

Bolivia Climate Primers: Northern Fixes and Southern Realities

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

» Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

An intergovernmental organization of low-lying coastal and small island states. The purpose of the alliance is to consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States in addressing climate change.

<http://aosis.org/>

» CDM (offset mechanism)

The Clean Development Mechanism was defined in the Kyoto Protocol and “allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.”

https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/mechanisms/clean_development_mechanism/items/2718.php

» Climate Investment Funds (CIFs)

The Climate Investment Funds were designed and approved in 2008 by the World Bank’s Board of Directors and were intended to be an attempt in bridging the gap in climate finance between current obligations and future agreements. The funds come from countries in the global north to help ‘developing’ countries “bridge the gap between dirty and clean energy” and “boost the World Bank’s ability to help developing countries tackle climate change.”

There are two separate funds: the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). Under these two funds exist the Forest Investment Program (FIP), Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), and the Scaling Up renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP).

<https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/>

<https://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R41302.pdf>

» Copenhagen Accord

The Copenhagen Accord is a document created during COP 15 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2009. The accord calls for the 186 nations to reduce emissions, invest in clean energy technology, and support adaptation to climate change effects.

The accord also acknowledges that staying below 2 degrees Celsius may not be enough and includes a review in 2015 of the need to stay below 1.5 degrees or 350ppm atmospheric Co2 concentration.

https://unfccc.int/meetings/copenhagen_dec_2009/items/5262.php

<http://www.usclimatenetwork.org/policy/understanding-the-copenhagen-accord>

» Fossil Free Movement

Global movement with the goals of freezing new investment in fossil fuel companies and industry and divest from holdings in coal, oil, and gas companies.

The movement was kicked off by 350.org, an international environmental activist organization pursuing the reduction of levels of carbon dioxide from over 385 parts per million to 350 parts per million.

This is also referred to at the 'divestment' movement.

» Green Economy

"The green economy is defined as an economy that results in reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. It is closely related with ecological economics, but has a more politically applied focus."

It is a very contentious concept however. Because it places an economic value on all of our natural resources - defining them as "ecosystem services" – it is seen by many, especially in the global South, as a means of commodifying our physical environment for further exploitation and profiteering by (largely Northern) corporations and enterprises.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_economy

<http://www.tni.org/report/green-economy-wolf-sheeps-clothing>

» International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

The ICSID is the international arbitration institution operating under the World Bank that is devoted to resolving disputes between foreign investors and nation states.

<http://www.internationalarbitrationlaw.com/arbitral-institutions/icsid/>

» Land-grabbing

"Land grabbing is the contentious issue of large-scale land acquisitions; the buying or leasing of large pieces of land in developing countries, by domestic and transnational companies, governments, and individuals...as used today [it] primarily refers to large scale land acquisitions following the 2007-2008 world food price crisis...the target locations of most land grabs are in the Global South with 70% of land grabs concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa."

<http://www.tni.org/files/download/landgrabbingprimer-feb2013.pdf>

<http://www.stopafricalandgrab.com/what-is-land-grabbing/>

» OECD

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development is an international economic organization founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and democracy.

<http://www.oecd.org/>

» Official Development Assistance (ODA)

ODA is the key measure used in all aid targets and assessments of aid performance since 1969. It was coined by the Development Assistance committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>

» Pilot Program in Climate Resilience (PPCR)

The PPCR is a program of the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs). This program “funds technical assistance and investments to support countries’ efforts to integrate climate risk and resilience into core development planning and implementation.

<https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/node/4>

» Post-2015 Agenda

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is a UN process defining the global development framework that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which come to an end in 2015.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml>

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/post-2015-development-agenda/

» Precautionary Principal

As defined at the Wingspread conference on the Precautionary Principle in 1998, the precautionary principal can be summarized as: “when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”

<http://www.sehn.org/ppfaqs.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wingspread_Conference_on_the_Precautionary_Principle

» REDD

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is a mechanism negotiated under the UNFCCC with the goals of mitigating climate change through reducing greenhouse gases emissions and removing greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries. The program was launched in 2008. It is contested because many REDD mechanisms imply the use of carbon offsetting measures determined by market forces’

<http://www.un-redd.org/Home/tabid/565/Default.aspx>

» REDD+

In 2010 at COP-16, REDD became REDD+ to reflect new components. REDD+ includes reducing emissions from deforestation, reducing emissions from forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. This global initiative is designed to pay communities or countries of the global south for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The “+” stands for rewarding activities that improve forest health.

<http://www.un-redd.org/aboutredd/tabid/102614/default.aspx>

<http://theredddesk.org/what-is-redd>

» Sanders-Boxer bill

Also known as The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007, this bill was proposed by Senators Bernie Sanders and Barbara Boxer to amend the Clean Air Act and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This bill included reduction deadlines on a faster timeline compared to other bills introduced to address carbon dioxide emissions. It also proposed the “cap and trade” system.

<http://www.sanders.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/021413-2pager.pdf>

» The Amazon Fund (Brazilian Development Bank)

The Fund was created by the Brazilian government and managed by a public bank, but is a private fund. It was created so that investments can be made to prevent and monitor deforestation.

http://www.amazonfund.gov.br/FundoAmazonia/fam/site_en/Esquerdo/Fundo/

» The Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a mechanism under the UNFCCC intended to transfer money from the global north to the global south to support adaptation and mitigation practices. It was established at the 2010 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 16) in Cancun.

<http://www.gcfund.org/home.html>

» UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

International environmental treaty negotiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to limit average global temperature increases and cope with the impacts that were, at that time, considered inevitable.

<https://unfccc.int/2860.php>

» UNFCCC ranking

Annex 1: Industrialized countries that were members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1992 and countries with economies in transition such as the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and other Central and Eastern European States

Non-Annex 1: Mostly countries from the Global South

https://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/items/2704.php

» US Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI)

“The Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI) is the U.S. commitment to work with international partners to foster low-carbon growth, reduce emissions from deforestation, and promote sustainable and resilient societies. It is led by USAID, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Treasury Department.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/climate/us-global-climate-change-initiative>

*This Glossary of Terms was researched and prepared by Carey Averbook.
It accompanies the series “Bolivia Climate Primers”, written by Rebecca
Hollender and published by The Democracy Center, 2014.*