

the Centre for Civil Society
in Durban, South Africa
*fighting 'Green Economy'
gimmicks at Rio+20*

- no 'false solutions' to ecological crises
- decommission carbon trading and CDMs
- reverse commercialised water services
- leave the oil in the soil, coal in the hole
- question extraction-oriented economies
- close multilateral financial institutions
- pay the (Global North's) ecological debt
- eliminate the 1%'s corporate power
- resist austerity within capitalist crisis
- promote the socio-ecological Commons



help us link
red & green

for race, gender,
environmental,
and class justice!

CCS was host institution for the 'People's Space' against Durban COP17 'Conference of Polluters'



at <http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za> we provide the South African Social Protest Observatory contact us: ccs@ukzn.ac.za, +2731 260 3195



member of <http://www.ejolt.org>



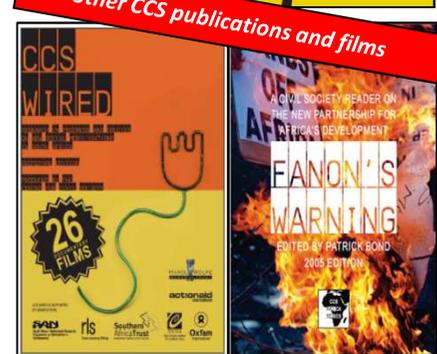
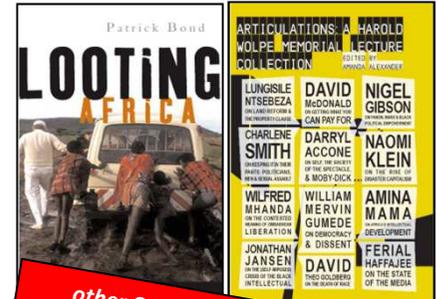
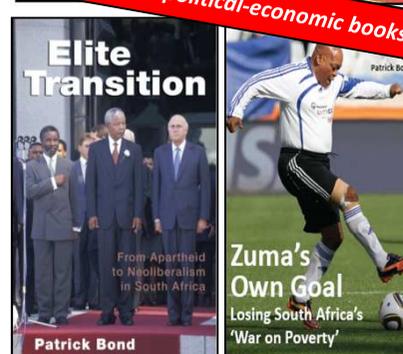
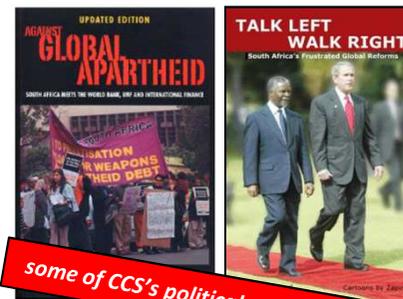
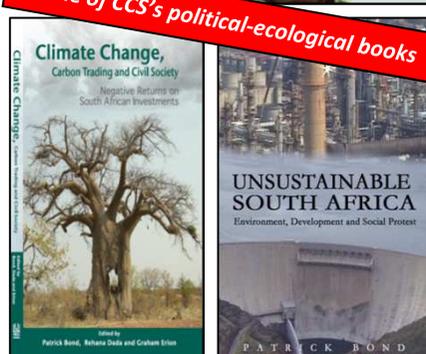
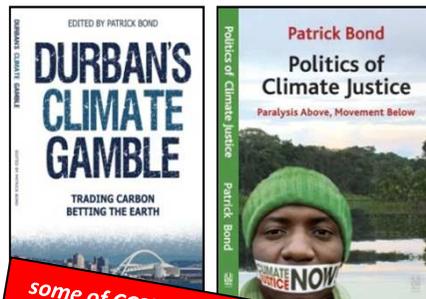
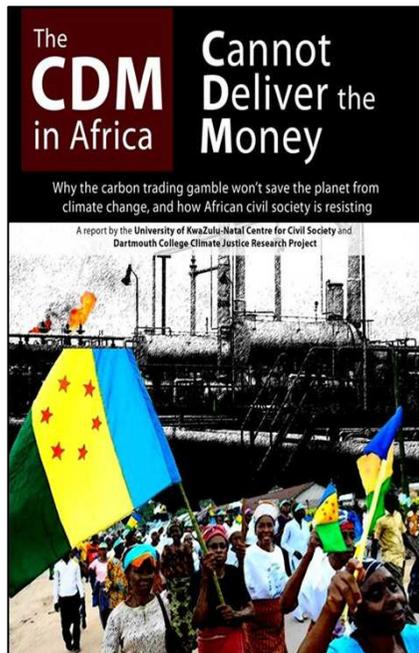
Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade



CCS supports SDCEA (South Durban Community Environmental Alliance) struggle to end pollution



CCS helped expose non-'additionality' Clean Development Mechanism scam at Bissar Rd



some of CCS's political-ecological books

some of CCS's political-economic books

other CCS publications and films

The CDM in Africa Cannot Deliver the Money

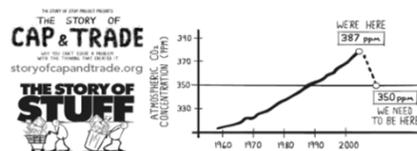
Why the carbon trading gamble *won't* save the planet from climate change, and how African civil society is resisting

A report by the University of KwaZulu-Natal Centre for Civil Society (School of Built Environment and Development Studies) and Dartmouth College Climate Justice Research Project

Authors:

Fidelis Allen (Nigeria)
 Baruti Amisi (Dem. Republic of Congo)
 Patrick Bond (South Africa)
 Keith Brunner (USA)
 Ruth Castel-Branco (Mozambique)
 Michael Dorsey (USA)
 Almuth Ernsting (Germany)
 Gerardo Gambirazzio (USA)
 Terri Hathaway (Cameroon)
 Adrian Nel (New Zealand)
 Will Nham (Canada)
 Khadija Sharife (South Africa)
 EJOLT editor: Leah Temper (Spain)
 EJOLT reviewer: Joan Martinez-Alier (Spain)

<http://cdmscannotdeliver.wordpress.com/>



CCS is committed to popular education as well as scholarly outputs – e.g. contributing to *The Story of Cap and Trade* to clarify emissions trading. Likewise, following the legacy of anti-apartheid poet Dennis Brutus, we seek to fuse culture and politics in struggles for justice.



Summary

At a time the carbon markets face a profound crisis, this report provides critical policy analysis and case documentation about the role of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Africa.

Instead of supplying an appropriate flow of climate finance for projects related to greenhouse gas mitigation, the CDM has benefited large corporations (both South and North) and the governments they influence and often control. South Africa is a case in point, as both a victim and villain in relation to catastrophic climate change.

Many sites of emissions in Africa – e.g., methane from rotting rubbish in landfills, flaring of gas from oil extraction, coal-burning electricity generation, coal-to-liquid and gas-to-liquid petroleum refining, deforestation, decomposed vegetation in tropical dams – require urgent attention, as do the proliferation of ‘false solutions’ to the climate crisis such as mega-hydro power, tree plantations and biofuels. Across Africa, the CDM subsidizes all these dangerous for-profit activities, making them yet more advantageous to multinational corporations which are mostly based in Europe, the US or South Africa.

In turn, these same corporations – and others just as ecologically irresponsible – can continue to pollute beyond the bounds set by politicians especially in Europe, because the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) forgives increasing pollution in the North if it is offset by dubious projects in the South. But because communities, workers and local environments have been harmed in the process, various kinds of social resistances have emerged, and in some cases met with repression or cooptation through ‘divide-and-rule’ strategies.



Big dangers at world's largest dam: Inga

The Inga Hydropower Project (IHP) on the Congo River in the DRC is under construction at a unique geological and hydrological site, with an estimated price tag in the range of \$80 billion. In terms of output, the dam will be three times larger than even China's Three Gorges.

CCS doctoral student Baruti Amisi asks, “Who are the IHP winners and losers?” – his dissertation research.

Electricity is desperately needed, as 94 percent of Congolese lack access. But the financial performance and socio-economic and environmental legacy of Inga's first two stages suggest that the DRC is not prepared for a project of such a magnitude.

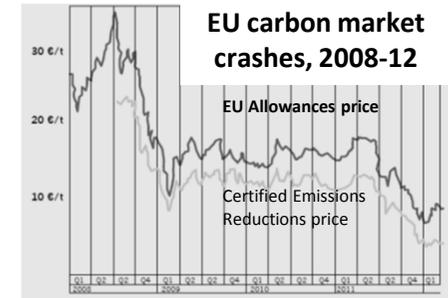
Indeed, IHP electricity could undermine the poor, due to unaffordability. The main beneficiaries will be multinational corporations and wealthy individuals who already received the returns of the investment in Inga 1 and 2, dating 40 years ago, to the dictator Mobutu's era.

A better approach would be to refocus the project's efforts to cover rehabilitation, transparent financial management, and improvement of the internal controls that failed in Inga 1 and 2. Otherwise, instead of supplying electricity to the people of Africa, the IHP will be remembered as Africa's largest white elephant.

Chapter One sets the context for the carbon markets and the CDM mechanism, revealing its continuing price collapse and gloomy future prospects. Chapter Two maps the players in CDM markets and voluntary schemes.

Chapters Three through Eight are the case studies, beginning with South Africa's pilot CDM fraud and environmental racism in Durban's Bisasar Road landfill methane-electricity project, along with similar trends in Egypt. Chapter Four dissects the case of Nigerian CDM corruption of local governance, especially where oil companies are receiving subsidies for reducing their Niger Delta gas flaring – an act which by law they are prohibited from doing in the first place. Chapter Five addresses the emergence of trees, plantations and forests within CDM financing debates, with cases from Uganda, Mozambique, the DRC, Tanzania and Kenya. Chapter Six is about two failed CDM proposals both involving exploitation of Mozambique's gas reserves. Chapter Seven discusses the way mega-dams are being lined up for CDM status, with case studies from Ethiopia and the DRC. Chapter Eight considers the rise of the Kenyan and Mozambican Jatropha biofuel industries.

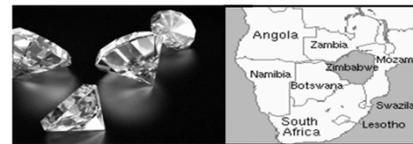
All these cases suggest the need for an urgent policy review of the entire CDM mechanism's operation (a point we made to the United Nations CDM Executive Board in a January 2012 submission), with the logical conclusion that the system should be decommissioned and at minimum, a moratorium be placed on further crediting until the profound structural and implementation flaws are confronted. The damage done by CDMs to date should be included in calculations of the ‘climate debt’ that the North owes the South, with the aim of having victims of CDMs compensated appropriately.



Instead of Africa gambling in corrupt emissions markets (CDMs and REDD), CCS advocates the North's overdue payment of Climate Debt, including a 'Basic Income Grant' due to climate-affected residents – to avoid empowering tyrannical elites, allied corporations and the aid industry. These peoples deserve compensation:



Source: UN IPCC



'Blood diamonds' Resource-Curse Zimbabwe

Is eastern Zimbabwe's Marange diamond field the world's biggest ever – and also the worst case of Resource Curse?

So it seems. With an estimated 400 small miners killed and Robert Mugabe's military illicitly siphoning off billions of dollars since 2006, the unity government has no hope of delivering desperately needed services to the povo or achieving a free and fair election in 2013.

Having founded the Centre for Research and Development near Marange, CCS PhD student Farai Maguwu was imprisoned, tortured and also awarded major human rights awards for watchdogging Marange.

“If diamond revenue can't reach the Treasury then we may be sitting on a time bomb,” he says.

Zimbabwe's main diamond trading partners – India and China (via Dubai and Israel) – hold no regard for the Kimberley Process, and cannot be held hostage by threats of peer exclusion. Only tough research, advocacy and campaigning can mitigate the damage done by a stone better left underground.



CCS is committed to scholarship, bottom-up

At CCS, our research on social, environmental and economic justice begins with an epistemological commitment: the most rigorous knowledge production about oppressive systems is generated when scholars understand first-hand, often from activists, the sources and processes of conflict. It is only when a system of power is challenged by its critics – not just armchair academics – that we fully understand that system's logic: how it reacts and represses, co-opts or even concedes to opponents. A responsibility for researching social change in the world's most unequal and protest-rich major country requires us to (self-critically) view these conflicts from the perspective of the oppressed.

Our objective is to advance socio-economic and environmental justice by developing critical knowledge about, for and in dialogue with civil society through teaching, research and publishing. The Centre was established at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in July 2001, with the mission of promoting the study of South African civil society as a legitimate, flourishing area of scholarly activity. A related goal was to develop partnerships within civil society aimed at capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and generating reflection and debate.

Our three core strategies are: independent critical scholarship; information dissemination; and teaching/training. Our staff and associates include academics, 'Brutus Community Scholars', post-grad students, Visiting Scholars and administrators.