

# Leveraging NDCs to transition away from fossil fuels and protect biodiversity



# Speakers

**Kjell Kühne** | Director, Leave It in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)

**Soumya Dutta** | Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights & Values in India (PAIRVI)

**Elissama Menezes** | Say No to LNG

**Ricardo Baitelo** | Institute for Energy & Environment (IEMA)

**Fernanda Ballesteros** | Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)

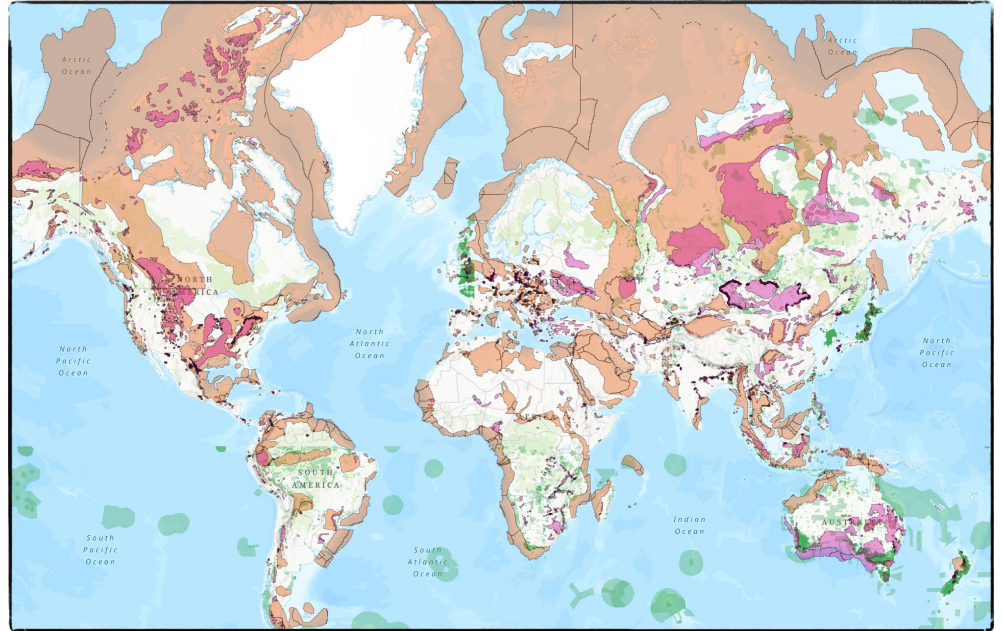
**Livia Duarte** | Brazil

**Cecilia Requena** | Bolivia

**Juan Carlos Bedoya** | Colombia

# Fossil Fuels in Protected Areas

Using NDCs to mitigate gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> and protect biodiversity



# Rationale

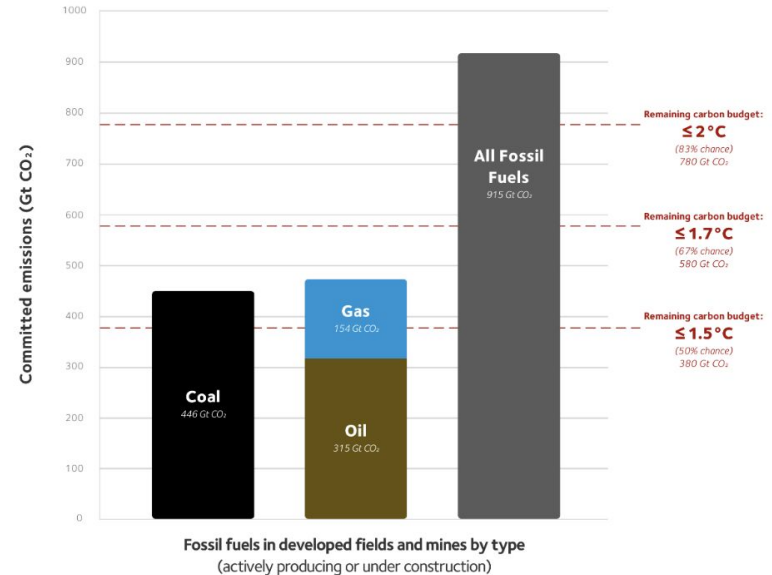
The science: new fossil fuels are incompatible with 1.5C

Studies show nearly 40% of developed fossil fuel reserves need to stay in the ground.

UN nations announced that they agree to work together to “transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems.”

The reality is different today..

Figure 1: CO2 emissions committed by developed oil and gas fields and coal mines, compared to remaining carbon budgets from the start of 2023



Source: Oil Change International analysis of Rystad Energy data (2023) (oil and gas); Trout and Muttiitt et al (2022) (coal); Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021) and Global Carbon Project (2022) (carbon budgets).

# Why focus on protected areas?

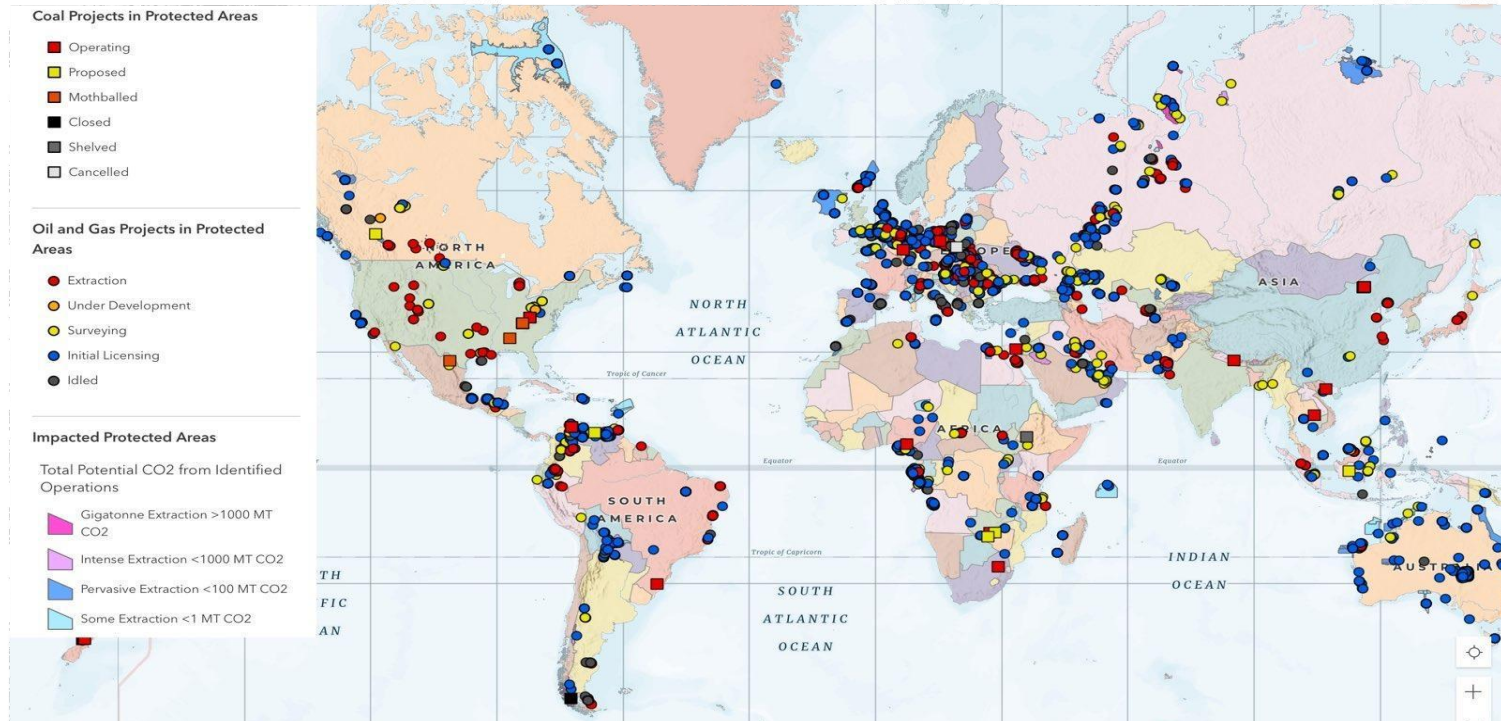
Marginal returns and low profitability while negatively impacting ecosystems, the climate, and local communities.

Many projects rely on state subsidies and infrastructure investments funded by local governments to be profitable.

Some projects are contrary to local (and sometimes international) laws and government positions.



# LINGO Analysis - The Global Picture



# LINGO Analysis - The Numbers

**2301** total extraction sites in over 800 protected areas

Over **90** countries affected

**66.3 Gigatons of CO2** - almost twice global annual emissions

Deposits in protected areas - **253 Gigatons CO2**



QR Code to country summaries

Find out what is going on in your country of interest

# Integrating supply-side commitments with NDCs

UN stated in 2020 that the world is off track with its NDC commitments.

This CO2 is a low-hanging fruit for countries to commit to leaving in the ground.

Different mechanisms for different implementation costs.

## FOSSIL FUELS IN PROTECTED AREAS:

Low-hanging fruit for additional mitigation



### Summary

**50 Gigatons of potential CO2 emissions are located under the world's protected areas, mostly in economically marginal oil, gas and coal fields. Pledging to keep these in the ground constitutes an accessible additional mitigation measure that adds millions of tons of avoided CO2 emissions to a country's NDC with significant biodiversity co-benefits.**

### Background

The Paris Agreement requires leaving over 80% of proven fossil fuel reserves untouched. The Global Stocktake has shown that additional mitigation is needed to achieve the Paris targets. In this context, keeping fossil carbon in the ground within protected areas represents a remarkable opportunity that not only mitigates CO2 emissions but also protects biodiversity.

Protected Areas serve as crucial safety mechanisms for critical biodiversity, support local communities and evoke national pride.



# Leave-it-in-the-Ground Incentive Deals (LIDs)

Toolkit of financial incentive mechanisms

COP29 - an opportunity to seek donor support



Visit for more details



Declaring protected areas as no-go zones for fossil fuel extraction through NDCs can be a cost-effective, politically sound, and morally compelling path for increasing mitigation ambition.



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