

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### UCS Side Event Today at COP23 on Attributing Climate Impacts to Major Fossil Fuel Companies

BONN, GERMANY (November 16, 2017)—The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) will be participating in a side event today titled “Attributing Climate Impacts to Major Fossil Fuel Companies” at the 23rd annual climate change talks, also called COP23, taking place now in Bonn, Germany.

To date, questions of climate change responsibility have historically focused on countries, but are increasingly shifting to fossil fuel producers. The body of climate attribution science now makes it possible to calculate how carbon emissions traced to individual fossil fuel companies have contributed to specific climate impacts. For example, we know that nearly two-thirds of all heat-trapping emissions over the last 150 years can be traced back to just 90 entities.

A [new, first-of-its-kind study by UCS](#) recently published in *Climatic Change*, goes even further determining that top fossil fuel producers such as ExxonMobil and Chevron are responsible for as much as half of the global surface temperature increase and roughly 30 percent of global sea level rise. The study examined attribution during two time periods—before and after 1980, when investor-owned fossil fuel companies were aware of the threat posed by their products. [Click here](#) to view the press release for this analysis.

Panelists will discuss the scientific basis for informing potential carbon producer liability, as well as practical ways in which this rapidly developing body of science can be used to inform legal actions around the world.

#### WHO

- [Peter Frumhoff](#), chief climate scientist and director of science and policy, UCS
- [Sophie Marjanac](#), lawyer of company and financial/climate damage, Client Earth
- [Jennifer Morgan](#), executive director, Greenpeace International (moderator)
- [Makereta Waqavonovono](#), legal practitioner and advisor, independent consultant

#### WHEN

Thursday, November 16, 2017, from 15:00-16:30 CET

#### WHERE

Meeting Room 12 in the Bonn Zone at the COP23 venue in Bonn, Germany.

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The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future. For more information, go to [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org).