

# Ayoreo-Totobiegosode

## WHERE

DO THEY LIVE?



The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode Indians live in the Chaco, a vast expanse of dense, scrubby forest stretching from Paraguay to Bolivia and Argentina. Their territory has been bought by land speculators and ranchers and is now being rapidly cleared.

## WHO

ARE THEY?

The Totobiegosode ('people from the wild pig place') are the most isolated group of the Ayoreo tribe. Since 1969 many have been forced out of the forest, but many others still avoid contact with outsiders.

The Totobiegosode live in small communities. They grow squashes, beans and melons in the sandy soil, collect wild honey and hunt for large tortoises and wild pig in the forest.

## WHAT

IS THE PROBLEM?

The Totobiegosode's land is now almost entirely in private hands. The Indians are claiming title to just a fraction of their territory. They need it to protect their livelihoods, and to defend their uncontacted relatives living there.

Under Paraguayan law, this claim area should have been titled to the Indians years ago. But the powerful landowners – mostly Brazilian businessmen – have blocked the law at every turn, and have illegally bulldozed some of the forest already. They want to extract the valuable hardwoods, flatten and burn what remains, and then introduce cattle. The isolated Totobiegosode will have nowhere left to hide.

Two private estates in the heart of their territory are crucial to the Totobiegosode's survival. One, owned by a firm called Jaguarete Pora, is intent on clearing most of 'its' forest as soon as possible. The Indians are desperate to protect it.

## HOW

CAN YOU HELP?

Please write to the President of Paraguay urging him to abide by Paraguay's laws and Constitution and title the Ayoreo-Totobiegosode's land to them without delay. Please also write to Sr. Marcelo Bastos Ferraz, representative of the firm Jaguarete Pora, expressing your concern at his company's intention to destroy the Totobiegosode's homeland



Esoi, a Totobiegosode man, back from a hunt



Bulldozers are flattening the forests of the Totobiegosode Indians

and turn it into a cattle ranch. This is a clear violation of both Paraguayan and international law, and will have devastating consequences for the isolated Totobiegosode Indians.

Please send your letter(s) to:

S.E. Dr. Nicanor Duarte Frutos  
(Write: 'Your Excellency')  
Presidente de la República  
del Paraguay  
Paraguayo Independiente c/ Ayolas  
Asunción, Paraguay

F: +595 21 493 910  
E: [secretariadecomunicaciones@presidencia.gov.py](mailto:secretariadecomunicaciones@presidencia.gov.py)

Atn. Sr. Marcelo Bastos Ferraz  
Jaguarete Pora  
Foro Brasil  
Embajada de Brasil  
Calle Coronel Irrazábal  
c/ Elygio Ayala  
Casilla de correo 22  
Asunción, Paraguay

F: +595 21 203 614  
E: [gerencia@forobrasil.com.py](mailto:gerencia@forobrasil.com.py)

For more ways to help, please visit:

[www.survival-international.org/tribes/ayoreo](http://www.survival-international.org/tribes/ayoreo)

## WHY

BOTHER?

International pressure has already resulted in some small parts of the Totobiegosode's territory being returned to them. Paraguay's government is sensitive to international opinion, but the Indians have few friends in the country, while the farming and ranching industry is very powerful.

### THE TOTOBIEGOSODE'S STORY SO FAR:

**1979 >>**

The first large group of Totobiegosode Indians are forced out of the forest. Several die soon after.

**1986 >>**

Another large group are captured and brought out of the forest. Five Indians die as the Totobiegosode violently resist their captors.

**1993 >>**

At the Indians' request, lawyers acting for the Totobiegosode submit a land claim on their behalf.

**2004 >>**

17 Totobiegosode emerge from the forest. Constant invasions of their land have meant they have lived on the run for years.

**2007 >>**

Satellite photos reveal massive illegal forest clearance in the Totobiegosode heartland.

**THEIR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS**



