



There you go! by Oren Ginzburg

To Violaine, Noa and Eithan



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Foreword

‘There you go!’ is an arrow defending tribal peoples. In my 35 years with Survival, I have not come across anything else that hits the bull’s eye with such simplicity, accuracy and irrepressible humour. Today the subject of tribal peoples and development is saturated with words, but if you really want to understand what’s going on, read this book.

The ‘development’ of tribal peoples against their wishes – really to let others get their land and resources – is rooted in 19th century colonialism (‘we know best’) dressed up in 20th century ‘politically correct’ euphemism. Tribal peoples are not backward: they are independent and vibrant societies which, like all of us always, are constantly adapting to a changing world. The main difference

between tribal peoples and us is that we take their land and resources, and believe the dishonest, even racist, claim that it’s for their own good. It’s conquest, not development.

Survival International helps tribal peoples defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures. We are delighted to have the opportunity to give Oren’s book to tribal communities around the world, as well as to governments and others who should know better and who must stop living in the past.

Stephen Corry
Director, Survival International



Our original aim was the same as usual:





to bring them sustainable development.

However, in this specific case



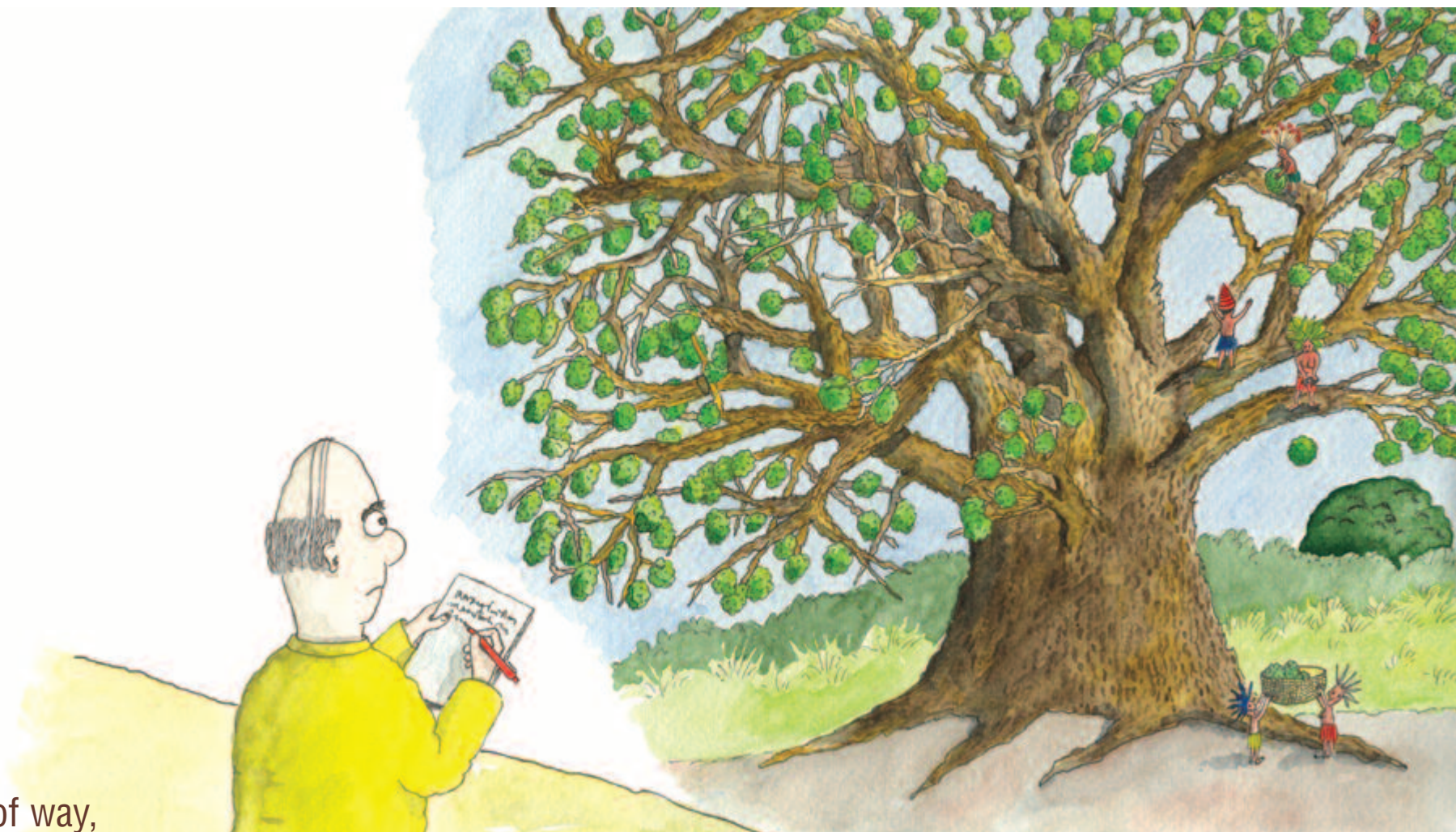
we encountered an unexpected challenge.



It turns out that these people,



in their own strange kind of way,





were already sustainable.

So all we could really bring them was...

Development.





We started with Participatory Community Development...

but they did not fully participate.

We tried income-generating activities... but some people seem satisfied with less than a dollar a day.



We even attempted to empower them... but
their reaction was more powerful than expected.





So we opted for a Multi-Stakeholder
Cross-Disciplinary Integrated approach.

We developed innovative
Private Sector Partnerships.



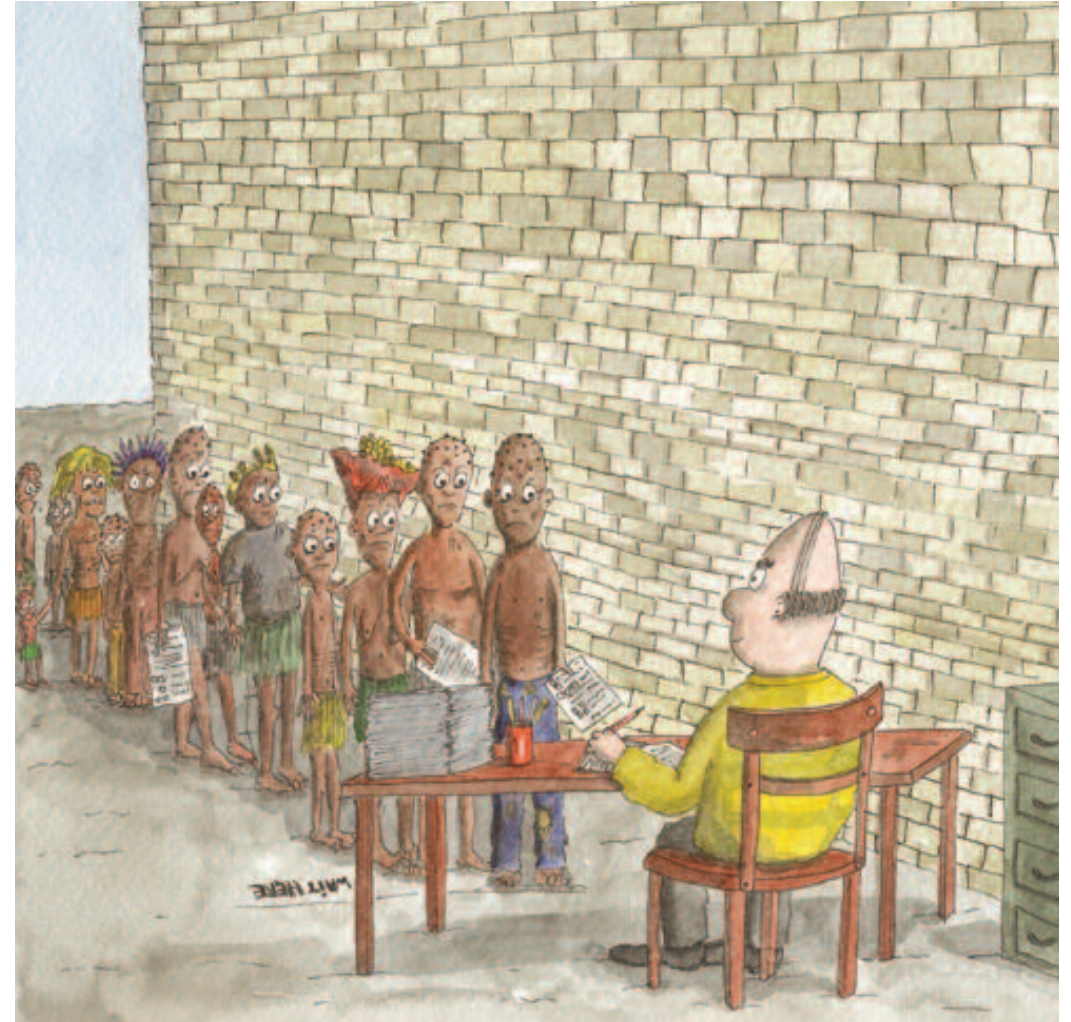


We developed Vocational Skills
adapted to a shifting economy.

We developed tough conservation measures,
to protect the environment from further harm.



And we developed ambitious Social Safety Nets
– for those unable to take care of themselves.



This has been a challenging process
with many lessons learned.



We certainly look forward to applying them elsewhere in the very near future. But for now let us just say,



Welcome to the Global Village!



There you go, again

The destruction of tribal peoples in the name of 'development' – invariably because outsiders want their land and its resources – continues to be the most acute problem they face. It is not confined to poor countries.

In Canada, the Innu Indians of Labrador and Quebec have been settled in communities which are subject to the 'development' depicted in 'There you go!'. The Innu were self-sufficient as recently as the 1960s. Now, very few hunt the caribou or fish the lakes they once depended on. Grossly insensitive schooling, total dependency on welfare programmes and the resulting abject poverty have largely destroyed their way of life and demolished their self-esteem. Domestic violence and the cheapest forms of drug abuse – gas sniffing

and alcoholism – are rife. Some communities have the highest suicide rate in the world and every family knows at least one teenager who has killed him or herself.

Canada says it will negotiate about their land rights, but only once the Indians have abandoned them. It is no accident that Innu territory includes some of the world's richest nickel deposits. The Innu have not given up: they are struggling to fight back, but they face powerful odds and grossly out-of-date prejudice.

Fighting back!

The future for tribal peoples doesn't have to be as depicted in this book.

In the 1970s one of the largest Amazonian tribes, the Yanomami, was threatened by the destruction of its land to make way for Brazil's road programme. Despite the international campaign Survival launched to defend the Indians, about 20% of Yanomami tragically died from diseases brought in by gold miners.

The campaign was victorious in 1992, when all Yanomami land was secured. Although their problems are not over, the Indians now have their own organisation to press for their rights. In some communities, children are learning from their own teachers and in their own schools how to cope with outside threats. The Yanomami remain

true to the best of their traditions. They do not see themselves as poor or backward, and can expect to lead fulfilling lives – as Yanomami – for generations to come.

To read, watch and hear more about tribal peoples and find out how you can help, please visit:

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Praise for *There you go!*

'Oren Ginzburg's little book contains the big message that we must avoid the arrogance of presuming to know what's best for those whose voices are not heard in global debates. It reminds us of our shared responsibility to see to it that all people are active participants in shaping the decisions that impact their lives. Only then can we hope to see real development.'

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

'These are issues that are very close to me, and I hope to have more opportunity to speak around them in months to come.'

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, UK

'*There you go!* should help raise understanding about the complexities and potential pitfalls of offering development assistance, with a particular focus on tribal peoples.'

Tony Blair, former UK Prime Minister

'I enjoyed reading the book and it was wonderfully illustrated. The lives of tribal peoples are important and it is abundantly clear why you wish to share this.'

Stevan Pearce, US Congressman

'I was very impressed by the book's message, and the simplicity with which complex issues were illustrated.'

Terence Gomez, Research Co-ordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

