

Greenpeace Philippines to Big Polluters: Stop drilling, start paying!

Fossil fuel companies must be held accountable for the climate crisis

Oct 2023

- **The climate crisis is here**, and its impacts—loss of lives, homes and livelihoods—are felt most deeply by the poorest and most vulnerable communities who are the least responsible.
- **The Philippines consistently ranks as a top disaster and climate crisis hotspot.** The latest World Risk Index, which measured risks from extreme natural events and the effects of the climate crisis ranked the Philippines as the world's number one disaster risk hotspot.
- **It's a critical decade for climate action and solutions to prevent runaway climate change.** We must ensure global temperature rise stays within 1.5 degrees; and that communities are equipped to cope with present and future impacts
- **Science has shown that big polluters—fossil fuel companies—are the biggest culprits** for anthropogenic carbon emissions since the start of the industrial revolution.
- **Fossil fuel companies need to be held responsible for the harms brought on by climate impacts.** In 2022, a landmark inquiry in the Philippines found legal grounds to hold climate-destroying corporations accountable for the climate-damaging impacts of their business activities.
 - **Yet these companies continue to expand operations**, drilling for more oil, gas and coal, bringing in record-breaking profits in 2022—even **while communities continue to experience ever-worsening climate impacts.**
 - **The biggest fossil fuel companies, including Shell, Exxon Mobil, British Petroleum, and Chevron, announced historic profit records for 2022, with the fossil industry as a whole earning USD 4 trillion for 2022,¹ at a time when scientists are calling for the immediate phase out of fossil fuels in order to prevent runaway climate change.**

Greenpeace believes that fossil fuel companies must:

- **acknowledge its disproportionate role in historical carbon emissions and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels;**
- **stop all fossil fuel expansion; and**
- **pay up for the economic and non-economic loss and damages caused by climate impacts.**

The climate crisis is here, and its impacts—loss of lives, homes and livelihoods—are felt most deeply by the poorest and most vulnerable communities who are the least responsible.

- Developing nations are suffering rising losses and damages from the worsening impacts of climate-induced disasters driven largely by the historical greenhouse gas emissions of wealthy economies and the fossil fuel industry.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-gas-industry-earned-4-trillion-last-year-says-iea-chief-2023-02-14/>

- The number of extreme climate and weather-related events that developing countries experience has more than doubled since 1991,² affecting, on average, 189 million people every year.
- By 2030 losses from climate change (excluding non-economic losses such as cultural loss, biodiversity loss etc) in developing countries are estimated to be between \$290 billion and \$580 billion per year. By 2050, they could exceed \$1tn every year as the impacts of climate change intensify.³

The Philippines consistently ranks as a top disaster and climate crisis hotspot.

- November 2022, the World Bank estimated that aside from substantial human costs, the climate crisis is expected to reduce the country's GDP by as much as 13.6 percent by 2040, with the poorest households most affected.⁴
- Meanwhile, another recent study⁵ has projected that the Philippines stands to lose USD 124 billion in water-related disasters such as floods and storms by 2050, as climate impacts increase.
- The World Risk Index released in 2022⁶ which measured risks from extreme natural events and the effects of the climate crisis, ranked the Philippines as the world's number one disaster risk hotspot.
- The Philippines is a supertyphoon hotspot. Sudden onset climate change impacts include more frequent and more intense typhoons.⁷ Since the past decade, the Philippines has been experiencing more frequent intense typhoons, including 11 super typhoons since 2016. Out of the average 20 typhoons that pass the country every year, as much as 6 of these can be supertyphoons.⁸
- Slow onset climate impacts such as sea level rise are also projected to severely affect the country.
 - Greenpeace Philippines research as early as 2007⁹ shows that only one of the 16 regions of the Philippines is not vulnerable to a one-meter rise in sea level, and the regions and provinces most susceptible to sea level rise, extreme weather events, and landslides are also among those with the highest poverty incidence.
 - A 2020 Greenpeace report on sea level rise projected that in the City of Manila, extreme sea level rise and any subsequent flooding in 2030 could endanger 1.54 million people at risk (out of the total population of 1.78 million) and set back the city's GDP by US\$39 billion, or 87% of the City of Manila's total GDP.

It's a critical decade for climate action and solutions to prevent runaway climate change. We must ensure global temperature rise stays within 1.5 degrees; and that communities are equipped to cope with present and future impacts.

- The IPCC 6th Assessment Report, Working Group 2¹⁰ (Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability) released on Feb 2022 says that:
 - We have entered a critical decade. Climate risks are appearing faster and will get worse sooner than previously assessed. We need to cut emissions much faster, protect and restore nature, and at the same time prepare for the warming we can no longer prevent.
 - Every further bit of warming makes things worse, but limiting warming to 1.5°C would keep the world more adaptable.

2

https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/605869242b205050a0579e87/6355adb4f3fdf583b15834b_L%26DC_THE_COST_OF_D ELAY_.pdf

³ https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_14

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/philippines-country-climate-and-development-report>

⁵ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/08/31/2206192/water-related-disasters-cost-philippines-124-billion>

⁶ https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WorldRiskReport-2022_Online.pdf

⁷ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/> (SPM, section A.3; Ch11, page 6)

8

<https://www.greenpeace.org/philippines/press/12031/greenpeace-ph-a-supertyphoon-hotspot-experienced-7-5-times-more-stys-than-previously-thought/>

⁹ <https://www.greenpeace.org/philippines/story/1327/maps-show-rp-on-road-to-climate-change-catastrophe/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

- If we exceed the Paris Agreement 1.5°C warming limit, everything will get much worse, and more difficult to adapt to, and increasingly impossible for some.
- The IPCC 6th Assessment Report, Working Group 3¹¹ (Mitigation) released April 2022, says that:
 - To meet the Paris Agreement warming limit, global carbon emissions need to be halved by 2030 from current (2019) levels, and fossil fuel use needs to decline fast.
 - Critical years are at hand for getting the right incentives in place. If investments in coal and other fossil infrastructure continue, energy systems will be locked-in to higher emissions.
- For Greenpeace, this means that there can be no new fossil fuel investments anywhere, and existing fossil fuel plants need to be retired early.

Science has shown that fossil fuels are the biggest culprits for anthropogenic carbon emissions since the start of the industrial revolution.

- Fossil fuel companies are responsible for the majority of the oil, gas, and coal products that have been manufactured, marketed, and sold since the industrial revolution. Groundbreaking scientific research in 2013¹² found that nearly two-thirds of anthropogenic carbon emissions originated from a mere 90 companies. These Carbon Major Entities (or Carbon Majors) have contributed the lion's share of cumulative global emissions of industrial CO₂ and methane that are driving the climate change impacts that are being experienced today and into the future. And yet some of them still plan to exploit untapped oil, gas and coal reserves while ecosystems and people are already suffering from the effects of the existing CO₂ and methane in the atmosphere.
 - Between 1751 to 2013, only 90 Carbon Majors, including 50 investor-owned companies, are said to be responsible for 65% of all anthropogenic (human-caused) global industrial CO₂ emissions (CO₂e), estimated to be at 1.104 Gigatonnes (Gt);
 - Nearly one-third of all global industrial CO₂ from 1751 to 2013 are linked to the carbon fuels produced by the Top 20 fossil fuel entities.
 - The Top 20 investor-owned fossil fuel companies contributed 294.6 Gt CO₂e, equivalent to 19% global historic emissions through 2013; and
 - The 49 investor-owned Carbon Majors contributed 337.7 Gt CO₂e, equivalent to 21.6% of estimated global industrial emissions through 2013
 - Climate Accountability Institute's 2020 report¹³ calculated how much each of the largest oil, natural gas, and coal companies has contributed to the climate crisis from 1965 to 2018. The findings show that the top 20 Carbon Major companies have collectively contributed 493 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide and methane, primarily from the combustion of their products, equivalent to 35% of all fossil fuel and cement emissions worldwide since 1965 (global total of 1.41 trillion tCO₂e).
- **Scientists are now able to link the occurrence of EWEs to many factors, including human-induced climate change stemming from the activities of Carbon Majors.** Given the scientific basis linking carbon producers to anthropogenic climate change, it is thus clear that Carbon Majors continue to profit massively from the destruction of the planet, just as they have done for over 200 years, from the start of the industrial revolution in 1751 up to the present.

¹¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

¹² Carbon Majors: Accounting for carbon and methane emissions 1854-2010 [Methods and Results Report](#), released in 2013 and updated at the beginning of 2014; and [Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010](#), published online in the journal *Climatic Change* in November 2013

¹³ <https://climateaccountability.org/pdf/CAI%20PressRelease%20Dec20.pdf>

Fossil fuel companies must be held responsible for the harms brought on by climate impacts. In 2022, a landmark inquiry in the Philippines found legal grounds to hold climate-destroying corporations accountable for the climate-damaging impacts of their business activities.

- In 2015, 18 Filipinos from communities living on the frontlines of climate change, supported by 14 Filipino civil society organisations, including Greenpeace Southeast Asia, petitioned the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR) to investigate 50 investor-owned Carbon Majors for ‘violating or threatening to violate the human rights of all Filipinos by significantly contributing to global climate change and failing to reduce emissions, despite having the capacity to do so’.
- On 6 May 2022, the CHR issued its final report. The report is historic and sets a solid legal basis for asserting that climate-destructive business activities by fossil fuel and cement companies contribute to human rights harms. Greenpeace believes that the message is clear: these corporate fossil fuel behemoths cannot continue to transgress human rights and put profit before people and planet.
- Major findings stated in the report include:
 - Carbon Majors’ products contributed to 21.4% of global emissions (p. 99). The Carbon Majors had early awareness, notice, or knowledge of their products’ adverse impacts on the environment and climate system, at the latest, in 1965. (pp. 101-104)
 - Carbon Majors, directly by themselves or indirectly through others, singly and/or through concerted action, engaged in willful obfuscation of climate science, which has prejudiced the right of the public to make informed decisions about their products, concealing that their products posed significant harms to the environment and the climate system. (pp. 108-109)
 - In addition to liability anchored on acts of obfuscation of climate science, fossil-based companies may also be held to account by their shareholders for continued investments in oil explorations for largely speculative purposes. (p. 109)
 - All acts to obfuscate climate science and delay, derail, or obstruct this transition may be a basis for liability. At the very least, they are immoral (p. 115). Climate change denial and efforts to delay the global transition from fossil fuel dependence still persists. Obstructionist efforts are driven, not by ignorance, but by greed. Fossil fuel enterprises continue to fund the electoral campaigns of politicians, with the intention of slowing down the global movement towards clean, renewable energy. (p. 110)
 - The Carbon Majors have the corporate responsibility to undertake human rights due diligence and provide remediation (p. 110). Business enterprises, including their value chains, doing business in, or by some other reason within the jurisdiction of, the Philippines, may be compelled to undertake human rights due diligence and held accountable for failure to remediate human rights abuses arising from their business operations (pp. 113-114).
- The report gave the following recommendations to Carbon Majors:
 - Publicly disclose due diligence and climate and human rights impact assessment results, and the corresponding measures taken in response thereto;
 - Desist from all activities that undermine the findings of climate science;
 - Cease further exploration of new oil fields, keep fossil fuel reserves in the ground, and lead the just transition to clean energy;
 - Contribute to a Green Climate Fund for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures; and
 - Continually engage with experts, CSOs and other stakeholders for the assessment and improvement of corporate climate response.
- As of present, none of the Carbon Major respondents to the inquiry have acknowledged the report, the findings on the role they continue to play on exacerbating the climate crisis, nor the recommendations of the report.

Contrary to climate science and the need to uphold justice for communities suffering from the climate crisis, Carbon Major companies continue to expand operations, drilling for more oil, gas and coal, bringing in record-breaking profits in 2022—even while communities continue to experience ever-worsening climate impacts.

- Carbon Major companies continue with business as usual, expanding fossil fuel operations and raking in massive profits
- A 2022 analysis by Global Witness and Oil Change International¹⁴ found that 20 of the world's biggest oil and gas companies, including Shell, Exxon and Gazprom, are set to develop new oil and gas fields, at a projected cost of USD 932 billion by the end of 2030, and USD 1.5 trillion by 2040.
- Shell, in particular, is projected to spend USD 46 billion from 2022 to 2030 on fossil fuel development and exploration.
- At present, Shell is planning to extract more oil and gas from the 'Penguins' oil and gas field in the North Sea. Essentially, they're planning to squeeze every last barrel out of this field, in the middle of a climate crisis. That move would enable them to pump out the equivalent of up to 45,000 barrels of oil a day from the Penguins field. Burning all the oil and gas they get from this project would create 45m tonnes of CO2.
- In the Philippines, Shell is set to build its fifth oil import terminal,¹⁵ as well as an LNG import terminal in Batangas City,¹⁶ expanding its fossil fuel business in the climate crisis ravaged country.
- These carbon majors keep the public hooked to ever-increasing consumption while at the same time spending millions of dollars in greenwashing to portray themselves as sustainable. A 2022 study¹⁷ The Center for Countering Digital Hate revealed that in Google alone, fossil fuel companies such as Exxon, Chevron, Shell, Aramco, and BP spent USD 23.7 million on search ads, with nearly half of that amount used to target searches on environmental sustainability.
- A peer-reviewed journal published in 2022¹⁸ also showed that climate claims made by carbon majors such as Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and BP fell way short of their actual implementation, with a mismatch between the increasing trend of environmental sustainability strategies and pledges in their annual reports, with actual spending and concrete action on the ground

The biggest fossil fuel companies announced historic profit records for 2022, at a time when scientists are calling for the immediate phase out of fossil fuels in order to prevent runaway climate change.

- In 2022, the world's biggest fossil fuel companies posted record earnings while the poorest and most vulnerable communities who did the least to contribute to climate change experienced massive suffering.
- Shell announced that it had earned a record-high USD 40 billion in 2022.¹⁹
- BP has announced a record USD 28 billion in profits for 2022, their biggest in their history, while at the same time disclosing that they will be cutting back on their climate goals of cutting back on emissions and subsequently increasing production of oil and gas in the next 7 years.²⁰

¹⁴ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/worlds-biggest-fossil-fuel-firms-projected-to-spend-almost-a-trillion-dollars-on-new-oil-and-gas-fields-by-2030/>

¹⁵ <https://manilastandard.net/business/power-technology/314298521/shell-expanding-ph-investments-in-more-sectors.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.philstar.com/business/2023/01/23/2239443/shell-bullish-philippines-bares-expansion-plans>

¹⁷ <https://counterhate.com/research/greenwashing-google-big-oil/>

¹⁸ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0263596>

¹⁹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthart/2023/02/02/shell-reports-record-profits-as-oil-giants-including-exxon-chevron-cash-in-on-sky-high-prices-after-russian-invasion-of-ukraine/?sh=7a2cff77ce80>

²⁰ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthart/2023/02/07/bp-boasts-record-profits-as-oil-giants-report-historic-windfalls/?sh=7b681edc26a8>

- Chevron has doubled their earnings from the previous year with a record USD 36.5 billion in profits in 2022.²¹
- ExxonMobil follows the blockbuster earnings of the fossil fuel industry, reporting USD 56 billion in 2022, the highest ever for any US or EU-based oil company.²²
- Total Energies likewise earned USD 36.2 billion in 2022, more than double their average the past 20 years.²³
- ConocoPhillips, who is in the middle of lobbying the Biden administration for the approval of a large drilling project in Alaska, reported USD 18.7 billion profits in 2022.²⁴
- Meanwhile, a recent study²⁵ showed that global climate damage costs soared to USD 360 billion. In the last six months alone, the Philippines had lost billions, on top of human casualties and millions of displaced families, to extreme weather.

Carbon Majors are profiteering from climate destruction and immense human suffering.

While they count their billions, people across the globe count the damage from the record-breaking typhoons, floods, droughts, and heatwaves that these companies are fueling. This is the stark reality of climate injustice, and we must end it.

²¹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/chevron-annual-profit-doubles-record-365-bln-misses-estimates-2023-01-27/>

²² <https://www.npr.org/2023/01/31/1152776315/exxon-mobil-earnings-chevron-big-oil-biden-windfall-tax>

²³ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/totalenergies-posts-record-net-profits-362-bln-2022-2023-02-08/>

²⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/conocophillips-posts-higher-fourth-quarter-profit-2023-02-02/>

²⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/less-than-half-global-cost-climate-disasters-insured-broker-gallagher-re-says-2023-01-30/>

Greenpeace conclusions for action

- The Carbon Major respondents named in the landmark Climate Change and Human Rights Inquiry of the Commission of Human Rights are major global players in fossil fuels.
- Carbon majors are making gargantuan profits out of the climate crisis, which are upending and destroying the lives of people all over the world, harming their rights to life and dignity.
- Climate-fuelled disasters like massive rainfall, super typhoons, floods, and drought are killing people at an unprecedented rate, and impacting food and water security, and health in places like the Philippines. These climate impacts can be traced to the business activities of fossil fuel companies.
- Shell, Exxon Mobil, British Petroleum, Chevron, and other fossil fuel companies are knowingly profiting from injustice. They must all Stop Drilling and Start Paying!

Greenpeace believes that fossil fuel companies must:

- **Take responsibility for its historic role in climate change**
- **Pay up for climate loss and damage**
- **Stop its oil and gas expansion around the world**
- **Commit to a just transition to renewable energy around the world**

About Greenpeace Philippines

Greenpeace Philippines is a local environmental NGO established in 2000. We are part of a global network of independent national and regional organizations present in 55 countries across the globe. We campaign to promote solutions by working directly with communities on the frontlines as they protect the environments they call home.

Our work in the Philippines in the past two decades has focused on helping enable systemic changes in society to ensure a green, just, and peaceful future. A large part of this work has been to campaign for solutions to the climate crisis. Our climate campaign focuses on holding corporations and governments accountable for their role in the climate crisis, working with communities and local governments on responding to climate disasters, and enabling a just energy transition in the Philippines to stop reliance on fossil fuel energy generation and to catalyze a shift to 100% renewable energy.

Our climate campaign

Vision: Our campaign vision is a world without fossil fuels, where Filipinos are empowered to respond to the climate emergency and carve their own climate-resilient future.

Background: The climate crisis has cost people and communities their lives, livelihoods, health, security, and dignity. Studies have shown that major fossil fuel and cement companies are the ones most responsible for this climate crisis. However, no one is holding these companies accountable for their role in the climate emergency. Greenpeace believes these companies must be held responsible, and they should stop

any further exploration and expansion, phase out fossil fuels, and pay communities for losses and damages.

What we do: We work with communities at the frontlines of the climate crisis to amplify their demands for justice and the protection of their rights and to help reclaim their dignity.

GREENPEACE SOUTHEAST ASIA - PHILIPPINES

Room 201, 2/F JGS Building, #30 Scout Tuazon, Brgy. Laging Handa, Diliman, Quezon City 1103

Phone: +63-2-8332-1807 Email: info.ph@greenpeace.org

FB: @greenpeaceph X: @gp-ph IG: @greenpeaceph

www.greenpeace.org.ph

For more information, contact:

Jefferson Chua

Campaigner

Greenpeace Philippines

jefferson.chua@greenpeace.org

Virginia Benosa-Llorin

Global Co-lead, Make Polluters Pay

Greenpeace Philippines

virginia.benosa-llorin@greenpeace.org