

'FALSE SOLUTIONS' VERSUS REAL SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES

South Asia is the Southern Region of Asia, consisting of the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

FALSE CLIMATE 'SOLUTIONS'



CLIMATE JUSTICE SOLUTIONS



People-centric climate solutions benefit communities while false solutions and narratives, which, under the guise of emissions reduction, clean energy and climate adaptation, can worsen injustices towards vulnerable groups.

In this factsheet, you will learn more about how these false solutions and real solutions apply in a South Asian context.

FALSE SOLUTIONS

NET ZERO

The climate crisis requires a rapid and real reduction of carbon emissions from major industrial sources - fossil fuel production and use, deforestation and industrial agriculture.

But with its dependency on technological fixes, especially geo-engineering solutions such as carbon capture and storage which remain unviable and solar radiation management which remains risky, and over-reliance on carbon offsets and markets, instead of real and significant reductions to emissions, the Net Zero approach sets a dangerous trap.

Communities and Indigenous Peoples movements worldwide, who find themselves on the frontlines of climate change, as well as intersectional and intergenerational environmental and injustices, require real solutions and present action that secure human rights, livelihoods, and a safe, clean and healthy environment.

MARKET DRIVEN CLIMATE ADVOCACY IGNORES SCALE AND EXCLUDES JUSTICE

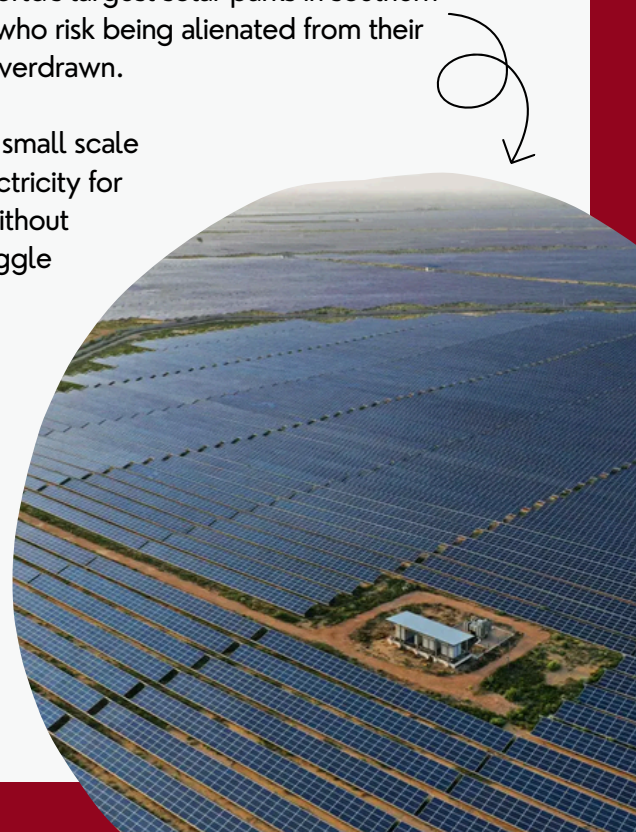
A markets' driven global narrative of climate advocacy - for phasing out fossil fuels and transitioning to renewables - can also miss the critical question of just and sustainable solutions for Indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities by not addressing the scale of industrial renewable projects.

In South Asia, massive industrial scale renewables projects are being made possible by global capital and booming investments in the renewables market; these land intensive renewable projects can violate community rights like coal, large dams and nuclear projects. Environmental conflicts from land-intensive industrial projects are increasing in South Asia. This includes solar and other forms of renewable energy projects. Eg. Adani Enterprises owns and operates one of the world's largest solar parks in southern India. This massive solar park has sparked protests from farmers who risk being alienated from their farmlands, and grazing commons, or their water-bodies being overdrawn.

As opposed to massive and land intensive renewables projects, small scale and decentralised renewable energy projects can generate electricity for hundreds of millions of largely rural South Asians who still live without electricity; but such 'people-centric' clean energy solutions struggle for investments.

OTHER 'FALSE SOLUTIONS'

Climate Justice Groups from 69 countries including South Asian countries have urged governments to stop using climate funds for 'false solutions' like hydropower projects which are hugely impacted by climate change and can disrupt the resilience of river ecosystems and communities and their livelihoods.



REAL SOLUTIONS

In South Asia, **REAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS** need to avoid replicating the mistakes of the coal-economy and put people first. They need to:

SECURE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES

Indigenous people worldwide, and communities in the Global South which includes South Asian communities, find themselves on the frontlines of climate change, as well as intersectional and intergenerational injustices. Real solutions need to secure their human rights, livelihoods, and a safe, clean and a healthy environment.

BE PEOPLE-CENTRIC

Two-thirds of the South Asian population is of rural, farming-dependent and livelihoods-based communities; to be just and sustainable. Instead of being shaped by the priorities of global capital and large corporations, South Asian climate solutions need to be people-centric - they need to support proven alternatives and practices pioneered by smallholder farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, and respect and protect their rights.

BRING ENERGY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DECENTRALISED SOURCES

Electricity use is strongly linked to overall development in the Human Development Index (HDI). Hundreds of millions of largely rural South Asians still live without electricity, which does not reach them due to the challenge of reaching remote locations through the centralised (largely) coal-fired electricity grid. Decentralised renewable electricity (such as from solar and biogas sources), that is locally produced and controlled, can foster energy empowerment for communities. They can supply sustainable energy to communities and not reproduce the challenges of land-intensive industrial-scale energy projects.

REFERENCES

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