

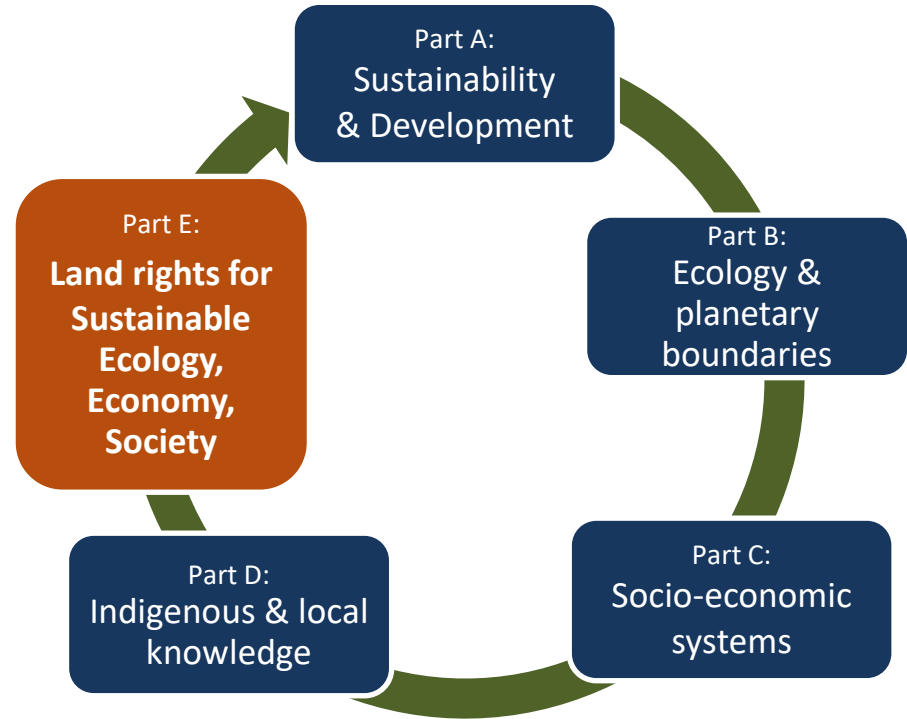
Land Rights & Sustainability

PPT 6-E

Linked to Readings E-12, E-13, E-14

In this last Part:

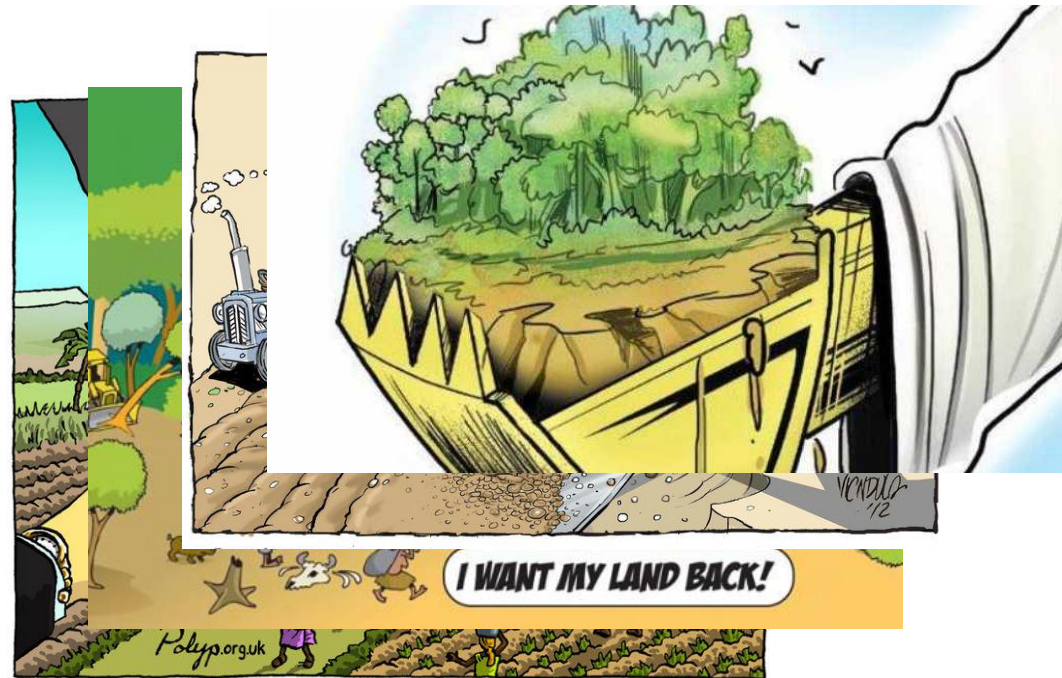
- Land grabbing - examples
- Types of land tenure
- Sustainable property rights regimes
- Solutions & alternatives for true sustainable “development”



Land Issues

Land, water bodies, natural components are all, and increasingly, at the mercy of **human use and exploitation**. A constantly **accelerating and frantic race to grab** all possible resources from “the land” is occurring worldwide.

Refer to PPT 4C, min.
10-15,
for intro to and
definition of
“Land grabbing”



- *How is land grabbing occurring?*
- *What are some consequences of land grabbing?*

Land grabbing



Watch: [Land Grabbing - The Movie - Trailer](#)

Snapshots from the movie



- *Is land grabbing new?*

It isn't new...

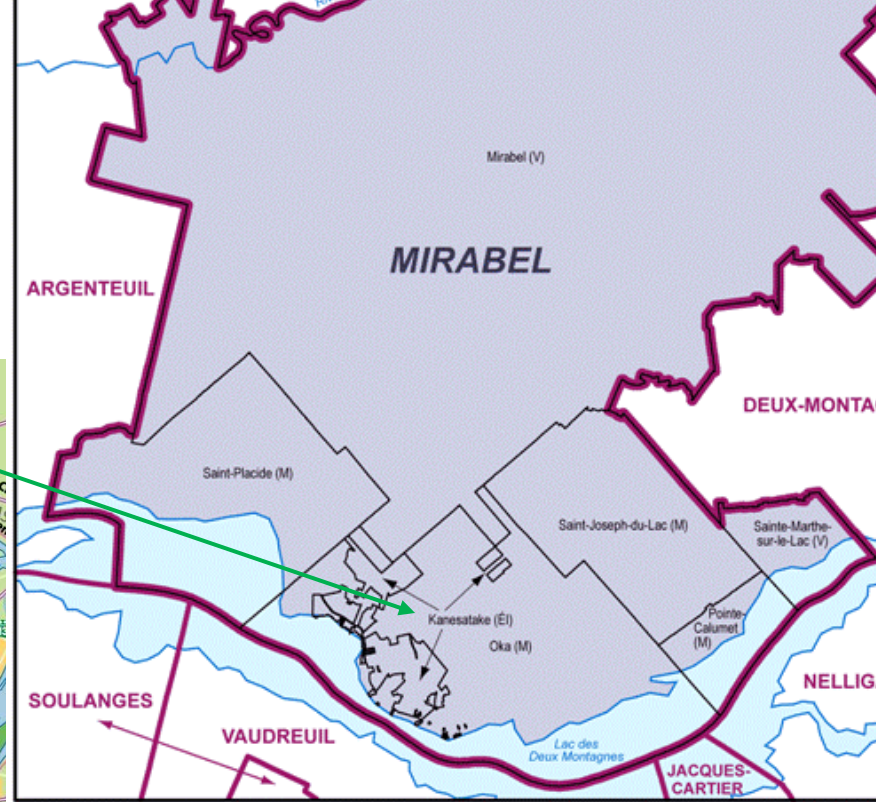
- *How is it different from invasions, empire expansion, and from colonialism?*

It is different by its speed, by its extent, by the number of displaced people, by its often-irreversible damage to ecosystems.

- *Where is it happening?*

Nearly everywhere, including right here...

The “Oka Crisis” in 1990 In Kanehsatà:ke, regarding Oka’s golf course



FYI NFB documentary:
[“Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance”](#)
Brief historical background: min. 27-37
Watch min. 0-4

Recently in Canada...

The **Wet'suwet'en** conflict in Feb. 2020

British Columbia



SOURCE: MAPBOX; OPENSTREEMAP

[Source](#)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watch [Global News](#)
[Feb 7, 2020](#) (2 min.)

Watch [Invasion](#) at least from min. 11:00
to 12:30 (or watch the whole 18 min. if you
have time).
Check to the irony about **“water”** at min. 12:00.



FYI from indigenous voices:

[The Wet'suwet'en Fight Against New Pipeline Spreads Across Canada with Blockades & Occupations](#)
(15 min.)

[Wet'suwet'en Chief Woos and other hereditary chiefs come to Kahnawake](#) (3 min.)

Also in Europe...

In this case, a wealth returning Romanian citizen buys off land from less wealthy farmers, destroying livelihoods and century-old traditions.

FYI [Land grabbing in Romania](#) (25 min.)



Here, a distressed debt fund pressures farmers to sell off their land.

FYI [Vulture funds renew efforts to take possession of indebted farms](#) (article)

"... marked increase in attempted **forced sales** by the vulture funds over the last two months."

Watch [David Norris warns Seanad of vulture fund evictions](#) (2 min.)

- *What is Norris upset about?*

Land Grab worldwide

Figure 1



Figure 1. Distorted world map according to the relative amount of land grabs in each country. In other words, the area of each country was rescaled in proportion to the amount of land that has been acquired by foreign investors after 2006. The colors in the cartogram are only used to distinguish different countries.

Source: [Farmland Grab](#) (2012)

farmlandgrab.org

the global rush for farmland and peoples' struggles against it



Types of land tenure

Changes through time

Before the emergence of early civilizations and cities, all properties (land and others) were managed as **Commons** by local inhabitants.

- The natural environment and its resources were managed with care; a question of survival.
- Clear rules and principles were set to assure long term land use.
- Responsibilities and resources were shared.
- The welfare of the community and its members was at the center of property use systems.

With the emerged early civilizations and cities comes hierarchical systems with the rich and powerful at the very top. **Land privatization** is born. Specific parcels of land start to belong to individuals, small groups of people and to various levels of governing bodies.

- The property owner make all the decisions on the use of their property and resources.
- The owners impose rules of use to those below them.
- The owners assure their own personal benefits, usually disregarding those of others.

With colonization and later on with the industrial revolution, a new entity starts owning land and resources: **Companies** and **Corporations**.

- The owners have one aim: profit maximization.
- Ecology and human welfare is insignificant.

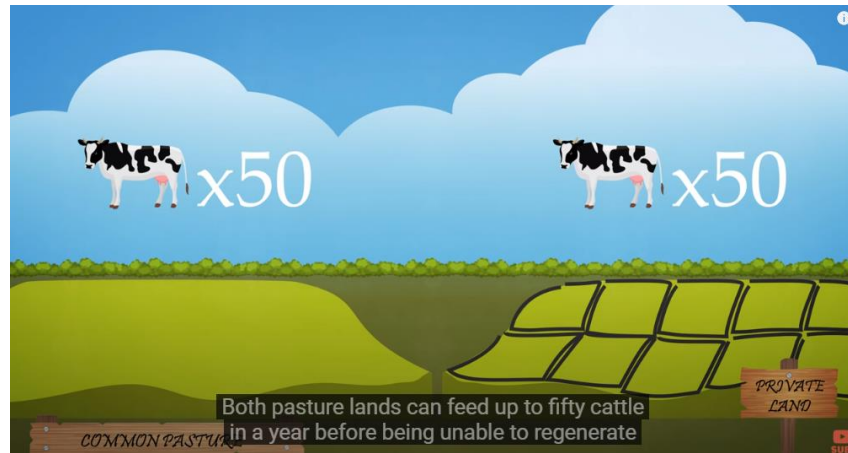
- *Do you know what the oldest company in Canada is?*
- *What makes it hard for local populations to resist land grabs?*



Land privatization

- *Is privatization the answer for sustainable resource management?*
- *What does Garret Harding think?*

Watch [The Tragedy of the Commons: How to Avoid It?](#) (min. 0 to 6:00)



- *What happened over time (past 2 centuries)?*
- *What “new” mindset and values have threatened the success of communal land tenure?*
- *Could it have to do with the gradual switch from... to...?*



Harding's theory was used to accuse Indigenous peoples of environmental destruction.

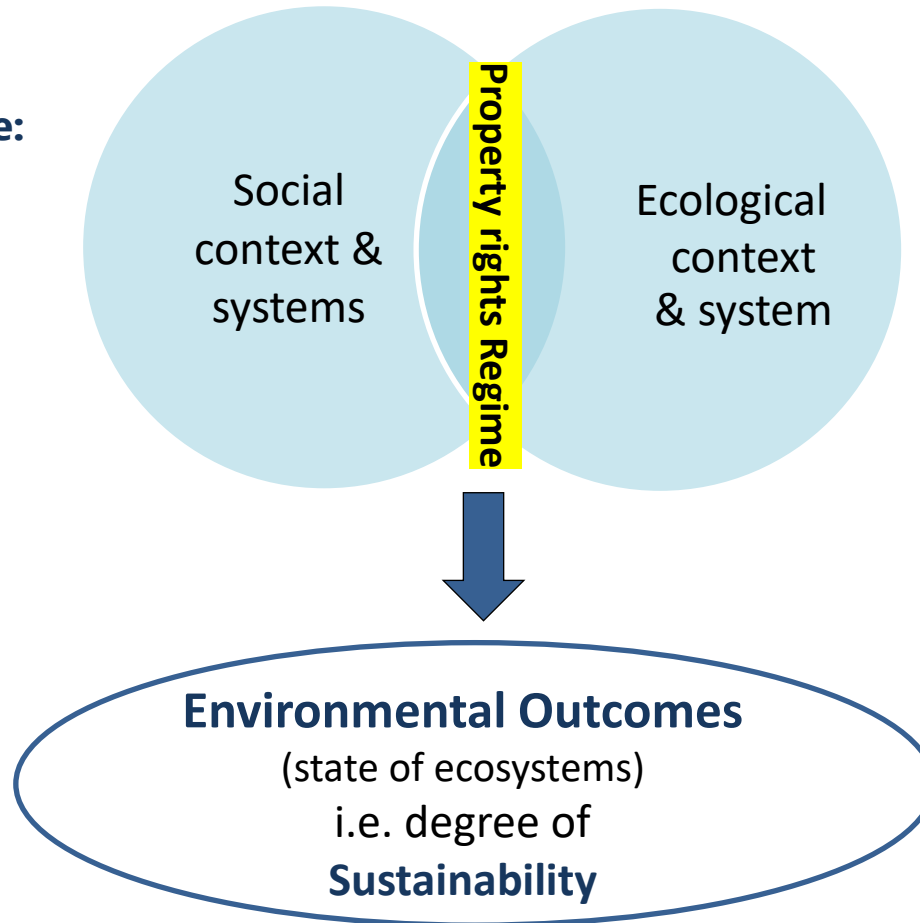
- *What is your opinion on this claim?*

Sustainable Property Rights Regimes

- *How are land tenure and regimes connected to sustainability?*

Social context include:

- Governance
- Cultural aspects
- Economic situation
- Level of empowerment
- Wealth Distribution
- Social linkages



Ecology context includes:

- Biome characteristics
- Biodiversity
- Ecosystem limitation
- Renewability of resources
- Land carrying capacity

- *Can you come up with specific **conditions** for above contexts, in order to generate **positive** environmental outcomes?*

- *Can community land tenure and regimes foster sustainability?*

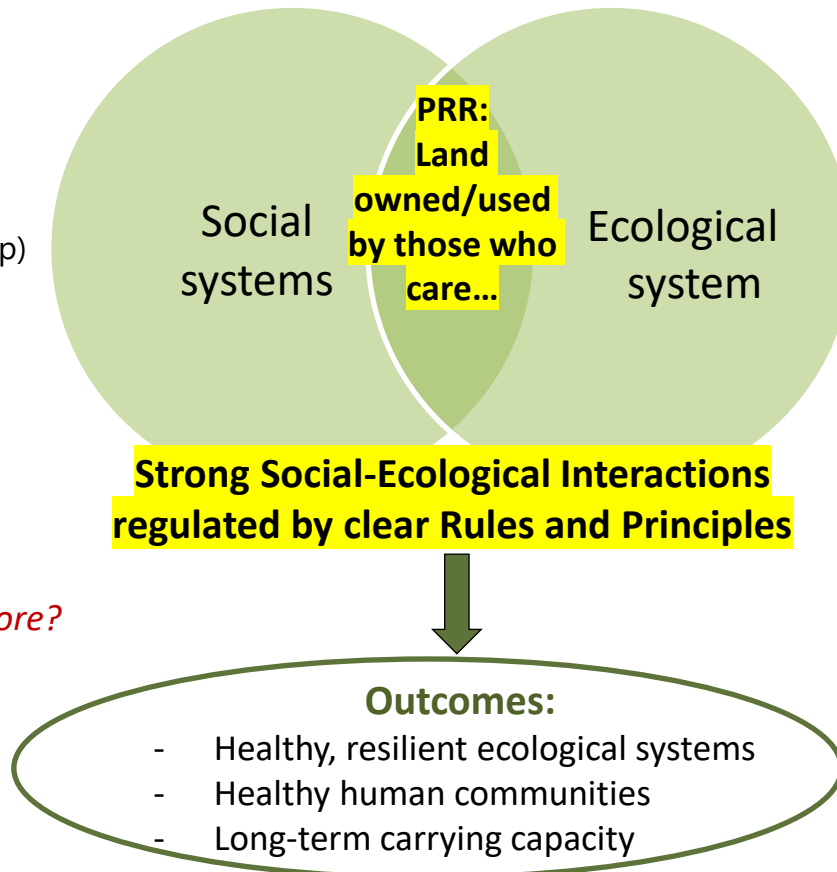
YES, under a number of conditions:

- **local context** considered & respected: NO one-size-fits-all.
- Empowerment at the local level
- Linkages made between all levels, including “lowest level”: e.g. household level

Healthy Social system includes:

- Equity and empowerment
- Involvement in decision making
- Involvement from various levels of society (bottom, top)
- Incentives for community members
- Strong linkages between parties
- Cooperation
- Stewardship practices
- Social adaptation & mitigation mechanism

- *Can you come up with more?*



Healthy Ecology system includes:

- Knowledge of local ecology
- Understanding of biome characteristics & systems
- Respect of ecosystem boundaries
- Responsible land use
- Nature conservation
- Consideration of ecosystem feedback
- Adaptation to ecosystem characteristics and changes

- *Can you come up with more?*

- *Do you recognize a pattern that we have previously seen?*
- *What does it take to achieve this nowadays?*

Solutions & alternatives for true sustainable “development”

Top-down solutions

The case of **Cambodia**

Refer to PPT 4C,
min. 10-15,
concerning
Cambodia



[Source](#)



- *What does the ICC have to do with land grab and the environment?*

The ICC (International Criminal Court) is normally about...

Yet, the case of land grab in Cambodia is being treated as a crime against humanity.

- *How come?*
- *Why is it a novelty?*
- *What is the outcome?*



“It is especially thanks to British lawyer **Richard Rogers** that the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced in September that [environmental destruction will be considered a crime against humanity](#). It is thanks to him that the case of [land grabs](#) (land concessions granted, often illegally, to foreign investors) in Cambodia was submitted to prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda](#), leading her to change her case selection policy to incorporate environmental destruction.”

[Source](#) (2017)

Grassroots solutions

Watch [The Tragedy of the Commons: How to Avoid It?](#) (min. 6 to 8)

La Via Campesina

- *What is it?*
- *What does it do?*
- *Where does it act?*

"... la Via Campesina , the international peasant movement. In this video, men and women, leaders of La Via Campesina member organizations in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe share their struggles and fight for food sovereignty, social and climate justice."



FYI: [Envisioning a Post-Pandemic Agriculture and Food System | a note from Canada](#) (article from LVC, Nov. 2020)

"A sustainable and just food system for Canada as proposed by the National Farmers Union will mitigate and prevent multiple cascading crises and provide the foundation of a good life."

"Our post-pandemic food system will stand upon the three pillars of sustainability: ecological health, social justice and economic viability." (para. 5)

"Our food system will broaden rural prosperity by embodying gender equity, anti-racism and decolonization." (para. 6)

Our new food system will require a network of formal and informal institutions based on food sovereignty and agroecology. Food sovereignty, the powerful concept developed by *La Via Campesina* in the mid-1990s, is about empowering farmers and eaters to define their own systems to produce healthy and culturally appropriate food for people through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. (para. 7)

- Are you familiar with some of these key concepts & ideas ?

The Greenbelt Movement

In Kenya, where famous **Wangari Maathai** fought for the land to remain in people's hands.



- *What is it?*
- *What does it do?*
- *Since when?*

Watch: [Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai trailer](#) (2009)
[Tribute to Wangari Maathai \(1940-2011\)](#) (7 min.)

“But it is a little more than just the planting of the trees...” says Maathai.

- *Maathai made the connection between what and what?*
- *Who was/is the “land grabber” in this case?*
- *Who do you recognize some personalities among those giving tribute to Maathai?*

Experiencing a community initiative in Belize, 2015

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Baboon Sanctuary assists landowners and community groups in developing alternative livelihood projects that generate income for its citizens, yet limit negative environmental impacts. Such projects include organic farming and gardening, cohune oil processing, jam-making and sewing.



Howler monkey




... and hosting



**Community Baboon Sanctuary
Women's Conservation Group**

In 1998, the **Women's Conservation Group (WCG)** became the managing entity of the Community Baboon Sanctuary. A female representative is elected from each of the seven villages located within the Sanctuary. The mission of the WCG is to:

"...conserve the natural resources of the Community Baboon Sanctuary through education, eco-cultural tourism, scientific research, and promotion of cottage industries for the socio-economic benefit of the communities and ecological integrity of the Belize River Valley area."



Learning from the Maya in **Belize**, Student fieldtrips, 2016 & 2018

For more, visit [THE TROPICS COURSE](#)



Local initiatives for community-ecology wellbeing

Watch [The Indonesians turning dirty waterways into clean fish farms](#) (2 min.)

“A group of villagers comes up with sustainable plan to stop people from polluting their water channels - and it worked.”



- *What is the land tenure system? How does it work?*
- *Is it costly?*
- *Who does it empower?*
- *What are some socio-economic benefits?*

Fruits of shared labour (Article, Oct. 2020)

“Rural women in Tamil Nadu are mostly excluded from land ownership, but collective farms can offer self-sufficiency”

“The small, informal farming groups that Poongani and Adhiamal belong to are facilitated by the Women’s Collective, a grassroots nonprofit in Tamil Nadu. The organisation encourages poor women, who neither own land nor are able to lease land on their own, to pull together and lease land collectively to grow food.”



In all the above cases, in the light of reading E-12 and slide 11, try to answer these questions:

- *How would you describe the various land/property tenure systems?*
- *Can you identify some Social contexts and Ecological contexts?*
- *What regime/rules do you think are required for these project to be successful?*
- *What kind of the incentives promotes engagement?*

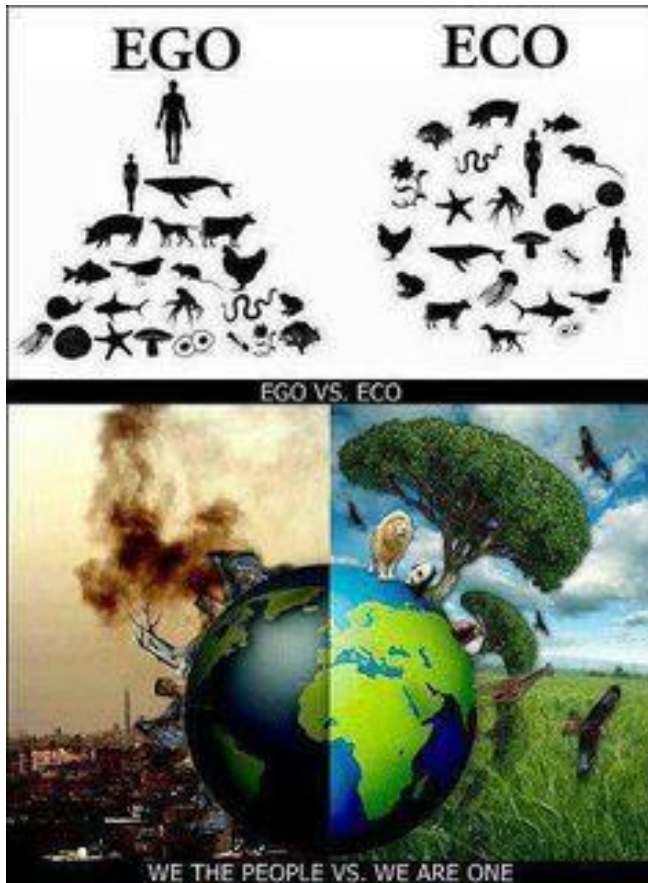
In sum...

- *What would you respond to Garrett’s claim that “Freedom in a commons brings ruin to all” and that only privatization of the land is sustainable?*

In conclusion...

If **sustainability** is the ultimate goal of “**development**”, then...
yours to complete, dear students!

Back to **Worldviews**: yours to choose...



- *Do the words ... mean something different to you as we conclude this course?*
- *Is your life toolbox more equipped with solutions than before?*

If so, congratulations!

You have successfully achieved the ultimate goal of the Global Challenge course!