

Joint Statement of Uruguayan and Finish social movements against UPM's plans to build a new pulp mill in Uruguay (March 20, 2019)

This international cooperation of social movements shares a common interest in protecting our environment and human rights including the right to dignified employment and housing. Our aim is to protect the quality of life in our communities' land, water, and people.

UPM is planning to install in Uruguay its second pulp mills, one the largest in the world producing about 2,1 million tons/year. The project includes: a new railway, an upgrade of highways, forestry plantations, changes to the main port of the country, a new high voltage line to connect to the national electricity grid, and several processing plants within a duty-free zone.

We are looking to promote awareness, share information and call for a stoppage of this project because of its economic, social and environmental effects.

Most of the components of the UPM new pulp mill will cost the Uruguayan people an estimated of U\$S 4 billion; as it was committed in the agreement signed by Uruguayan Executive branch and UPM. The company states it will not invest more than U\$S 2.4 billion. In addition, UPM will be exempted of paying most taxes as it will be installed in a free zone.

The social impacts include loss of jobs in the various sectors such as: family farming, agriculture, and beekeeping for changes in the uses of land into monoculture tree plantations, in tourism for the contamination of water and land, in artisanal fishing and industry, among others. There are also social impacts in everyday life such the increase in rent prices, the lack of adequate social services, the increase in sexual exploitation and violence specially against women.

In addition, the freight train for cellulose and chemical products will cross towns and urban areas including the capital of the country covering more than 270 kilometers with high impacts and risks for the inhabitants of the place, besides producing losses for small businesses next to the train tracks.

The environmental effects are the most important since the waterways surrounding the plant are already highly contaminated. The contribution of effluents like phosphorus from the new UPM plant will worsen the situation exponentially. We already have serious problems maintaining the water quality, as demonstrated by the huge increase of cyanobacteria on Uruguayan coasts this Summer.

We call to desist from participating in a project with negative economic, social and environmental impacts.

We say no to UPM 2 in Uruguay. Ulos UPM2

Maan Ystävät ry (Friends of the Earth), Finland

New Wind Association, Finland

Emmaus Aurinkotehdas ry, Finland

Ähtärinjärven luontoyhdistys ry, Finland

Friends of the Landless, Finland

Katajamäki ry, Finland

World Rainforest Movement

Asociación Civil Ambientalista de Salto

Ecofeminismo de Río Negro

Grupo Ecologista Política Verde de Dolores

Mburucuyá de Soriano

Maldonado por la Tierra y el Agua

Grupo Guayubira

Colectivo Recreo

Movimiento de Protección Ambiental de Sarandí del Yí

Colectivo Ecofeminista Dafnias

Por el Costado de la Vía

Asamblea Nacional Permanente en Defensa de la Tierra y los Bienes Naturales

Comisión Nacional en Defensa del Agua y la Vida

Colectivo Sauce Lucha por la Tierra

Movimiento por un Uruguay Sustentable (MOVUS)

Vivero Atrapasueños de San Gregorio de Polanco

Asamblea por el Agua del Río Santa Lucía

Conservación de Especies Nativas del Uruguay

Colectivo la Campana Verde de La Paloma

Confederación de Pueblos Costeros

Coordinadora contra UPM y el modelo forestal

Rivera por la Vida Sustentable

Comisión en Defensa de la Laguna del Cisne

Asociación Civil Juliana