

Climate Justice Now!

The Durban Declaration on Carbon Trading

As representatives of people's movements and independent organisations, we reject the claim that carbon trading will halt the climate crisis. This crisis has been caused more than anything else by the mining of fossil fuels and the release of their carbon to the oceans, air, soil and living things. This excessive burning of fossil fuels is now jeopardising Earth's ability to maintain a liveable climate.

Governments, export credit agencies, corporations and international financial institutions continue to support and finance fossil fuel exploration, extraction and other activities that worsen global warming, such as forest degradation and destruction on a massive scale, while dedicating only token sums to renewable energy. It is particularly disturbing that the World Bank has recently defied the recommendation of its own Extractive Industries Review which calls for the phasing out of World Bank financing for coal, oil and gas extraction.

We denounce the further delays in ending fossil fuel extraction that are being caused by corporate, government and United Nations' attempts to construct a "carbon market", including a market trading in "carbon sinks".

History has seen attempts to commodify land, food, labour, forests, water, genes and ideas. Carbon trading follows in the footsteps of this history and turns the earth's carbon-cycling capacity into property to be bought or sold in a global market. Through this process of creating a new commodity – carbon - the Earth's ability and capacity to support a climate conducive to life and human societies is now passing into the same corporate hands that are destroying the climate.

People around the world need to be made aware of this commodification and privatization and actively intervene to ensure the protection of the Earth's climate.

Carbon trading will not contribute to achieving this protection of the Earth's climate. It is a false solution which entrenches and magnifies social inequalities in many ways:

- The carbon market creates transferable rights to dump carbon in the air, oceans, soil and vegetation far in excess of the capacity of these systems to hold it. Billions of dollars worth of these rights are to be awarded free of charge to the biggest corporate emitters of greenhouse gases in the electric power, iron and steel, cement, pulp and paper, and other sectors in industrialised nations who have caused the climate crisis and already exploit these systems the most. Costs of future reductions in fossil fuel use are likely to fall disproportionately on the public sector, communities, indigenous peoples and individual taxpayers.
- The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), as well as many private sector trading schemes, encourage industrialised countries and their corporations to finance

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or create cheap carbon dumps such as large-scale tree plantations in the South as a lucrative alternative to reducing emissions in the North.

Other CDM projects, such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC)- reduction schemes, focus on end-of pipe technologies and thus do nothing to reduce the impact of fossil fuel industries' impacts on local communities. In addition, these projects dwarf the tiny volume of renewable energy projects which constitute the CDM's sustainable development window-dressing.

- Impacts from fossil-fuel industries and other greenhouse-gas producing industries such as displacement, pollution, or climate change, are already disproportionately felt by small island states, coastal peoples, indigenous peoples, local communities, fisherfolk, women, youth, poor people, elderly and marginalized communities. CDM projects intensify these impacts in several ways. First, they sanction continued exploration for, and extraction, refining and burning of fossil fuels. Second, by providing finance for private sector projects such as industrial tree plantations, they appropriate land, water and air already supporting the lives and livelihoods of local communities for new carbon dumps for Northern industries.
- The refusal to phase out the use of coal, oil and gas, which is further entrenched by carbon trading, is also causing more and more military conflicts around the world, magnifying social and environmental injustice. This in turn diverts vast resources to military budgets which could otherwise be utilized to support economies based on renewable energies and energy efficiency.

In addition to these injustices, the internal weaknesses and contradictions of carbon trading are in fact likely to make global warming worse rather than “mitigate” it. CDM projects, for instance, cannot be verified to be “neutralizing” any given quantity of fossil fuel extraction and burning. Their claim to be able to do so is increasingly dangerous because it creates the illusion that consumption and production patterns, particularly in the North, can be maintained without harming the climate.

In addition, because of the verification problem, as well as a lack of credible regulation, no one in the CDM market is likely to be sure what they are buying. Without a viable commodity to trade, the CDM market and similar private sector trading schemes are a total waste of time when the world has a critical climate crisis to address.

In an absurd contradiction the World Bank facilitates these false, market-based approaches to climate change through its Prototype Carbon Fund, the BioCarbon Fund and the Community Development Carbon Fund at the same time it is promoting, on a far greater scale, the continued exploration for, and extraction and burning of fossil fuels – many of which are to ensure increased emissions of the North.

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In conclusion, 'giving carbon a price' will not prove to be any more effective, democratic, or conducive to human welfare, than giving genes, forests, biodiversity or clean rivers a price.

We reaffirm that drastic reductions in emissions from fossil fuel use are a pre-requisite if we are to avert the climate crisis. We affirm our responsibility to coming generations to seek real solutions that are viable and truly sustainable and that do not sacrifice marginalized communities. We therefore commit ourselves to help build a global grassroots movement for climate justice, mobilize communities around the world and pledge our solidarity with people opposing carbon trading on the ground.

Signed 10 October 2004
Glenmore Centre, Durban, South Africa

DURBAN MEETING SIGNATORIES

Carbon Trade Watch
Indigenous Environmental Network
Climate & Development Initiatives, Uganda
Coecoceiba-Amigos de la Tierra, Costa Rica
CORE Centre for Organisation Research & Education, Manipur, India
Delhi Forum, India
Earthlife Africa (ELA) eThekweni Branch, South Africa
FERN, EU
FASE-ES/Green Desert Network Brazil
Global Justice Ecology Project, USA

groundwork, South Africa
National Forum of Forest People And Forest Workers (NFFPFW), India
Patrick Bond, Professor, University of KwaZulu Natal School of Development Studies, South Africa
O le Siosiomaga Society, Samoa
South Durban Community Alliance (SDCEA), South Africa
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network, USA
The Corner House, UK
Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa 2
World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONAL SIGNATORIES

1. 50 Years Is Enough: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice, USA
2. The Akwantupa Travel Foundation/ M&J Travel and Tours Limited, Ghana
3. AfiCAFfiles, Canada
4. Africa Groups of Sweden, Sweden
5. Alianza Verde, Honduras
6. Ambiente y Sociedad, Argentina
7. Angkar Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh
8. Anisa Colombia, Colombia
9. Asociacion Alternativa Ambiental, Spain
10. Asociacion Amigos Reserva Yaguaroundi, Argentina
11. Asociacion de Guardaparques Argentinos, Argentina
12. Asociacion Ecologista Piuke, Argentina
13. Asociacion para la Defensa del Medio Ambiente del Noreste Santafesino, Argentina
14. Asociacion San Francisco de Asis, Argentina
15. Association France Amerique Latine, France
16. Asociacion Lihue San Carlos de Barloche / Rio Negro, Argentina
17. Association pour un contrat mondial de l'eau, Comité de Seine Saint Denis, France
18. Associação Caeté - Cultura e Natureza, Brasil
19. Athlone Park Residents Association, South Africa
20. Austerville Clinic Committee, South Africa
21. Australian Greens, Australia
22. Auckland Rising Tide, New Zealand
23. BanglaPraxis, Bangladesh
24. Benjamin E. Mays Center, USA
25. Bluff Ridge Conservancy (BRC), South Africa
26. BOA, Venezuela
27. Boulder Environmental Activists Resource, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, USA
28. The Bread of Life Development Foundation, Nigeria
29. Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen LAG Europa, Friedens und Außenpolitik Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
30. Bürgerbewegung für Kryorecycling und Kreislaufwirtschaft, Germany
31. CENSAT-Friends of the Earth Colombia, Colombia
32. Center for Economic Justice, USA
33. Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka
34. Center for Environmental Concerns, Philippines
35. Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc./ Friends of the Earth (PNG), Papua New Guinea
36. Center for Urban Transformation, USA
37. Centro de Derecho Ambiental y Promoción para el Desarrollo (CEDAPRODE), Nicaragua
38. Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan A.C., Mexico
39. Centro Internazionale per la Cultura e i Diritti dell'Uomo – CISEDU, Italy
40. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, USA
41. Christ the King Church Group, South Africa
42. Clairwood Ratepayers Association (CRA), South Africa
43. Climate Crisis Coalition of the Twin Cities, USA
44. Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, USA
45. Colectivo de Proyectos Alternativos de México (COPAL), Mexico
46. Colectivo MadreSelva, Guatemala
47. Comité de Análisis "Ana Silvia Olán" de Sonsonate – CANASO, El Salvador
48. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, USA
49. Community Health Cell, Bangalore, India
50. Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), Netherlands
51. C.P.E.M. Nº29-Ciencias Ambientales, Argentina
52. Del Consejo de Organizaciones de Médicos y Parteras Indígenas Tradicionales de Chiapas, Mexico
53. Delhi Greens, India
54. Enda América Latina, Colombia
55. ECOGRAIN, Spain
56. Ecoisla, Puerto Rico
57. EarthLink e.V.-The People & Nature Network, Germany
58. Ecological Society of the Philippines, Philippines
59. Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
60. Ecoportal.net, Argentina

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61. ECOTERRA International
62. Eco Pax Mundi
63. El Centro de Ecología y Excursionismo de la Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela
64. Els Verds - Alternativa Verda, Spain
65. Environmental Resource Center, USA
66. Environment Desk of Images Asia, Thailand
67. Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF), France
68. FASE Gurupá, Brasil
69. Forest Peoples Programme, UK
70. Foundation for Grassroots Initiatives in Africa, Ghana
71. Friends of Brook Park, South Bronx, USA
72. Friends of the Earth International
73. Friends of the Earth Australia, Australia
74. Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels, Belgium
75. Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
76. FSC-Brasil, Brasil
77. Fundación Argentina de Etoecología (FAE), Argentina
78. Fundación Los de Tilquiza, proyecto AGUAVERDE, Argentina
79. Gaia Preservation Coalition, Canada
80. Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Energies Renouvelables et l'Environnement (GERERE), Morocco
81. Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC-Italia), oficina de Nicaragua, Nicaragua
82. House of Worship, South Africa
83. Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network, Peru
84. Indonesia Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM), Indonesia
85. InfoNature, Portugal
86. Information for Action, Australia
87. Infringement Festival, Canada
88. Iniciativa Arcolris de Ecología y Sociedad, Argentina
89. Iniciativa Radial, Argentina
90. Institute for Social Ecology Biotechnology Project, USA
91. Instituto Ecoar para Cidadania, Brasil
92. Instituto Igaré, Brasil
93. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Belgium
94. International Indian Treaty Council
95. Isipingo Environmental Committee (IEC), South Africa
96. Isipingo Ratepayers Association, South Africa
97. Jeunesse Horizon, Camerun
98. JKPP /Indonesian Community Mapping Network, Indonesia
99. Joint Action Committee of Isipingo (JACI), South Africa
100. Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, Philippines
101. Kasela Palu Group, Papua New Guinea
102. KVV Translations, Spain
103. Labor Tribune, Marcus Strom, editor, Austrailia
104. LOKOJ, Bangladesh
105. London Rising Tide, UK
106. MADRE, USA
107. Malvarrosamedia, Spain
108. Mangrove Action Project (MAP), USA
109. Mano Verde, Colombia
110. Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany – MLPD, Germany
111. Mercy International Justice Network, Kenya
112. Merebank Clinic Committee (MCC), South Africa
113. Movimiento por la Paz y el Ambiente, Argentina
114. Movimiento por los Derechos y la Consulta Ciudadana, Chile
115. Nicaragua Center for Community Action, USA,
116. Nicaragua Network (US), USA
117. Nicaragua-US Friendship Office, USA
118. NOAH-Friends of the Earth Denmark, Denmark
119. Núcleo Amigos da Terra, Brasil
120. Ogoni Rescue Patriotic Fund, Nigeria
121. Oilwatch International, Ecuador
122. Oilwatch Africa, Nigeria
123. Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP), USA
124. Organizacion Fraternal Negra Hondurena, Honduras
125. Parque Provincial Ernesto Tornquist, Argentina
126. Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition (PIPEC),Aotearoa/New Zealand
127. Pesticides Action Network Latin America, Uruguay
128. Piedad Espinoza Trópico Verde, Guatemala
129. PovoAção, Brasil
130. Prideaux Consulting, USA
131. Projeto tudo Sobre Plantas - Jornal SOS Verde, Brasil
132. Public Citizen, USA
133. Rainforest Action Network, USA
134. Rainy River First Nations, Canada
135. Reclaim the Commons, USA
136. Red de Agricultura Orgánica de Misiones, Argentina
137. REDES-Amigos de la Tierra, Uruguay
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141. Sahabat Alam Malaysia /FOE-Malaysia, Malaysia
142. San Francisco Bay Area Jubilee Debt Cancellation Coalition, USA
143. Scottish Education and Action for Development, UK
144. S.G.Fiber, Pakistan
145. Silverglen Civic Association (SCA), South Africa
146. Sisters of the Holy Cross - Congregation Justice Committee, USA
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148. Society of Democratic Reforms (DIUC), Azerbaijan
149. Sociedad Civil, Mexico
150. SOLJUSPAX, Philippines
151. Stichting GAST, The Netherlands
152. Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines
153. The Sawmill River Watershed Alliance, USA
154. TRAPESE – Take Radical Action Through Popular Education and Sustainable Everything, UK / Spain
155. Treasure Beach Environmental Forum (TBEP), South Africa
156. Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, Uganda
157. Ujamaa Community Resource Trust (UCRT), Tanzania
158. UNICA, Nicaragua
159. Union Chrétienne pour l'Education et Développement des Déshérités (UCEDD), Burundi
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