

Beyond the Baseline – Large Scale Climate Friendly Development

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Developing countries will progressively emit more greenhouse-gas emissions; consuming more and reducing levels of poverty. Understanding that, “effective climate action must be “mainstreamed” to re-orient development paths toward those that are most climate-friendly”^a, we investigate changes in the “development-path” of two developing countries. In China, en route to becoming the largest emitter, we consider developing gas infrastructure for electricity generation. In South Africa, an energy-intensive economy, we consider energy-efficiency policies which meet her development goals. We show that though significant quantities of emissions can be saved by changing development-paths, these would not be realized under mitigation-mechanisms such as Kyoto.

^a Heller. T., and Shukla 2003, Development and Climate: Engaging Developing Countries
<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Beyond%5FKyoto%5FDevelopment%2Epdf>