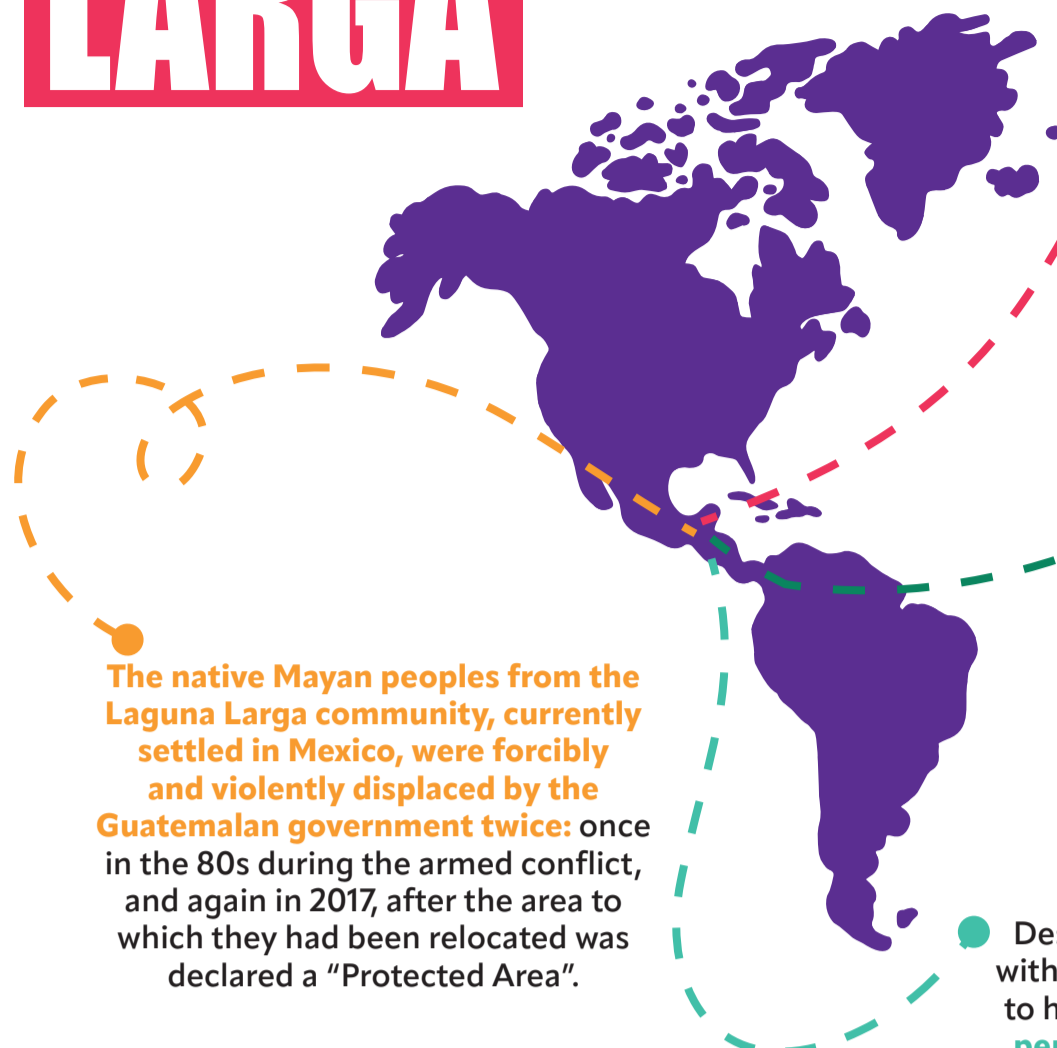


LAGUNA LARGA



The native Mayan peoples from the Laguna Larga community, currently settled in Mexico, were forcibly and violently displaced by the Guatemalan government twice: once in the 80s during the armed conflict, and again in 2017, after the area to which they had been relocated was declared a "Protected Area".

The Laguna Larga community was accused of "usurping" protected area land while the government allowed the private PERENCO company to exploit oil resources in these same areas.

Despite living in unsanitary conditions without basic services—from clean water to healthcare—the Mayan women have persistently resisted. They sustain life in the midst of scarcity and maintain the hope of returning to their land.

LAGUNA LARGA IS NOT UNIQUE. FORCED DISPLACEMENT IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM:

- 1 Governments tout green agendas and corporations pay lip service while colluding with governments to pursue profit with little or no accountability. **Native peoples are** seen as a hindrance to the extraction of natural resources and thus **dispossessed from their land and criminalised.**
- 2 This corporate "green-washing agenda" is underpinned by legal frameworks **unfamiliar to native peoples**, forcing them to litigate in a context that puts them at a disadvantage and reinforces unequal relations of power.
- 3 This approach **ignores the cosmovision and rights of native peoples** and takes away the land that is central to their local economy, customs, traditions, rules, and legal systems.
- 4 The favouritism that the State extends to private interests and the lack of accountability and due diligence fuels **private exploitation of natural resources, the contamination of natural areas and forced displacement through militarization of the territories.**

"Our strategy is to resist by remaining, and not allowing our community to get diluted."



"We are removed from the territory with armed violence."

THE LAGUNA LARGA COMMUNITY INVITES OUR SOLIDARITY TO:

- Stop forced evictions by governments or government-supported corporations.
- Ensure that displaced communities can **return to their land according to international standards**; receive reparation for damages; legal accountability for those responsible; guarantee of non-repetition; and recovery of their previous standard of living—including sustainable and autonomous food sovereignty.
- Stop the criminalisation of land-defenders as well as organisations that support them.
- Identify and challenge the "green-washing" agenda—bring to justice the states, companies and armed non-state actors who threaten and displace native communities.

The information in this brief has been provided by the Laguna Larga community working in collaboration with ACCSS and Indignación. WIMN values these voices and notes that all the inputs come from these groups and their allies.

BACKGROUND AND TAKE ACTION FOR LAGUNA LARGA



Produced by Women in Migration Network with ACCSS, Indignación, Bloque Latinoamericano de migración, MADRE and RESAMA drawing from the resistance of the Laguna Larga community and from the work of many people supporting them in their struggle.