

# MEMORY, RIGHTS, AND RESISTANCE:

A People's History of Mindanao,  
A Climate Justice Story

Across Mindanao, Lumad and Moro communities confront the intertwined crises of **climate injustice, militarization, land grabbing, displacement, and erasure**. These are not separate issues—they are the everyday impacts of a development model that treats land as commodity, forests as extractive frontiers, and Indigenous peoples as obstacles to profit.

This exhibit brings together four case narratives—**Lumad Schools, the Talaingod 13, Bukidnon, and Marawi**—to show how climate justice is inseparable from human rights, education, and ancestral land.

## LUMAD SCHOOLS: EDUCATION FOR CLIMATE, LAND, AND LIFE

### Lumad schools were built to teach more than literacy.

They teach:



Sustainable agriculture



Forest and watershed care



Community-based disaster resilience



Indigenous ecological knowledge rooted  
in generations of stewardship

These schools are climate justice in action: communities teaching their children how to live with the land, not extract from it.

Yet more than **200 Lumad schools have been shut down**, their teachers harassed or killed, and students displaced. The destruction of schools is not just an attack on education—it is an attack on a climate-resilient future led by Indigenous youth.

**Still, Lumad communities continue to teach, learn, and defend life.**

# THE TALAINGOD 13:

## WHEN CARE BECOMES A CRIME

**In 2018, thirteen educators and advocates protected Lumad students from violence during a military operation.**

Instead of being recognized for saving lives, they were arrested.

In **2024**, they were **convicted** of child abuse—a landmark case of **lawfare** where teaching, protecting, and caring for children are treated as crimes.

Their struggle shows how climate justice defenders—those who protect land, forests, and communities—are criminalized. The Talaingod 13 remind us that:



To teach under fire is to resist.



To defend education is to defend life.

# BUKIDNON:

## WATERSHEDS, LAND GRABS, AND CLIMATE INJUSTICE

**Bukidnon is the watershed heart of Mindanao, source of the Pulangi, Tagoloan, Cagayan, and six major rivers. These waters sustain millions.**

Indigenous communities—Talaandig, Higaonon, Umayamnon, Manobo—have protected these forests and watersheds for centuries. They are frontline climate advocates long before the term existed.

But across Bukidnon, climate-washing and land grabbing threaten their survival:

**01**

In **Kiantig**, 1,490 Manobo–Pulangiyan families were violently evicted to make way for agribusiness–linked land claims.

**02**

In **Sinandigan**, a 5,000–ha “watershed project” was imposed without FPIC, restricting food security and livelihoods.

**03**

In **Gabonan, Talaandig** communities face armed encroachment despite recognized ancestral rights.

**04**

In **Amai Manabilang**, a bamboo carbon–offset scheme—framed as “reforestation”—destroyed farms and displaced families.

These cases expose how green projects, carbon schemes, and “conservation zones” can become new vehicles for dispossession—undermining real climate solutions rooted in Indigenous sovereignty.

**Across Bukidnon, communities rise to defend land, watersheds, memory, and life.**

# MARAWI:

## DISPLACEMENT, MEMORY, AND CLIMATE VULNERABILITY



### Eight years after the 2017 siege, thousands of Maranao families remain displaced.

Loss of homes, mosques, archives, heritage, and livelihoods intensifies climate vulnerability—communities pushed into overcrowded, flood-prone sites with limited access to basic services.

Marawi's unfulfilled promises of return and reparations highlight a broader injustice: climate disasters and conflict-related displacement hit hardest those with the least power, yet communities lead the most enduring efforts to rebuild.

**Marawi teaches us that justice, cultural memory, and the right to return are central to climate resilience.**

## A COMMON THREAD:

### CLIMATE JUSTICE IS PEOPLE'S JUSTICE

### The four panels reveal a shared struggle



Indigenous ecological knowledge destroyed (Lumad Schools)



Environmental defenders criminalized (Talaingod 13)



Land and watersheds seized through greenwashing (Bukidnon)



Communities displaced and vulnerable to climate risks (Marawi)

### These are climate justice issues.

Climate justice is not only about carbon and temperature— it is about **land, memory, culture, education**, and the **right to stay rooted in place**.

It is about who bears the cost of “development,” and who has the power to shape the future.

This exhibit honors communities who resist erasure and continue to defend Mindanao's land, waters, and generations yet to come.

**Memory is resistance.  
Memory is climate justice.  
Memory is where justice begins.**



# CALL TO ACTION

STAND FOR LAND, MEMORY, AND  
CLIMATE JUSTICE

These stories are not only meant to be viewed—they are meant to be answered.

Climate justice begins with solidarity. Here are ways to take action:

## Defend Indigenous Education

Support Lumad schools and community learning spaces that safeguard ecological knowledge, cultural memory, and climate-resilient agriculture. Uphold the right of Indigenous children to learn without fear.

## Resist False Climate Solutions

Reject projects that dispossess communities in the name of “conservation” or carbon offsets. Support community-led watershed protection, food sovereignty, and agroecology.

## Stand With the Talaingod 13

Call for the reversal of their unjust conviction. Protect teachers, community organizers, and environmental defenders who are punished for safeguarding children and land.

## Share, Teach, and Keep Memory Alive

Use your classrooms, networks, and platforms to tell these stories. Memory is a tool of resistance—and a seed for justice.

## Uphold the Right to Return and Reparations in Marawi

Demand genuine reparations, cultural restoration, and accountability. Support Maranao families asserting their right to go home.

## Become an Ally in Action

Join campaigns, research initiatives, solidarity missions, policy advocacy, and community support networks.

## Support the Land Struggles in Bukidnon

Stand with communities resisting land grabs, greenwashing, and militarized development. Climate justice means upholding FPIC, ancestral domain, and Indigenous sovereignty.

## Stand with Lumad and Moro communities.

Defend land, life, and the future.

Climate justice begins from the ground up—and it begins with us.\*\*