

NO OFFSETS!



Indigenous Peoples Defend Our Territories and Sacred Relatives from the **Colonialism** of Carbon and Biodiversity Offsets



Jaguar Offsets: **LOGGING**

In Peru, the **Jaguar Amazon REDD Project** of the offset firm Greenoxx pretends to protect jaguars by **logging the rainforest, where they live.**¹ The “charismatic, boutique” project, which includes the Jaguar Biodiversity Project implemented by Dr. Mathias Tobler of the **San Diego Zoo,**² consists of the **timber company** Inversiones Forestales Chullachaqui SAC³ **logging the REDD project area** and the **sawmill operator** Forestal Otorongo SAC⁴ turning the logs into planks⁵ “for at least **80 years.**”⁶ Despite deforesting the Amazon, the project is the world’s 5th largest REDD project and has been **certified** by Verra’s Climate, Community and Biodiversity Gold Standard.⁷ **Deforestation** is the **number one threat to jaguars.**⁸ Greenoxx’s **Madre de Dios Amazon REDD+ project** also logs the Amazon,⁹ which **endangers jaguars,**¹⁰ **the climate** and **Indigenous Peoples** in Voluntary Isolation (“uncontacted tribes”).¹¹

OFFSETS Greenwash Pollution and Grab Land for Extractivism



Lion Offsets: **MINING**

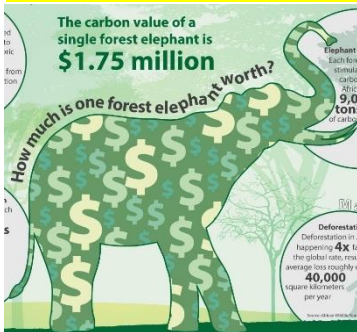
“Lion-branded carbon credits”¹² called “Lion Carbon”¹³ are sold by BioCarbon Partners¹⁴ in partnership with the NGO Lion Landscapes to **oil giants British Petroleum (BP),**¹⁵ infamous for its “legacy of apartheid, pollution and exploitation,”¹⁶ and **Eni,**¹⁷ which drills, pollutes and exacerbates global warming in Africa.¹⁸ Lion Carbon uses lion habitat from “**ten million hectares of forest**”¹⁹ in **Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe** – an area about the **size of Iceland**²⁰ - to build the “New Lion Economy.”²¹ Lion Carbon’s funders and sponsors include **USAID,**²² the “Lion Recovery Fund, the Darwin Initiative, **National Geographic’s** Big Cat Initiative, [The Lion King’s²³ producer] **Disney,**”²⁴ **Eni, Paramount Business Jets,**²⁵ The Nature Conservancy and zoos, which put lions in cages.²⁶ Instead of “lion recovery,” Lion Carbon is a **false solution to climate change,** which **endangers lions’ survival** by **allowing polluters to pollute more** and **make global warming worse.** Global warming causes **droughts,** which disrupt lions’ reproductive cycle²⁷ and hinder their chances of birthing future generations.



**OFFSETS
KILL!**

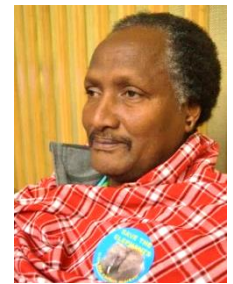
In 2021, Mwembeshi Resources Limited’s **large-scale open pit Kangaluwi copper mine** on the Zambezi River was approved in the Lower Zambezi REDD+ project area,²⁸ a key piece of the **Lion Carbon Kingdom.** The controversial mine “**threatens Africa’s most important river basin**” and “the livelihoods of over **47 million people.**”²⁹ Mining is, of course, also a “**threat to lions.**”³⁰

ELEPHANT CARBON: SELLING THE SACRED



International Monetary Fund turns elephants into carbon offset dollars

Koobi Carbon in Kenya sells “elephant carbon” credits to polluters to **greenwash their emissions**.³¹ Disgusted by elephant offsets, Adam Kuleit Ole Mwarabu Lemareka explained that, for the Parakuiyo Maasai People, **elephants are sacred**. “Elephants tell us about the winds, the seasons and where to find water and pasture. We follow the elephants. They are **part of our seasonal calendar**. Now elephants are being confined to national parks but they don’t stay there, they **like to be free**.”



Adam Kuleit Ole Mwarabu Lemareka

Protected areas and **new concepts of conservation infuriate elephants**. Elephants in the carbon market and **turning elephants into commodities** for ecosystem services create a concept contrary to our Maasai People. **Elephant offsets disrespect our ancestral relationship with elephants.**³²

WHALE OFFSETS: MINING, AI and OCEAN GRABS

Polluters are using **whales’ bodies as sponges** for their pollution.

The United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, 41 countries and conservation NGOs are **turning whales into carbon offsets** for **greenwash**.³³ Using whales to **pretend to absorb carbon dioxide** is a **false solution to climate change** that could **accelerate the extinction of whales**. The IMF wants to **pay the oil, fishing, and shipping industries** not to kill whales so they can use them as carbon credits, even though these same industries also pollute and **cause climate change**, which in turn **kills whales**.³⁴



The IMF turns whales into carbon offset dollars

In 2021, the **Whale Carbon Plus Project**³⁵ began near a **bowhead whale sanctuary**³⁶ in the **Inuit People’s territory** in the Canadian Arctic, where **Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation**, a partner of the whale offset project,³⁷ has a **polluting iron ore mine**, which is expanding **despite Inuit opposition**.³⁸ According to the financial news service *Finshots*, “the project would use **AI to track the whales’** movements. And then issue a bond against it. A company could **buy that bond** and instead of an interest on the investment, they’d get a **carbon credit**.”³⁹ Potential buyers of whale offsets and blue bonds include corporations such as Apple, Amazon, Disney, Patagonia, Microsoft and Walmart.⁴⁰ Whale offsets may eventually be used to greenwash devastating **Deep Sea Mining**.

Polluters must not use whales as a “tool” to absorb their pollution.
- UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples Francisco Calí Tzay



Panganga Pungowiyi

Panganga Pungowiyi of Alaska, an expert with Indigenous Environmental Network, explained that “**whales are sacred relatives, not sponges for corporate pollution**. We defend whales and our territories from the **land grabs** and **ocean grabs** of the International Monetary Fund, the so-called **Blue Economy** and **carbon colonialism**. We know that the commodification of any Life form truly means we are **commodifying all life forms**. We are not separate. We are connected. When the whales die, we die. These **offsets violate our sacred relationship** with whales just as **forest offsets violate our sacred relationships with our forests**. Keep in mind that for-profit companies are still permitted to **mine and drill on offset lands and waters**.”⁴¹

¹ Greenox. Jaguar REDD Project. <https://greenox.com/the-jaguar.html>

² Greenox. Jaguar Biodiversity Project. <https://greenox.com/biodiversity-the-jaguar.html>

³ Datos Perú. INVERSIONES FORESTALES CHULLACHAQUI SOCIEDAD ANONIMA CERRADA-INFORC S.A.C INFORC S.A.C. | SECTOR ECONÓMICO DE DESEMPEÑO SILVICULTURA Y EXTRACCION DE MADERA.

https://www.datosperu.org/empresa-inversiones-forestales-chullachaqui-sociedad-anonima-cerrada-inforc-sac-20527047669.php#google_vignette

⁴ Dun & Bradstreet. FORESTAL OTORONGO S.A.C. https://www.dnb.com/business-directory/company-profiles/forestal_otorongo_sac.8fd7a7e93d305321373bba24f2a308.html

"Doing Business As: FORESTAL RIO PIEDRAS SAC Company Description: Key Principal: VITTORIO DE DEA PEÑA [See more contacts](#)

Industry: [Sawmills and Wood Preservation](#), [Wood Product Manufacturing](#), [Manufacturing](#), Sawmills and planing mills, general"

⁵ International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes. Project: The Jaguar Amazon REDD Project.

<https://www.reddprojectsdatabase.org/view/project.php?id=854>

"Project description: The project is based on the sustainable forest management of certified wood from the consolidated 'Inversiones Forestales Chullachaqui SAC' and 'Forestal Otorongo SAC' in the Province of Tahuamanu, department of Madre de Dios in southeast"

⁶ Greenox. REDD Projects Musts. <https://greenox.com/redd-project-musts-the-jaguar.html>

⁷ Quantum Commodity Intelligence. "World's fifth largest REDD project CCB verification". April 13, 2023.

<https://www.qcintel.com/carbon/article/world-s-fifth-largest-redd-project-obtains-ccb-verification-13106.html>

"The Jaguar Amazon REDD+ project (VCS2278), based in Peru, was verified under the CCB Gold distinction by Spain-based Aenor..."

⁸ [International Fund for Animal Welfare | IFAW](#) <https://www.ifaw.org> > animals > jaguars

The biggest threat to jaguar populations comes from the rapid loss of their habitat, primarily through deforestation.

⁹ CLIMATE OPIUM. 2024. <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/new-book-climate-opium-how-we-are-overdosing-on-false-solutions-to-the-climate-emergency>

David Hill. "The IUCN shouldn't be 'offsetting' via a project mired in indigenous rights scandal". January 27, 2022.

<https://hilldavid.substack.com/p/the-iucn-must-find-much-better-ways>

¹⁰ WWF. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/fall-2024/articles/madre-de-dios>

¹¹ David Hill. "The IUCN shouldn't be 'offsetting' via a project mired in indigenous rights scandal". January 27, 2022.

<https://hilldavid.substack.com/p/the-iucn-must-find-much-better-ways>

¹² Lion Recovery Fund. "Unlocking carbon finance for protected area management".

<https://www.lionrecoveryfund.org/project/unlocking-carbon-finance-for-protected-area-management/>

¹³ Lion Landscapes. Lion Carbon. <https://www.lionlandscapes.org/lioncarbon>

¹⁴ BCP- Higher Purpose. Video. <https://www.lionlandscapes.org/lioncarbon>

¹⁵ BP. Our Carbon Project Portfolio. Forest management, Zambia, 2020. https://www.bp.com/en_gb/target-neutral/home/our-carbon-offset-project-portfolio/previous-portfolios-projects/forest-management-zambia.html

"Supplier/Developer: BioCarbon"

¹⁶ Multinational Monitor. "BP: Legacy of Apartheid, Pollution and Exploitation". 1992. https://www.multinationalmonitor.org/hyper/issues/1992/11/mml192_11.html

¹⁷ Eni. "Eni and Zambian REDD+ project". March 3, 2020. <https://www.eni.com/en-IT/media/news/2020/03/eni-zambian-redd.html>

BioCarbon. Partners. <https://biocarbonpartners.com/about/partners/>

¹⁸ Al Monitor. Marc Espanol. "Italy's ENI to tap North African gas for Europe". April 27, 2022.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/italys-eni-tap-north-african-gas-europe>

¹⁹ Equilibrium Research. S. Stolton and N. Dudley. N. 2019. "The New Lion Economy - Unlocking the value of lions and their landscapes". 2019.

https://assets.takeshape.io/eec0d9cd-dc81-4ba8-ac20-50dal47f43d2/dev/f85e4e35-7c08-4346-b246-4abc04a14f23/THE_NEW_LION_ECONOMY_WEB.pdf

²⁰ UK Research and Innovation. International day of forests. <https://www.ukri.org/news-and-events/responding-to-climate-change/topical-stories/international-day-of-forests/>

²¹ Equilibrium Research. S. Stolton and N. Dudley. N. 2019. "The New Lion Economy- Unlocking the value of lions and their landscapes". 2019.

https://assets.takeshape.io/eec0d9cd-dc81-4ba8-ac20-50dal47f43d2/dev/f85e4e35-7c08-4346-b246-4abc04a14f23/THE_NEW_LION_ECONOMY_WEB.pdf

²² Lion Landscapes. Lion Carbon. <https://www.lionlandscapes.org/lioncarbon>

"Lion Carbon Funding - Community and government agreements and the mechanisms to manage all REDD+ forest carbon operations have already been developed by the BCP team through a US\$14 million USAID Community Forests Program grant given in 2014. This includes the verification and sale of REDD+ forest carbon offsets and mechanisms for the distribution of income from these sales to local communities."

²³ The Walt Disney 2019 Corporate Social Responsibility Update. Letter from our Executive Chairman.

<https://impact.disney.com/app/uploads/2022/01/CSR2019Report.pdf>

"For example, in 2019, in honor of Disney's *The Lion King*, we launched the "Protect the Pride" global conservation campaign focused on protecting and revitalizing the lion population across Africa by raising awareness and contributing \$3 million to the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund."

The Lion Recovery Fund funds the lion carbon work of BioCarbon Partners and Lion Landscapes

See Joint CITES/CMS/IUCN Lion Web Portal. Lion Projects. <https://www.cms.int/lions/en/page/lion-projects>

²⁴ Lion Landscapes. Lion Carbon. <https://www.lionlandscapes.org/lioncarbon>

²⁵ BioCarbon. Partners. <https://biocarbonpartners.com/about/partners/>

²⁶ Lion Landscapes. Sponsors. <https://www.lionlandscapes.org/sponsors>

²⁷ African Wildlife Foundation. Sylvia Wasige. "Supporting wildlife species in the face of climate change". No date.

<https://www.awf.org/blog/supporting-wildlife-species-face-climate-change>

²⁸ Earth.org. Conservation Lower Zambezi. "Approved Mine in Lower Zambezi National Park Threatens Africa's Most Important River Basin". September 23, 2021.

<https://earth.org/approved-mine-in-lower-zambezi-national-park-threatens-africas-most-important-river-basin/>

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Lion Recovery Fund. Threats to Lions. <https://www.lionrecoveryfund.org/threats-to-lions/>

"Other threats. A range of other threats affect lions and their prey in some places, including: mining in wildlife areas, illegal logging, poorly regulated trophy hunting, and disease". [Accessed May 20, 2022]

³¹ Koobi Carbon. Elephant Carbon. <https://koobicarbon.com/project-portfolio/elephant-carbon/>

³² CLIMATE OPIUM. 2024. <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/new-book-climate-opium-how-we-are-overdosing-on-false-solutions-to-the-climate-emergency>

³³ SAVE THE WHALES... from the carbon market! <https://globaljusticeecology.org/whale-offsets/>

³⁴ Ibid. International Monetary Fund. Nature's Solution to Climate Change. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2019/12/natures-solution-to-climate-change-chami>

³⁵ Whale Seeker. The Whale Carbon Plus Project. July 19, 2021.

<https://www.whaleseeker.com/post/the-whale-carbon-plus-project>

<https://www.pr.com/press-release/862741>

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Whale Carbon Plus Project in Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/whalecarbonplusproject/> Accessed 2021.

Financial Times. Anjana Ahuja "Turning whales into carbon-based assets won't be easy". May 3, 2023.

<https://www.ft.com/content/b8ec1997-67d0-42a7-a7bb-ff8e2dd02a90>

Scientific American. Can putting a price on whales save the environment?

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-putting-a-price-on-a-whale-save-the-environment/>

³⁶ WWF. Bowhead Whale Sanctuary created in Nunavut.

https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?200410/Bowhead-whale-sanctuary-created-in-Nunavut

³⁷ BAFFINLAND TO MONITOR AND PROTECT WHALES IN INNOVATIVE NEW CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT. 2022.

<https://www.baffinland.com/about-us/our-blogs/2022/baffinland-to-monitor-and-protect-whales-in-innovative-new-carbon-capture-project>

"In keeping with our core value of Environmental Stewardship, Baffinland is partnering with Whale Seeker, a Canadian company that uses aerial surveillance, satellite technology and ethical AI to monitor whales, with the goal of creating a market-ready whale carbon credit system."

The Whale Carbon Plus Project. July 19, 2021. <https://www.whaleseeker.com/post/the-whale-carbon-plus-project> Accessed 2021.

³⁸ Al Jazeera. "Inuit voices grow louder in fight over Nunavut mine expansion". 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/27/inuit-voices-grow-louder-in-fight-over-nunavut-mine-expansion-canada>

Iron mine threatens Beluga around Baffin Island. 2015. <https://www.grida.no/resources/7642>

³⁹ Finshots. "Whales! A climate solution no one is talking about". May 5, 2023. <https://finshots.in/archive/whales-a-climate-solution-no-one-is-talking-about/>

⁴⁰ Conservation International. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025.

⁴¹ CLIMATE OPIUM. 2024. <https://www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin-articles/new-book-climate-opium-how-we-are-overdosing-on-false-solutions-to-the-climate-emergency>