



To Her Excellency  
 Mrs. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane  
 COP 17/CMP 7 President

## Open Letter: CDM Coal Power Projects Undermine Efforts of UNFCCC Process

Durban, 6 December 2011

Excellency,

Recognising the urgency of the climate crisis, the signatories to this letter wish to express their deep concern regarding coal power projects in the clean development mechanism. These projects receive millions of Euros of scarce climate finance while locking-in billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and causing severe human health and ecosystems damage. Moreover, analysis shows that CDM coal power projects are non-additional and therefore generate millions of artificial carbon credits that increase global emissions and undermine the UNFCCC process. We therefore call on you to ensure that these projects will be excluded from the CDM at COP-17.

Last week, the UN's CDM Executive Board suspended the crediting rules for coal power projects after an investigation found that the flawed rules could lead to over-issuance of millions of carbon credits that do not reflect real and additional emission reductions. These findings were confirmed and expanded upon by an independent study<sup>1</sup> which found that the flaws in the methodology leading to the over-crediting are inherent to this project type. The reports conclusion stated that it is unlikely that a revised methodology could ensure that offset credits from CDM coal power projects are real and measurable.

In order to avoid hundreds of millions of carbon credits from unsustainable projects that deliver neither emission reductions, nor sustainable development benefits, Parties here in Durban should decide to exclude coal power projects from the CDM.

On behalf of the organisations listed above and civil society around the world, we call on your Excellency to work with Parties to ensure a CMP decision is taken during COP-17 that excludes coal projects from the CDM.

<sup>1</sup> SEI study on Coal Power in the CDM: <http://sei-international.org/publications?pid=1974>

Such a decision is the only means of ensuring that these projects do not undermine developed countries' mitigation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol or divert significant levels of scarce climate finance away from sustainable clean energy projects.

Yours sincerely,

**International:**

Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN)  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
Earthjustice  
Ecoterra International  
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)  
Green Cross International  
Greenpeace International  
HELIO International  
International Earthpeoples  
International Rivers  
Society for Threatened Peoples  
Tibetan Women's Association

**Africa:**

**Ghana:** Green Cross Ghana  
**Kenya:** Kenya Young Greens  
**Uganda:** Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO)

**Americas:**

**Argentina:** Movimiento social Misiones-Argentina  
**Bolivia:** Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático  
**Brazil:** (IVAH) Instituto de Valorização Ambiental e Humana  
**Canada:** Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique (AQLPA)  
**Colombia:** Movimiento Colombiano en Defensa de los Territorios y Afectados por Represas "Ríos Vivos"  
**Honduras:** Fundación Popol Nah Tun  
Organizacion Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH)  
**Mexico:** En Defensa del Ambiente  
Entornons Educativos A.C.  
Genero y flor de Maíz A.C.  
Instituto Mexicano Para el Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. (IMDEC)  
Jubileo Sur México  
Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste, AC  
Marea Creciente México  
Revuelta Verde  
**Panama:** Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD)  
Asociacion Ambientalista de Chiriqui (ASAMCHI)  
**Paraguay:** SOBREVIVENCIA (FOE Paraguay)  
**Peru:** Red Regional Agua y Desarrollo Piura  
**USA:** Center for Biological Diversity  
Friends of the Earth - US  
Professor Michael K. Dorsey (in personal capacity)  
Sierra Club

**Asia:**

**Bangladesh:** Angikar Bangladesh Foundation  
Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAN)  
Shelter NGO  
**India:** Centre for Education & Documentation

Centre for Environment and Development – CEAD  
Context India  
Matu Jansangthan  
Paryavaran Mitra  
Samata - Assertion for People  
Smt. Nandini Satpathy Memorial Trust (SNSMT)  
Water Initiatives Odisha

**Indonesia:** CAPP- Ecological Justice

Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESR)

**Lebanon:** IndyACT - The League of Independent Activists

**Philippines:** Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)

CSC- PCSD.

Asian Peasant Coalition (APC)

**Europe:**

CEE Bankwatch Network  
CAN-Europe

**Austria:** Global 2000

**Belgium:** CDM Watch

CNCD - 11.11.11.

**Denmark:** INFORSE-Europe

WWF Denmark

**Finland:** Friends of the Earth Finland

**Germany:** BUND

Climate Concept Foundation

Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft e.V.

Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung

Germanwatch

klima-allianz deutschland

Klimaverhalten

Lernen – Helfen – Leben e.V. (LHL)

**Norway:** Future in our hands

**Portugal:** Quercus – ANCN

**Republic of Kosovo:** Institute for Policy Development

**Russia:** Ecodefense

Friends of the Siberian Forests

**Sarajevo:** SEE Change Net

**Spain:** Amigos de la Tierra España (FOE Spain)

Ecologistas en Acción

Fundacion IPADE

**Sweden:** FOE Sweden

**UK:** FOE Scotland

The Climate and Health Council

WWF UK

**Ukraine:** NGO Ecoclub

**Oceania:**

**Australia:** Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

Climate Action Moreland

Climate Action Network Australia

Climate Change Balmain-Rozel