



2023 Greenpeace Philippines Ship Tour

November 2023

Super typhoons like Haiyan (Yolanda, 2013) and Rai (Odette, 2021)—the two most devastating tropical cyclones in the Philippines—have in the past decade become symbols for the urgency of climate action. These typhoons have brought untold suffering and human rights harms to communities in the Philippines, communities whose emissions are a drop in the bucket in comparison to that of fossil fuel companies, the worst offenders of the climate crisis.

The costs of the climate crisis

According to the Philippine Department of Finance, extreme weather and climate change impacts have caused the Philippines PHP 506 billion¹ (USD 8.9M) in damages over the past decade. The World Bank has also reported that the country stands to lose upwards to 13.4% of its GDP by 2040 if no concrete action on climate change is taken. These damages have escalated in the past decade, with 8 of the 10 worst typhoons in the country's history happening since 2013.

Climate impacts are escalating not only in the Philippines but around the world. Climate-related hazards globally have caused upwards to USD 313 billion² in 2022 alone, and according to the insurance company Aon, less than half of this figure is estimated to be uninsured, highlighting the extreme exposure of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Worsening climate scenarios

Science is likewise painting a grim picture of our future³, with the World Meteorological Organization saying that there is a 98% chance that one of the years in the next 5 years will be the hottest on record. In fact, July 2023 was recorded as the hottest month on record, with temperatures breaching the 1.5C threshold.

Higher global temperatures mean a more unstable climate. With every additional increment of warming, as many changes in the climate system become larger in direct relation to increasing warming. More warming brings more frequent and more intense hot extremes, marine heatwaves, droughts in some regions, heavy rains, flooding events, intense tropical cyclones and worsening climate impact-drivers such as melting ice and snow, rising sea-levels, changing ocean circulation as well as acidifying, warming and deoxygenation of oceans

In its 6th Assessment Report⁴, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the foremost authority on climate science, has affirmed that:

[w]idespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people (high confidence). Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected (high confidence).

¹ <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2022/10/26/482996/climate-inaction-puts-economy-at-risk/>

²

<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/natural-disasters-caused-313-bln-economic-loss-2022-aon-2023-01-25/>

³

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139527>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

Human influence, including the burning of fossil fuels, have led to the warming that is causing the climate crisis: It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land...Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has further strengthened since AR5. Human influence has likely increased the chance of compound extreme events since the 1950s, including increases in the frequency of concurrent heatwaves and droughts (high confidence).

Climate change and human rights

There is widespread agreement that climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights, posing a threat to the fundamental rights to life, health, livelihood, food, water of communities around the world.

According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, “The climate crisis is the biggest threat to our survival as a species and is already threatening human rights around the world.”⁵ Global temperatures are rising due to greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. Increased temperatures are directly contributing to harmful effects, such as droughts, floods, sea-level rises, heatwaves, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems. Climate change poses a threat not just to human life, but to all life. It already affects the human rights of countless persons and the impacts are only getting worse.⁶

Communities also suffer persistent human rights harms because of the enduring developmental effects of these climate impacts. One time extreme weather events (typhoons, droughts) as well as slow onset events (such as sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification), not only harm communities during the events themselves, but these harms are also compounded, for example, when communities experience repeated typhoons on an annual basis, compromising their ability to cope and adapt, as well as creating a burden on local government units who are left scrambling for resources to respond and ensure that communities recover.

Fossil fuel companies: fueling the climate crisis

All these are happening at breakneck speed amidst the continued inaction and injustice perpetuated by fossil fuel companies, the top six of which earning a record USD 219 billion⁷ in 2022. Further, some of the biggest and most influential IOCs have secured shareholder support to not only scale back climate commitments⁸, but also plan to invest close to USD 932 billion⁹ by 2030 in new oil and gas fields. This push is supported by mind-boggling spending on political lobbying and advertising to maintain their social license. For instance, in the run up to COP27, 87 fossil-fuel linked groups spent close to USD 4 million in Facebook ads alone¹⁰. Another report¹¹ in the USA looked at ad and political spending between 2008-2018 and found that trade associations spent USD 2.2 billion and 729 million in advertising and lobbying, respectively. These companies have likewise touted gas as essential¹² in today’s energy mix and at the same time important for climate action in the different digital platforms and algorithms they use.

⁵ Secretary-General, “The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights”, remarks made to the Human Rights Council on 24 February 2020. Available at www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-02-24/secretary-generals-remarks-the-un-human-rights-council-%E2%80%9Cthe-highest-aspiration-c-all-action-for-human-rights-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english

⁶ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FSheet38_FAQ_HR_CC_EN.pdf

⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/big-oil-doubles-profits-blockbuster-2022-2023-02-08/>

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<https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/06/15/shell-joins-bp-and-total-in-u-turning-on-climate-pledges-to-reward-share-holders>

⁹

<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/>

¹⁰ https://caad.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DDD_ExposingClimateDisinfo-COP27.pdf

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<https://theconversation.com/big-oils-trade-group-allies-outspent-clean-energy-groups-by-a-whopping-27x-with-billions-in-ads-and-lobbying-to-keep-fossil-fuels-flowing-198286>

¹² <https://influencemap.org/report/Climate-Change-and-Digital-Advertising-a40c8116160668aa2d865da2f5abe91b#5>

The Philippines' Climate Change and Human Rights Report

In 2022, the Philippine Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR) issued the final report¹³ of the National Inquiry on Climate Change¹⁴, its multi-year investigation into 47 investor-owned corporations, called 'Carbon Majors' for human rights harms that result from their actions triggering climate change¹⁵.

Major findings stated in the report include:

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. 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)
4. 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)
5. 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).

Philippines energy outlook: fossil fuel expansion

Locally, the Philippines is eyeing the expansion of fossil gas through importation as a strategy to secure energy security amid the depleting resources of the Malampaya gas field and a more aggressive global push for energy transition. The Philippine Energy Plan¹⁶ likewise views fossil gas (liquefied natural gas) as a transition fuel necessary in securing a "clean energy future," seeing a steady 1.5% increase in gas consumption in the transport and industrial sectors by 2040, and the start of importation in 2022. Experts have warned¹⁷ that investing in gas risks costly lock-in periods and neglects the projected weakening of the market amid greater cost efficiency and availability of indigenous renewable energy sources in the years leading up to 2040. Southeast Asia is quickly becoming the prime destination for the sector because of its short-term growth potential, but this expansion also means that much of the region's carbon budgets will be eaten up, presenting a threat to climate targets in a setting where more ambition is actually needed.

Greenpeace Philippines Ship Tour

It is in this context that Greenpeace Philippines will embark on a project focusing on climate reparations, aiming to journey Filipinos from a story of collective pain to collective agency, facilitating the transformation

¹³ <https://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CHRP-NICC-Report-2022.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://chr.gov.ph/nicc-2/>

¹⁵ The final report is the result of a seven-year inquiry

(<https://www.greenpeace.org/philippines/the-climate-change-human-rights-inquiry-archive/>) conducted by the Commission on Human Rights at the request of communities and individuals that have been severely impacted by extreme weather disasters in the Philippines, such as super typhoon Haiyan. The group of 47 investor-owned corporations named in the petition includes BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ENI, ExxonMobil, Glencore, OMV, Repsol, Sasol, Shell, Suncor, Total and RWE.

¹⁶ <https://www.doe.gov.ph/pep>

¹⁷ https://globalenergymonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GEM_AsiaGas2021_FINAL.pdf

of climate frontline communities from a community of survivors to a community of heroes. By co-powering communities, providing different platforms to take action against the deep and comprehensive influence of fossil fuel companies, and demonstrating global solidarity through different public and community engagement activities, their voices are magnified, increasing pressure to make polluters pay for the loss and damage they have caused through their continued expansion and neglect of climate change realities.

The ship will bear witness to the different faces of climate change impacts in the different areas in the Philippines and serves to commemorate the 10th year anniversary of super typhoon Haiyan and its enduring effects on the psyche of the Filipino people, the ongoing human rights harms being experienced by communities from repeated extreme events, the lack of accountability from fossil fuel companies, and the demands of the communities for them to stop drilling and expanding, and start paying reparations.

Let's stand with Filipino communities calling for an end to fossil fuels and payment for climate damages!

Tacloban City and Eastern Samar Province

The Rainbow Warrior will join Super Typhoon (STY) Haiyan survivors in Tacloban City and Eastern Samar Province as they mark ten years since the most powerful tropical cyclone ever to make landfall devastated communities in the Philippines. STY Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda), affected 16 million Filipinos and killed at least 6,300 people and cost the Philippines an estimated PHP 89.5 billion.

Ten years on, while on the surface normalcy seems to have returned, full recovery has not yet been attained even as communities continue to be assailed by repeating extreme weather and climate disasters. We will join communities as they make their move to demand payment for loss and damage.

Bohol Province

In Bohol Province, the Rainbow Warrior will visit and bear witness to island and coastal communities experiencing subsidence as well as current and imminent sea level rise. For many of these communities, the choice is just between relocating to higher ground and taking provisional adaptation measures for as long as they can, even as climate impacts escalate every year. People are not only coping with the loss of their homes, livelihoods and way of life; they are living with constant anxiety and carrying the burden of adaptation and constant recovery, all while fossil fuel corporations continue to destroy the climate.

With current scientific projections on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal areas, these islands present a snapshot of long term impacts island communities and archipelagic countries need to be prepared for—and why urgent climate action is necessary.

Metro Manila

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. Greenpeace together with communities will gather stakeholders from around the world to discuss concrete ways forward and options for communities to make polluters pay for losses and damages from climate impacts.

Communities are leading the way and showing big polluters and governments what needs to be done.

People's Museum of Climate Justice

Throughout the tour, Greenpeace, together with communities, will be exhibiting the **People's Museum of Climate Justice**. The museum is a living, growing physical and virtual museum co-created and co-curated with climate impacted communities in the Philippines and other countries. It is intended to memorialize

community experiences of climate impact and injustice, evoke our shared human experiences in a world assailed by climate crisis, and amplify community demands to right what is wrong.

Why must big polluters pay?

The climate crisis we are experiencing right now was brought about by the world's biggest and richest fossil fuel companies. For too long, these companies have profited 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!

What kind of payment should it be?

Fossil fuel companies must pay their climate debt: give money to climate impacted communities to compensate for the losses and damages—both economic and non-economic—experienced by people. They must also stop fossil fuel expansion AND phase out fossil fuels by committing to a just transition.

Greenpeace calls

- A. Fossil fuel companies must
 - a. acknowledge their disproportionate role in historical carbon emissions and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels;
 - b. stop all fossil fuel expansion; and
 - c. pay up for the economic and non-economic losses and damages caused by climate impacts.
- B. The Philippine government must
 - a. demand payment for loss and damages from fossil fuel companies and rich nations alike
 - b. call for and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels

What else can be done

- A. Climate impact survivors and communities can join together in solidarity and support the calls to make polluters pay so that the governments around the world and big polluters hear these demands loudly.
- B. LGUs (local government units) can issue resolutions, ordinances or pursue other means to hold big polluters to account and demand payment for losses and damages.
- C. Individuals can sign up and participate in this ship tour, visit the People's Museum of Climate Justice online or offline, and join the call to demand action from the Philippine government to make polluters pay.

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.

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