

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

2 August 2021

CAMBO OIL FIELD – CALL TO REJECT APPROVAL

Dear Prime Minister,

The UK Government is due to make a decision on whether to approve the controversial Cambo oil field west of Shetland. The first phase of the Cambo Field would produce over 170 million barrels of crude oil - the emissions equivalent of 18 coal fired power plants running for a year. If approved, production in the Cambo Field will begin in 2025 and run until 2050: the same year the UK is to be net zero. We are writing to you now to call on the Government to reject the approval for Cambo; and that you take the opportunity to align UK oil and gas policy with limiting warming to 1.5C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

As the host of COP26, it is vital for the UK's international leadership credentials on climate change for it to walk the walk on all aspects of domestic energy policy. The Government has succeeded in mobilising the G7 behind the 1.5C target, which we strongly support. However, approving the Cambo Field will threaten this progress and stall our efforts at climate diplomacy at the exact moment we need them to accelerate. It will be hard to avoid the irony of world leaders meeting in Glasgow to discuss how to achieve a 1.5 degree world, while the UK Government contemplates a new oil field just over 300 miles to the north.

Approval of a new oil field the size of Cambo would contradict the recommendations of both UNEP and the International Energy Agency (IEA) on how we can meet 1.5C. The IEA report - which was commissioned by Alok Sharma as the COP26 President - reinforces this message, making clear that investment in new oil and gas fields must end this year to be on track. The 2020 UNEP Production Gap report also set out a clear imperative for countries to act to reduce global oil and gas supply by an average of 4% and 3% respectively per year over the next decade in order to be consistent with 1.5C.

Development of the Cambo Field is therefore inconsistent with a 1.5C world, and must not go ahead. To ensure a sustainable transition for the domestic oil and gas industry consistent with the 1.5C target which does not lead to stranded assets, significant decommissioning costs to the public purse, and a sudden collapse in local employment, we call on the Government to: -

- Reject the Cambo Field and all future projects which contradict the findings of the IEA net zero and UNEP 1.5C pathways calling for no further investment in new oil, gas and coal supply.
- Immediately end the issue of any new licences to explore for and extract oil and gas in the North Sea.
- End subsidies (direct and indirect) for oil and gas extraction (including the current exemptions for public finance through PIDG and CDC) and re-direct to green industry.
- Make a plan to deliver a managed and equitable UK energy transition in line with 1.5C, involving extensive engagement with oil and gas workers, trade unions and affected communities, and including major investment in skills and training.
- End the policy of Maximum Economic Recovery (MER) for the North Sea, replacing the Oil and Gas Authority's legal mandate with one that aligns the sector with a 1.5°C pathway, accounting for the UK's historic responsibility for emissions and an obligation to take the lead as a developed nation.

Cambo provides an opportunity for the UK - as a major OECD oil and gas producer - to lead the way on a managed phase-out of its domestic supply. Action now would cement the Government's climate credentials in the run-up to COP26 and beyond, support a sustainable transition for affected workers, and help to catalyse the global transformation needed to be on track for 1.5C.

As demonstrated by the latest climate events in North America, Germany and the millions of people in the south of Madagascar who are currently facing hunger due to climate-induced drought, more and more of the world will soon be too hot and too inhospitable for humans unless decisive action is taken now.

The Government has shown itself as a global leader on ending public finance for fossil fuel projects overseas. In the lead-up to COP26, it is essential that we are seen to be walking the walk at home and that UK climate leadership is extended to cover domestic oil and gas extraction.

We are copying this letter to Alok Sharma, the President of COP26, and to Kwasi Kwarteng and Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the responsible Ministers at BEIS.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Vickerstaff, UK Lead, 350.org
 Katie Hussleby, Coordinator, Action for Global Health
 Nick Flynn, Legal Director, Avaaz
 Johan Frijns, Director, BankTrack
 Lucy Bywater, Chair, Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum
 Judy Ling Wong CBE, Honorary President, Black Environment Network
 Dr Mya-Rose Craig, President, Black2Nature
 Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy, Communications & Education, CAFOD
 Suzanne Jeffery, Chair, Campaign against Climate Change
 Anne Miller, Chair, Carbon Neutral Cambridge

Rachel Berger, Chair, Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon
Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England
Jess Worth, Co-Director, Culture Unstained
Nick Mabey, Co-founding Director and Chief Executive, E3G
Ellie Wyatt, founder, Eco Action Families
Steven Trent, Founder / CEO, Environmental Justice Foundation
Seán Mallon, Founder and Climate Change Specialist, Environmentally Conscious
Kees Kodde, International coordinator, Fair Finance International
Dr Shanon Shah, Director, Faith for the Climate
Jamie Peters, Director of Campaign Impact, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Dr Richard Dixon, Director, Friends of the Earth Scotland
Scott Tully, Organiser, Glasgow Calls Out Polluters
Daniel Willis, Campaigns Manager, Global Justice Now
Simon Taylor, Co-Founder & Director, Global Witness
Caterina Brandmayr, Head of Climate Policy, Green Alliance
Deborah Tomkins, Co-Chair, Green Christian
Sue James, Chair, Havant Climate Alliance
Avnish Thakrar, National Coordinator, Hindu Climate Action
Phil Walder, Chair, Humanist Climate Action
Peter Wooders, Senior Director, Energy, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Paul Chitnis, Jesuit Missions
Alison Tickell, Director, Julie's Bicycle
Frances Gallagher, Justice and Peace Scotland
Canon Giles Goddard, Chair, Faith for the Climate and Chair, Make COP Count
Jack Bertolus, Australian Campaigns Coordinator, Market Forces
Adrian Ramsay, Chief Executive, MCS Foundation
Sophie Neuburg, Executive Director, Medact
May Mailer, Organizer, Mothers Rise Up
Dr David Golding CBE, Development Coordinator, North East CALL TO ACTION
Elizabeth Bast, Executive Director, Oil Change International
Jacqueline Bourne, Founder member, One World Voice
Sarah Hirom, Trustee, One World Week
Revd Dr Darrell Hannah, Chair, Operation Noah
Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive, Oxfam GB
Chris Church, Chair, Oxfordshire COP26 Climate Alliance
Rowan Ryrie, Parents for Future UK
Rosemary Harris, Just Transition Advocacy Campaigner, Platform
Paul Delaney, Acting Director, Positive Money
Max Wakefield, Director, Possible
Lauren MacCallum, General Manager, Protect Our Winters UK
Miles Litvinoff, Director, Publish What You Pay UK
Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain
Pallavi Phartiyal, Deputy Executive Director, Rainforest Action Network
Matthew Hay, Director, Reforesting Scotland
Rachel Hayes, Associate Director, Regen
Beccy Speight, Chief Executive, RSPB
Kirsty McNeil, Executive Director Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, Save The Children
Alistair Dutton, Director, SCIAF
Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director, Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR)
Jamie Agombar, Executive Director, SOS-UK

Lucy Gillie, General Manager, South Seeds
David Hillman, Director, Stamp Out Poverty
Chaitra Dinesh, National Director, Students for Global Health
Hugo Tagholm, CEO, Surfers Against Sewage
Lily Henderson, Teach the Future Student Campaign Coordinator, Teach The Future
Nigel Harris, CEO, Tearfund
Mark Chivers, Volunteer National Coordinator UK, The Climate Reality Project Europe
Professor Ali Watson, OBE, FRSA, Managing Director, Third Generation Project
Freya Aitchison, Secretary, Time for Change Argyll & Bute
Louise Hazan, Co-founder, Tipping Point UK
David Somervell, Convener, Transition Edinburgh
John Bell, Secretary, Transition Town Berkhamsted
Patricia Rogers, Chair, United Nations Association, London & South East Region (UNA LASER)
Tessa Khan, Director, Uplift
Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife and Countryside Link
Chris Holloway, Chair, Winchester Action on Climate Change
Catrina Randall, Network Coordinator, Young Friends of the Earth Scotland

Reply to: Richard Folland, UK Co-Ordinator, Global Gas and Oil Network

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