

Press Release

**Oil, gas and coal exploration incompatible with Paris Agreement and bad investment –
New report**

16.11.2016

Marrakesh, COP22. A report, launched today at the UN Climate Summit in Marrakesh shows that fossil fuel exploration is completely incompatible with the Paris Agreement. It is also a bad investment with quickly declining prospects.

The report by the Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO) shows that existing reserves exceed the carbon budget available for burning fossil fuels after Paris by a factor five. Exploration for more coal, oil and gas only increases the carbon bubble. Exploration investments, are exposed to increasing risks due to decade-long time frames for payback.

“Stopping exploration is a high-leverage mitigation option for governments which can stop giving exploration licenses immediately. Citizens can remind governments of existing commitments such as not to explore in protected areas.” said Kjell Kühne, author of the study.

The report shows how today's exploration projects are operating in increasingly difficult social, ecological contexts, with declining economic returns. It is now happening in ecologically vulnerable places such as the Amazon rainforest on the land of non contacted indigenous tribes or offshore, for example in the Arctic. Protected areas are also targeted by explorers, in spite of government commitments to not allow exploration in these areas.

The full report „The low-hanging fruit: Fossil fuel exploration and climate change“ is available for download at the LINGO website: <http://leave-it-in-the-ground.org/exploration/> (**Executive summary:** <http://leave-it-in-the-ground.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Lingo-Fossil-fuel-exploration-and-climate-change-v2.pdf>

Spanish, Portuguese, French executive summaries available)

About the Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO): LINGO is a think tank that proposes solutions for keeping fossil fuels in the ground and transition to a 100% clean energy society. It has been involved in the UN climate negotiations in since 2011.

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Webcast of report launch on 16/11/2016 at 7:30 pm:
<http://unfccc.cloud.streamworld.de/>