




# Profit and Loss

## Discussion Guide

- ❖ *"In our culture, food is the center of life, all rituals are developed from food."*  
—Ramu leader, Papua New Guinea
  - What kind of food rituals do you participate in?
  - How can a focus on traditional foods reconnect you to place?
- ❖ Economic development should be locally defined, yet globalization often means that remote indigenous lands are mined for industry and consumers thousands of miles away.
  - What effective strategies can local communities use to defend their rights to determine their own forms of economic development?
  - How can indigenous groups resist and recover from the displacement and environmental degradation that comes with large-scale mining operations?
- ❖ How can non-indigenous citizens and organizations reduce consumerism and encourage corporate responsibility, to help stop land degradation and slow climate change worldwide?
- ❖ Are there places you would be sad to see damaged or destroyed? What does it feel like to be in these places—whether they are "threatened" or already degraded?
- ❖ The people of Papua New Guinea and Alberta are suffering the degradation of air, land, water and health.
  - What feelings did these two stories evoke?
  - Do they trigger insights or emotions about other environmental problems facing the planet?
  - Does talking with friends about your feelings of sadness, and honoring your feelings of grief, help you process difficult emotions and regain a sense of hope and personal power?

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