Human rights, population and climate justice

will overpopulated Global North polluters and carbon markets again oppress the Global South?

Government of the Republic of South Africa and Partners in Population and Development

Pretoria, South Africa
1–2 November 2011
cartoons by Zapiro & others
Durban’s COP 17
28 Nov-9 Dec 2011
International Convention Centre
Ourbar COP17

LEAVE THE OIL IN THE SOIL,
THE COAL IN THE HOLE,
AND TAR SAND IN THE LAND

plus climate debt and socio-economic transformation

solution
US Consulate in Old Mutual Tower

'going away party - for the beach'!

7 July 2010

World Cup 'fanfest' party

December 3 march route: Curries Fountain to beach
last time SA hosted global environment conference: WSSD

World Summit on Sustainable Development
Johannesburg, 31 August 2002: 30,000 protested UN ‘type-two partnerships’, privatisation of water, emissions trading, neoliberalism
A GIFT FROM THE CORPORATE WORLD!

johannesburg World Summit 2002
A TIMETABLE TO REDUCE EMISSIONS?! ..NOT UNTIL THERE'S MORE EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE!
Looks like the debate is really heated in there....!
Copenhagen Accord, COP 15, December 2009

- Jacob Zuma (SA)
- Lula da Silva (Brazil)
- Barack Obama (USA)
- Wen Jiabao (China)
- Manmohan Singh (India)

“they broke the UN!” (Bill McKibbon, 350.org)

non-binding! 4 degree increase!
who owes? who caused climate change?
GHG/capita by country, 1950-2000

Canada
USA
EU
Australia
Russia
who owes in 2000?
GHG/capita by country

Australia
USA
Saudi Arabia
Canada
Kazakhstan
Russia
who loses from climate change?
a ‘Climate Demography Vulnerability Index’

main losers:
Central America, central South America, the Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia and much of Africa

Geographic disparities and moral hazards in the predicted impacts of climate change on human populations

J. Samson¹, D. Berteaux², B. J. McGill¹ and M. M. Humphries¹
The debt of nations and the distribution of ecological impacts from human activities


*Pacific Ecoinformatics and Computational Ecology Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94703; †Energy and Resources Group, 310 Barrows Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3650; ‡Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3116; §American Meteorological Society, 1120 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-3826; and ‖Sea Around Us Project, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z4

As human impacts to the environment accelerate, disparities in the distribution of damages between rich and poor nations mount. Globally, environmental change is dramatically affecting the flow of ecosystem services, but the distribution of ecological damages and their driving forces has not been estimated. Here, we conservatively estimate the environmental costs of human activities over 1961-2000 in six major categories (climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, agricultural intensification and expansion, deforestation, overfishing, and mangrove conversion), quantitatively connecting costs borne by poor, middle-income, and rich nations to specific activities by each of these groups. Adjusting impact valuations for different standards of living across the groups as commonly practiced, we find striking imbalances. Climate change and ozone depletion impacts predicted for low-income nations have been overwhelmingly driven by emissions from the other two groups, a pattern also observed for overfishing damages indirectly driven by the consumption of fishery products. Indeed, through disproportionate emissions of greenhouse gases alone, the rich group may have imposed climate damages on the poor group greater than the latter’s current foreign debt. Our analysis provides prima facie evidence for an uneven distribution pattern of damages across income groups. Moreover, our estimates of each group’s share in various damaging activities are independent from controversies in environmental valuation methods. In a world increasingly connected ecologically and economically, our analysis is thus an early step toward reframing issues of environmental responsibility, development, and globalisation in accordance with ecological costs.
lead US climate negotiator Todd Stern, on demand for recognising climate debt

The sense of guilt or culpability or reparations – I just categorically reject that
is Stern welcome in Durban? WikiLeaks revealed (Feb ‘10) Stern/Pershing bribery and bullying: Ethiopia, Maldives

Ethiopian AU leader Meles Zenawi

UN Advisory Group on Finance cochair halved AU’s 2009 demands for climate debt

Maldives cabinet gets $50m in US aid = U-turn, to support Copenhagen
Stern’s constituents

I am the 1%. Smithers, release the hounds.
WALL STREET DEMONSTRATORS JAILED FOR PROTESTING:

WALL STREET BANKERS JAILED FOR DESTROYING THE WORLD ECONOMY:
still a bankers’ world, even after meltdown
Perhaps PPD could explore using carbon credits to fund family planning. Family planning has too much political baggage for such an idea to fly in the North, but it might be worth exploring in the South...

Malcolm Potts, 1 November 2011
instead of paying climate debt, World Bank’s ‘impeccable’ logic of pollution trade

DATE: December 12, 1991
TO: Distribution
FR: Lawrence H. Summers

‘I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that… I’ve always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly underpolluted.’

(preparing for original Rio Earth Summit, secret memo of Bank chief economist Larry Summers, later US Treasury Secretary and Obama’s economic manager – full memo: www.whirledbank.org)
“Karl Marx had it right. At some point, capitalism can destroy itself. You cannot keep on shifting income from labor to capital without having an excess capacity and a lack of aggregate demand. That’s what has happened. We thought that markets worked. They’re not working.”

- Wall Street Journal, 12 August 2011
carbon trading gimmick: in 1997, US vice-president Al Gore (later a carbon trader) pushed for Kyoto to include emissions markets, in exchange for Washington’s promised support ... promise soon broken

‘The European Union has adopted this US innovation and is making it work effectively there.’

(An Inconvenient Truth, p. 252)
emissions market’s five major crashes, 2006-09, 2010 stagnation, 2011 theft-closure, 2012 denouement?

does EU carbon trading ‘work effectively’?

impossible to finance renewable energy with such low carbon prices
how does carbon trading look in the South?

Plantar’s ‘green desert’ timber plantation

alien-invasive trees grow 10 years, then die and become charcoal for pig-iron, for Brazilian auto industry
Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and forest Degradation

‘REDD-type projects have already caused land grabs, killings, violent evictions and forced displacement, violations of human rights, threats to cultural survival, militarization and servitude.’

- Tom Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network
in sum, eight fatal flaws of carbon trading

- **inventing property right to pollute** is effectively ‘privatizing air’, a moral dilemma given unprecedented inequality;
- GHGs have **non-linear impact, not reducible to commodity exchange** (a tonne of CO2 produced at ‘X’ not same as a tonne reduced at ‘Y’);
- corporations most guilty of pollution, and World Bank (most responsible for fossil fuel financing), are market’s driving forces;
- many offsets – e.g. monocultural timber plantations, forest ‘protection’, landfill methane-electricity – **devastate local communities and ecologies**;
- price of carbon in these markets is haywire, not least due to corruption, fraud and theft – with no prospect of regulation;
- dangerous potential for markets to become multi-trillion dollar speculative bubbles, similar to other exotic financial instruments;
- encourages **small incremental shifts**, distracting us from big changes needed across economy, energy, transport, consumption, disposal;
- ‘market solutions for market failure’ is not an appropriate ideology after the world’s worst-ever financial market failure
New Film by Story of Stuff Creator Offers Provocative, Humorous Look at CAP & TRADE on Eve of Copenhagen Summit

The Story of Cap & Trade:
Why you can’t solve a problem with the thinking that created it.

San Francisco, CA -- The Story of Stuff Project and Climate Justice Now! — an international network of climate justice advocates — will release The Story of Cap & Trade, a 19-minute animated film on carbon trading, on December 1st worldwide at www.storyofstuff.org.

Hosted by Annie Leonard, the creator of the viral video in The Story of Stuff, (viewed worldwide over 8 million times), the Story of Cap & Trade is the latest in a series of six short films the Story of Stuff Project is releasing over the coming year with Free Range Studios (www.freerangestudios.com) and more than a dozen of the world’s leading sustainability organizations.

The Story of Cap & Trade takes a provocative but humorous look at cap and trade, the leading climate solution under consideration in Copenhagen and on Capitol Hill. Employing the same urgent honesty that made The Story of Stuff so successful — and flash animation that makes it clear who wins and who loses — The Story of Cap & Trade points to the ‘devils in the details’ in current cap and trade proposals: free permits to big polluters, fake carbon offsets and, most importantly, distraction from the significant tasks at hand in tackling the climate crisis.
carbon trading comes to Durban
Durban, South Africa: $15 million CDM pilot

Bisasar Road conversion of methane-to-electricity at environmentally-racist toxic dump

Africa’s largest landfill placed in black residential suburb (Clare Estate) by apartheid; municipality refused to close it thanks to World Bank 2002 investment hype: WB Prototype Carbon Fund emissions reductions credits

Sajida Khan’s family home
looking north from the dump

big-box shops

Kennedy Road shacks

Bisasar Road landfill
Sajida Khan (1952-2007)

though felled by cancer from dump, she had co-hosted ‘Durban Group for Climate Justice’ (2004) and her challenge to Bisasar methane flaring temporarily rebuffed World Bank in 2005

project went ahead in 2008-09 and currently CDM is paid just €14/tonne
introducing: Durban Group for Climate Justice

- October 2004 initiative hosted by Khan, Timberwatch, SDCEA
- supported by Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
- driven by grassroots activists in India, Brazil, Thailand, South Africa, etc
- largest signatory: Friends of the Earth International
- key sites: The Cornerhouse, FERN, SEEN, CarbonTrade Watch, CDM Watch, Dartmouth Univ Environmental Studies, UKZN Centre for Civil Society
No DIRTY loan to Eskom
Eskom
Ten reasons to reject Medupi

climate destruction
local ecologies, health
procedural problems in World Bank process
poor people pay excessive prices
multinational corps. get ultra-cheap power
profit outflow to multinationals
increased foreign debt
privatisation
ANC corruption
World Bank's apartheid history

25%/year price rise; 127% real increase for 2008-12; electricity disconnections, ubiquitous ‘service delivery protests’ and threatened national labour strike
SA offers world’s cheapest electricity to metals smelters - phase-out needed!

Eskom brags in 2009 annual report, though reason for R9.7bn 2009-10 losses

Eskom
CANCEL SPECIAL CORPORATE DEALS
Eskom “Fat Cats” U Messed up Why Must We Pay!!!
NO TO WORLD BANK
FOSSIL FOOL LOAN!
World Bank: Fossil Fool of the Year 2010!

Eskom, you betray poor South Africans!

No World Bank loan, no problems.

No to bank loan.

[Protest signs held by demonstrators in the foreground, with police in the background]
DOE

Don't

Nuke

Our

Future

Generations

SOLAR

ENERGY

IS

WOMEN'S

POWER!

WOMEN

SAYS TO

DOE:

YOUR

IRP2

SUCKS!

IPUO

PETERS

WHERE

ARE YOU

IN THE

DRAFT

AS WOMAN
upsurge of community protest against electricity disconnections, price increases, World Bank loan
PEOPLE'S POWER SAYS NO TO 35% HIKE WHERE IS THE FREE ELECTRICITY
If South Africa increases Free Basic Electricity from 50 kWh to 200 kWh per month for the 4 million Eskom customers we would only need 17.5% of Medupi’s capacity.

If large energy users pay a levy of 1.5 cents the FBE provision will be funded. We do not need a World Bank loan to undertake this.
1/3 of Eskom’s four million customers have ‘zero’ consumption – most disconnected

their defence includes illegal reconnection

Sunday Tribune

‘We are being deprived’

July 31 2011 at 04:12pm
By NIYANTA SINGH

power hikes July 31

REUTERS

EThekweni ratepayers are losing R120 million a year to illegal electricity connections and cable theft – and the municipality has admitted it’s losing a “war” with shack dwellers who steal council cables and hotwire power connections.

This week, the city all but conceded it was being held to ransom by hundreds of shack dwellers living on the fringes of Reservoir Hills. In a desperate bid to restore power to frustrated ratepaying households in the area, the council backed off the fight with shack dwellers and let them reconnect illegally.

The city’s head of electricity, Sandle Maphumulo, says the incident is not isolated.

On Friday, shack dwellers threw rocks and packets of faeces at council contractors and security guards who had disconnected illegal connections and confiscated stolen cables in Reservoir Hill.

The windscreen of a security vehicle was shattered and guards fled. Last week, security guard Wiseman Mthombeni was shot dead in nearby Sea Cow Lake in a row over illegal connections.
ubiquitous ‘service delivery protests’
ESKOM + LDU mining = fewer jobs + climate chaos

actinactmove.org
vital need for SA’s ‘Million Climate Jobs’ campaign, so that affected workers have a Just Transition: guaranteed, well-paid jobs that help society and save the planet!

http://www.climatejobs.org.za
search for a ‘Just Transition’

One million climate jobs
Solving the economic and environmental crises

Contributors:

Jonathan Neale, Editor
Ruaridh Absaroka, CaCC
Tim Baster, COIN
Chris Baugh, PCS
David Byrne, Durham University
Manuel Cortes, TSSA
Gareth Dale, Brunel University
Dave Elliott, Open University
Martin Empson, CaCC
Ben Fins, SOAS
Alan Freeman, Association for Heterodox Economics
Hilary Gander, CaCC
Nick Grant, NUT
Rajar Gupta, Oxford Brookes University
David Hall, Greenwich University
Barbara Harriss-White, Oxford University
Suzanne Jeffreys, CaCC
Sian Jones, CWU
Stephen Joseph, Campaign for Better Transport
Tony Kearns, CWU
Nancy Lindisfarne, CaCC
Larry Lohman, Corner House
David Moxon
Richard Murphy, Tax Justice Network
Fergus Nicol, London Metropolitan University
Graham Petersen, UCU
John Sinha, CaCC
Kevin Smith, Carbon Trade Watch
Mark Smith, Vestas Workers Committee
John Stewart, HACAN
Ian Terry, Vestas Workers Committee
Phil Thornhill, CaCC
Derek Wall, Green Party
Dexter Whitfield, Centre for Public Services
Roy Wilkes, CaCC

Making renewable electricity 425,000 jobs
Renovating buildings 175,000 jobs
Changing transport 300,000 jobs
Industry and landfill 50,000 jobs
Education 50,000 jobs
Total 1,000,000 jobs

- £27 billion in wages for one million jobs over one year.
- £5 billion in employers’ national insurance and pension contributions.
- £20 billion in costs like materials, fuel, supplies, rent and interest.
Total cost £52 billion
what is ‘climate justice’?

core principles from Rights of Mother Earth conference, Cochabamba, Bolivia (April 2010)

• 50 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2017
• stabilising temperature rises to 1C and 300 Parts Per Million

• acknowledging the climate debt owed by developed countries (6% of GDP)
  • full respect for Human Rights and the inherent rights of indigenous people
  • universal declaration of Mother Earth rights to ensure harmony with nature
  • establishment of an International Court of Climate Justice

• rejection of carbon markets, and REDD’s commodified nature and forests
  • promotion of change in consumption patterns of developed countries
  • end of intellectual property rights for climate technologies
CJ movement: *leave the oil in the soil, the coal in the hole, the tarsand in the land*

- Ecuador’s Amazon indigenous activists + *Accion Ecologica* halt oil drilling in Yasuní National Park
- British *Climate Camp (Crude Awakening)* block Coryton oil refinery, 2010 – MI5 spy couldn’t crack it
- Australian *Rising Tide* regularly block Newcastle coal exports
- Norwegian environmentalists and Attac win against state oil company in *Lofoten* region, 2011
- Canada: Alberta anti-tarsands green and indigenous activists
- Stopping US King Coal: Mountain Top Removal nearly halted in Appalachia; Navajo Nation forced cancellation of Black Meza (Arizona) mine permit against world’s largest coal company, Peabody; Powder River Basin (MN, WY) farmers and ranchers fight coal expansion
- Derailing US coal energy: nearly all 151 proposed new coal power plants in Bush Energy Plan cancelled, abandoned or stalled since 2007; key community forces: Indigenous Environmental Network, Energy Justice Network and Western Mining Action Network, plus Sierra legal team
- Preventing incinerators: since 2000, no new waste incinerators (more carbon-intensive than coal and leading source of cancer-causing dioxins)
  - Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Detroit victory, world wastepickers movement
- Defeating Chevron expansion in Richmond, CA
- Undamming Mega Hydro at Klamath River: indigenous communities defeat Pacificorp Power
- Building resilient communities through local action: frontline communities winning campaigns linking climate justice to basic survival - e.g., Oakland Climate Action Coalition Just Transition
- Movement to halt fracking of shale gas: France, Quebec, Pittsburgh, South Africa’s Karoo
Down with coal! The grassroots anti-coal movement goes global

The article was coauthored by Bob Burton (CoalSwarm, Australia), Christine Shearer (CoalSwarm, U.S.), Cynthia Ong (LEAP, Malaysia), Jamie Henn (350.org, U.S.), John Hepburn (Greenpeace, Australia), Joshua Frank (CoalSwarm, U.S.), Justin Guay (Sierra Club, U.S.), Kate Hoshour (International Accountability Project, U.S.), and Mark Wakeham (Environment Victoria, Australia).

In the United States and Europe, the triple whammy of recession, cheap alternatives, and aggressive anti-coal campaigning has helped halt the expansion of coal use. Since 2004, plans to build more than 150 coal plants in the U.S. have been abandoned. In fact, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), a government agency that analyzes energy-related statistics, predicts continued stagnation or decline in coal-fired electricity generation in the U.S. and the European Union over the coming decades.

Facing resistance to its longstanding rule in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, King Coal has redoubled ambitions elsewhere. According to 2010 projections by the EIA, coal consumption in the non-OECD world will increase by 23 quadrillion BTUs between 2007 and 2030. That increase will, in the words of CoalSwarm’s U.S. Director, Joshua Frank, "Begin the long process of ending our reliance on coal."

In Thailand, 10,000 people call on their government to quit coal.

Photo: Athit Perawongmetha of Greenpeace
two new books, coming in November 2011:

1) on the COP, carbon trading and the host city

2) on the broader political process and the need for justice

new books available: pbond@mail.ngo.za