

# Uttarachal Pradesh, Upper Tehri

*CARBON CREDITS FOR DESTROYING  
SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY*













A mountain  
livelihood  
dependent on a  
home-grown  
irrigation  
system . . .









. . . Using porous rock dams to divert water gently into larger channels while letting silt through . . .





Feeding  
downhill  
into

. . .





. . . smaller  
channels  
feeding  
rice/wheat  
terraces  
that then  
discharge  
back into  
the river.





But such well-established, sustainable low-carbon systems are now being wrecked by “small” hydropower systems governed by the incompatible technical imperatives of electricity production (and which are applying for carbon finance).





The likely (and ironic) effect: loss of livelihood, migration, loss of knowledge of how to live low-carbon lives . . .

# Maharashtra, Satara District

*CARBON CREDITS FOR BIG BUSINESS  
DISPLACING LOCAL VILLAGERS*



# *Windmill Project*

- The government leased land for a demonstration project in 1996, later buying it from villagers at a cheap price. Four 3.75 MW windmills were set up. Private companies like Suzlon were later invited to invest in windmills in the area.
- Suzlon purchased land from villages within a 20 km radius to expand the project. It has invested Rs. 400 billion in about 1000 windmills
- Other companies like Bajaj Auto, Tata, Star and Sarita Chemicals then invest in the Suzlon windmills.
- The companies sell electricity to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board at Rs.3.16 per unit, at the same time that they consume electricity at a concessional rate of Rs.1.20 per unit.





- The company acquired the land cheaply, having told villagers that they would get employment. But employment has turned out to be contract or daily labor only.
- Grazing – the major previous land use – is now banned on the land occupied by windmills,
- Many villages are still without roads except roads that serve the windmills. Vankuswade village has no public transportation, and children walk 14 km to school. Villagers are not supplied with electricity from the windmills.
- Wildlife previously inhabiting the area (altitude 2500 feet), including panthers, bears, snakes, deer and bison, has disappeared after the trees were cut.

- When windmill blades stop rotating due to lack of wind, they are rotated by electric power from the Maharashtra Electricity Board.
- A local dam (also applying for CDM credits) produces electricity that helps rotate the windmill blades when necessary. The dam displaced nine villages.
- Although the windmills receive government subsidies, many windmills are not working properly.



- Bharat Forge Ltd., the largest exporter of auto components from India, has invested in 4.2 MW of wind energy capacity.
- The company used its political and administrative connections to acquire land. People who lost out in Kadve Kurd village began protesting in 2001, and a court case is ongoing.
- The company has fought back by framing villagers for theft of equipment.





- Suzlon tried to force Shivram Ahare to sell his land to the project for Rs. 50,000. Later it made death threats, compelling him to leave his village for two months. Only the intervention of a Maharashtra state minister took the pressure off Ahare.
- The company has also tried to derail Ahare's attempts to use the courts to hold on to his land. One court declared Shivram's documents outdated. Company agents burned village records Ahare was using as evidence of possession.



Rajasthan,  
near Ranthambore

*CARBON CREDITS FOR SPECULATIVE  
FIREWOOD SAVINGS IN A DESERT*





# Uganda, Mount Elgon

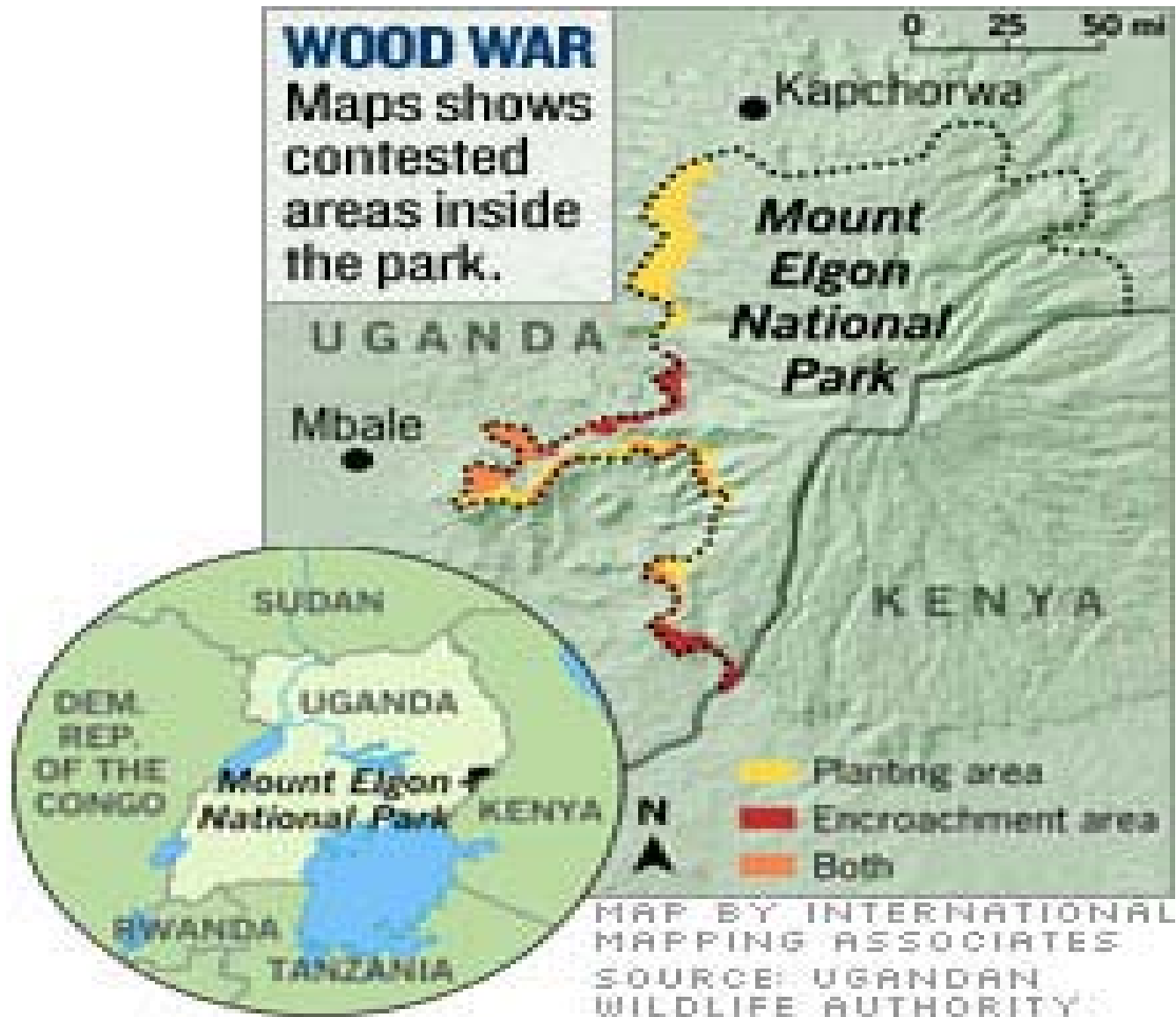
*CARBON CREDITS FOR  
“CONSERVATIONIST” ENCROACHMENT  
ON LOCAL LIVELIHOODS*





## WOOD WAR

Maps shows  
contested  
areas inside  
the park.





In 1993 the Ugandan government declared Mount Elgon a national park and forcibly evicted indigenous people. In 2002, rangers evicted another 300 families. The Benet people are suing for the return of their land.





Villagers stand amid corn planted on what the government says is national park, but which they claim has belonged to them for generations. To plant the corn, the villagers chopped down trees planted by the Dutch FACE Foundation as part of a carbon trading project.



A tree planted by the FACE Foundation. The land behind it up to the tree line recently held planted trees, but has been cleared for planting by villagers who say the land belongs to them.





Ezera Wandeka, 72, was one of the richest farmers in one village on the border of Mount Elgon National Park until his fields were declared to be illegally inside the park, and he was evicted.



Wandeka kept the title to his land after rangers set fire to his home and evicted him and other farmers.



What people in the Uganda forest department said

“We just have to admit that we know nothing about the trade in CO<sub>2</sub>, neither how it will function nor how much the foreign investor will profit from it.”