What do carbon markets mean for climate justice?

Granting event more to historical emitters

Carbon offsetting allows wealthy countries to continue emitting and polluting even more at the expense of the Global South, evading responsibility for past emissions and perpetuating historical inequality.



Human rights abuses and land grabs

Offset projects often involve large-scale projects and land acquisitions in developing countries that can lead to human rights abuses, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and cultural disruption for indigenous and local communities.



Shifting the mitigation burden and cost from wealthier nations to poorer ones

Carbon offsetting deprives developing countries of the most affordable ways to cut their emissions, making it harder for them to achieve their climate goals.



Continuous pollution in areas affecting disadvantaged communities

Instead of making emission cuts, companies and countries buy offsets.

This allows them to keep polluting, impacting the health of socially vulnerable communities as toxic pollution linked to CO2 emissions worsens.

Increased loss and damage

Carbon offsetting provides a false sense of progress, legitimizing continued fossil fuel emissions and exacerbating climate change impacts.

The resulting harm disproportionately affects vulnerable people in the Global South.



Diverting attention from climate finance obligations

Revenues from carbon markets are not real climate finance.

Offsetting schemes must not distract from the responsibility of developed countries to provide direct financial support to vulnerable nations for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

