

# Climate Change in Vanuatu: Problems Ensur

 [moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/12/25/climate-change-in-vanuatu-problems-ensue](https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/12/25/climate-change-in-vanuatu-problems-ensue)

By Harsh Mahaseth

December 25, 2020



Authors: Harsh Mahaseth and Shubham Sharma\*

Vanuatu announced its intention to seek legal action against corporations and governments who have benefited from products which had caused climate change. Minister Regebvanu, in the 2018 Climate Vulnerable Summit sought to explore legal actions against companies, financial institutions and governments liable for the damages caused to Vanuatu due to climate change, either by direct to indirect actions of the said parties. Vanuatu, like other small island nations, is seeking damage claims against carbon emitters who have contributed to climate change and benefited from it. Vanuatu seeks to claim reparations for damage caused by events related to climate change such as the 2015 cyclone which wiped out an estimated 64 per cent of Vanuatu's GDP.

A case of action against global polluters isn't novel. Climate Change litigation has its precedence, with over 1300 cases having been filed across 28 countries, where various public and private entities have petitioned the Courts for environmental action or relief. The source of the litigation comes for various multilateral treaties, such as the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, Convention on Environmental Impact

Assessment in a Transboundary Context, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and others treaties combating pollution.

For Vanuatu, one of the major obstacle, other than the likely opposition from powerful States, includes finding a suitable forum; identifying relevant substantive obligations and various challenges relating to attribution, causation and evidence before they are able to make successful climate litigation before an international body such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), scholars have argued that a path for successful litigation exists through Article 36, paragraph 2 of the ICJ Statute, where by accepting compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ a case for prevention obligations under the *lex specialis* is of the UNFCCC, human rights law or customary international law.

Strategic Public Climate Litigation, an injunctive relief solution where the aim is to influence public policy or policy decisions primarily through the attainment of injunctive relief by asserting governmental failure to account for GHG emissions associated with public projects and cases of judicial review of public regulatory action (or inaction) on climate change, has already achieved some degree of success. An example would be the Australian Conservation Foundation et al. v. Minister for Planning where there were concerns with regards to GHG emissions of a new coal mine which lead a tribunal to determine the lasting significant environmental effects of the coal mine in the future would be against the objective of the act which is to “maintenance of ecological processes” and the “future interest of all Victorians.” Another example is that of the State of the Netherlands v. Urgenda Foundation, where an injunction was sought to compel the Dutch government to reduce GHG emissions, the supreme court of appeals, upheld this view and ordered the Dutch government to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent by the end of 2020, compared with 1990 level.

The second option for Vanuatu is to cast a wide net of a variety of legal theories, such as domestic tort law against carbon majors similar to the petition brought before the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, which investigate the responsibility of 47 investor-owned carbon majors for human rights violations due to climate change. For this approach, the initial challenge Vanuatu faces is the lack of a national human rights institution who can bring rights violations caused by climate change. However, the lack of a human rights institution can be mitigated by Vanuatu’s independent judicial system, as it is competent to address claims for damage caused by climate change by the polluters. The major hurdle Vanuatu faces is establishing the causation between the defendants’ conduct and its result, which is to say whether the action of the defendant lead to or contributed to the disaster, and secondly, the ability to certain specific damage sorted by Vanuatu on the other, especially in cases of non-economic loss and damage.

The recent surge in climate change litigation bodes well for Vanuatu, as the establishing precedence only strengthens their claim for damages. However, Vanuatu still faces major obstacles. Firstly, a lack of an international body to address the issue. Even if a case is brought before the ICJ, it can only be against a Member State. Thus, action against private entities cannot be brought before the ICJ. Secondly, identifying the rights violated and

then assessing and assigning the damage liability to individuals, entities and governments. Thirdly, if Vanuatu pursues action in domestic courts, there are issues relating to the appearance of the party to the summons and the ability of Vanuatu to enforce the judgment. As the primary means of compliance for offenders in the international area are sanctions, Vanuatu without support from larger nations wouldn't be able to handout sanctions to force compliance. There are many problems that Vanuatu faces but they cannot sit still now, and it is time to act and make the polluters liable.

\* **Shubham Sharma** is a graduate from NALSAR University of Law. He has worked on several research projects relating to human rights, juvenile justice, and climate change.

### Harsh Mahaseth

Harsh Mahaseth is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean (Academic Affairs) at Jindal Global Law School, and a Senior Research Analyst at the Nehginpao Kipgen Center for Southeast Asian Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India.



## **Green Planet**

---

### **Climate change and food security in the 21st century**

---



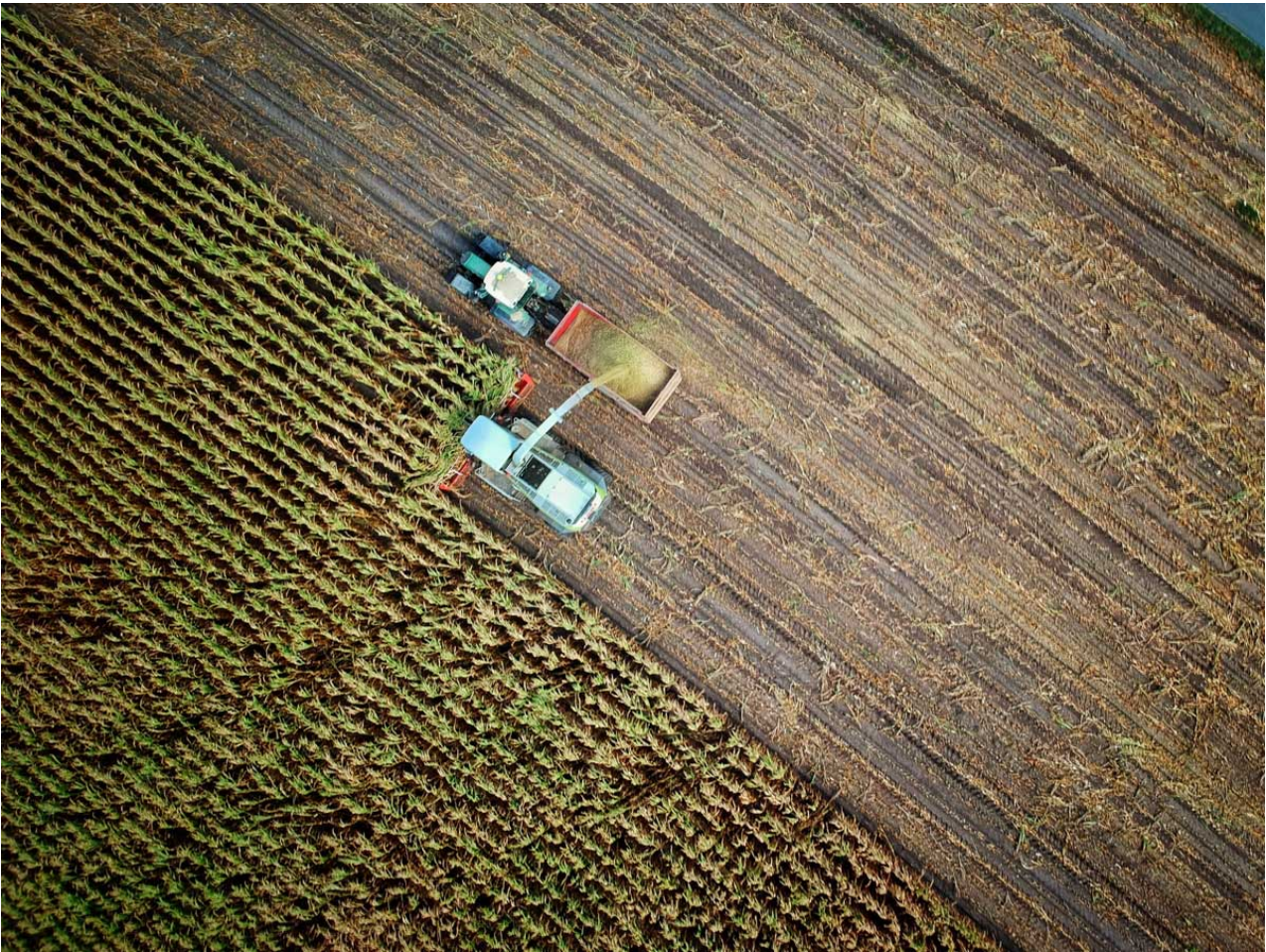
Published

2 days ago  
on

January 7, 2023  
By

Mashal Zahid





Climate change is one of the many factors that influence food security. Worldwide, levels of hunger remain alarmingly high. In 2021, they exceeded all earlier records, as stated by the Global Report on Food Crises. Food is not distributed evenly around the world, so most of the world will not go hungry; however, the poorest parts of the world will be hungrier than they are now. More people are going hungry than ever before, and the UN warns that the number is growing. The latest UN report on global hunger shows that we are regressing. No fewer than 828 million people went hungry one way or another every day last year. Natural disasters, conflicts, and rising temperatures are alarming for food security. Prices of crops and wheat have amplified dramatically and will continue to do so. To avert a global food catastrophe Billions of dollars are needed. Apart from the fact that it is too late, what can we do?

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has exacerbated the problem, but even before the pandemic, hunger was on the rise because of poverty, conflicts, a growing population, disease, and climate change. According to the IPCC report, climate change could lead to an extra 183 million people on the edge of acute hunger by 2050. A warmer planet affects how food is grown and distributed around the world. Extreme heat waves, floods in northern Europe, droughts in China, and extreme wildfires in Spain and France are examples.

By 2021, global hunger will have reached nearly 830 million people. According to the UN report; Food insecurity has also increased the gender gap. At least 45 million young children go through wasting (the noxious form of malnutrition).

According to a report in Kenya, people wait for cash payouts from Kenya's government money to cope with the rising food crisis, and how much they receive depends on how vulnerable their families are. In northern Kenya, savings are held in livestock; a man without livestock cannot provide food to their family; drought wipes out a family's fortunes and it takes years to recover, so they have to make sure that their herd stays alive; it's their priority.

### **How have Russia and the Ukraine war triggered the situation?**

Conflicts have emerged, as have the effects of climate change on food structures. Nations have not made progress since COVID 19, and climate change is exposing how vulnerable global food systems are; additionally, the war in Ukraine has caused inflation and food insecurity, and numerous forms of climate disaster have occurred around the world, primarily in the global south. As Russia's war rages around them, Ukrainian farmers go hard at work, which is critical as Ukraine is a chief supplier of grains, cooking oils, and other food items to the rest of the world. However, both making food and receiving it from the rest of the world are becoming increasingly difficult for Ukraine. Some farmers fear that it will rapidly become unbearable. When big nations get sanctioned, particularly unilaterally, then everybody suffers especially poor nations where there is still a food crisis, let alone commodities and other such things.

It is no doubt that the war has led to a massive and deteriorating food security situation in Ukraine, disrupting livelihoods during the agricultural growing season, creating limitations for physical access to inputs, and destroying homes, productive assets, agricultural and forest land, and roads. Russia and Ukraine export approximately one-third of the world's wheat and barley, as well as more than 70% of their sunflower oil and are major corn traders. Russia is the largest global fertilizer producer. World food prices were already rising, and the war has made things worse, blocking some 20 million tons of Ukrainian grain from getting to the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Asia. Due to Russian obstructions of the Black Sea coast, almost 90 percent of the wheat and other grains from Ukrainian fields that are transported to world markets by sea have been affected. Some grain is being redirected through Europe by rail, road, and river, but the quantity is a drop in the bucket compared with sea routes. The consignments are also backed up as Ukraine's rail gauges don't match those of its nationals to the west. The costs of supply chain disruptions have both accelerated and slowed global economic recovery. Several parts of the world are facing labor shortages, further postponing transport networks. Due to a lack of truck drivers, unloaded ships have become congested.

### **How can we prevent food insecurity from becoming the next global pandemic?**

Climate change is a far more serious issue and threat than the nuclear threat. What makes this bigger is that the majority of us do not consider this a threat because there is no Hiroshima of climate change. The government should levy taxes on more carbon emission businesses to raise awareness about environmental issues because we pollute most of the water that is available to us. Anytime we go to Sea View, people throw litter there. To

alleviate climate change, keep it at levels where it is still possible to ensure and maintain everyone's food security and nutrition. In that effort, agriculture also has a role to play, keeping in mind that food security is the priority. Adaptation to climate change in agriculture and food systems for food security and nutrition will require enabling investments, policies, and institutions in various areas where changes on the ground are needed. For the world's poor, becoming accustomed to climate change and ensuring food security go hand in hand. Food can be grown at a higher density and quality with additional hands-on processes than with existing commercial farming practices. Effectiveness has taken precedence over quality and quantity. Commercial farming practices are harsh on the environment. Permaculture and other maintainable methods can together increase the food supply and help the environment at the same time. Of course, that would involve a complete modification of the lifestyle and economy of the world. If everyone grew their food and gave back to nature, we would be good.

[Continue Reading](#)

## **Green Planet**

---

### **Analyzing the Cop 27 and its loss and damage fund agreement**

---



Published

6 days ago

on

January 3, 2023

By

[Mashal Zahid](#)





Simon Stiell, head of UNFCCC, speaking at the official opening of COP27. Photo: Momoko Sato/ UNIC Tokyo

The 27th UN climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt, from November 6–18 concluded with a historic deal where, for the first time, developed countries agreed to pay for damage and loss to the developing nations that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. However, it fell short of its objectives to reduce emissions and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. While the conference's outcome was disappointing because it failed to phase out all fossil fuels, there were some significant victories. The next climate conference will determine whether or not the pledges made were successful.

The deal to set up a fund for loss and damage is a breakthrough in climate negotiations. Rich nations, as big emitters have finally committed to setting up a climate fund for developing nations with a smaller CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. The goal faced significant opposition from wealthy nations, but escalating pressure from nonprofits, growing media attention, developing countries, a relentless and unified approach, and a last-minute reversal from the EU brought the US and other developed countries on board.

The proposal to phase out all fossil fuels, not just coal, and reach peak emissions by 2025 was the conference's major setback. This was a huge disappointment for environmentalists.

The response from China at Sharm el-Sheikh was also unexpected. China, which has the third-highest carbon emissions per capita in the world, is appealing for funds to combat climate change. Climate activists have disrupted climate conferences and accused government officials of doing little for the planet over the years. This year is no exception, with climate activism activities ranging from throwing liquids in museums and hallways to blocking traffic in Germany.

We host global climate conferences because climate change is a global issue. Everything we do in any country has an impact on the global climate. As a result, without global cooperation, humanity will be unable to overcome climate catastrophe. Regrettably, in order to work in global mutual consideration, we must acquire empathy for all of humanity and rise above each country's parochial objectives. We are nowhere near such a mindset. Instead, each country attempts to force policies that serve its interests on the rest of the world, resulting in a climate war in which everyone loses. As with any battle, the rich and powerful countries set the tone. They continue to use polluting fuels. They will continue to use fuels that pollute the air and exacerbate climate change, and nothing will stop them unless natural disasters become so severe that all of mankind is forced to adapt. Meanwhile, as a demonstration of good faith, or possibly to acquire the world's acceptance, they set up "loss and damage" funds to "fix" the harm. Such claims do not fix anything, since everyone knows.

Aside from frigid temperatures and natural calamities, the climate problem has another negative impact: Icebergs that have been frozen for thousands, if not millions, of years, are melting. And buried beneath the ice are innumerable diseases that have resurfaced and against which our bodies have no immunity. Scientists have already given a warning that the next pandemic may potentially result from melting icebergs rather than wild animals or human error.

Indeed, if you analyze all of the world's challenges today, you will observe that none of them are regional. Climate change is affecting the entire planet, rising energy prices and disrupted supply lines are affecting all of mankind, and even a regional catastrophe, such as the war in Ukraine, has serious global effects. The interconnection that presently affects all of mankind will only worsen until we are unable to make a simple movement, such as breathing, without influencing the entire world. On the bright side, none of our challenges are insurmountable. Every single problem will vanish as if it never happened if we all work together rather than against each other.

## **Conclusion**

As long as the Capitalists expect greater profits in a fossil fuel-dominated industry, it won't be a real solution. Capitalism and the elites are still at the heart of the issue. That's what needs to change. This year, the world has witnessed the dire consequences of climate change, from heat waves, droughts, and wildfires to unprecedented rainfall and disastrous floods. It is a huge time to either make a collective effort to save the climate or see its hazards. With what the world has witnessed this year in terms of climate catastrophe, it is needless to say that there is no room for ignorance. It's now or never.

[Continue Reading](#)

## **Green Planet**

---

**Think the Resolution to reduce the earth's temperature by 1.5°C by 2050**





Published

2 weeks ago

on

December 29, 2022

By

Syarifah Huswatun Miswar



2022 will change over the next year. Many years are open through the examination and resolutions of the following year. Of course, throughout 2022, a lot has happened in one's life, and an individual provides self-assessment and goals and targets for future life. Likewise the earth, much has happened all through 2022, but can the earth make its own resolutions in 2023? This may be an odd question because the earth is obviously not human as you who read this article. However, the earth is a home for humans and others who provide shelter and suffice and sustain life. So, is the earth significant or not in resolution 2023?

### **What occurred to the environment throughout 2022?**

Last November 2022, negotiators emerged from the COP27 climate summit with an agreement to establish a new funding stream called "loss and damage" which is climate damage accounting when all else has failed. Communities at the frontline of the climate emergency.

By 2022, there will be at least 13 major environmental issues, including the next ones.

Over the course of 2022, there were at least 13 major environmental challenges, including the following.

*Firstly*, heating using fossil fuels.

Over four million years ago, our planet had the lowest levels of carbon dioxide. Rising greenhouse gas emissions have resulted in a rapid and steady rise in global temperatures, leading to catastrophic events worldwide. A heatwave in the Antarctic caused temperatures to rise to more than 20 degrees for the first time. Scientists have warned that the planet has passed a series of tipping points that could have catastrophic consequences such as the melting of the polar ice caps, the acceleration of mass extinction. The climatic crisis leads to more frequent natural disasters. Even if all greenhouse gas emissions cease immediately, global temperatures will continue to rise over the next several years if we do not invest in renewable energy sources.

*Second*, Bad governance. Economist Nicholas Stern says the climate crisis has been caused by multiple market failures. Emissions reductions require not only funding, but also other policies that can overcome market failures. The present structure of the carbon tax does not correspond to the pollution profile of energy sources. Furthermore, organizations such as the UN are considered unsuitable for climate change, because it was formed to prevent another world war, UN members are not given the mandate to comply with every suggestion and recommendation made by the organization, for example the Paris agreement which did not go well.

*Thirdly*, food waste. Up to 1.3 billion tons of human food have been wasted globally. That is enough to support three billion people. These wastes and losses account for one-third of greenhouse gas emissions annually. In the developed world, 40% of food waste comes from retail and consumer sources. Meanwhile, in the developing world, 40 percent of food waste occurs after harvesting and processing.

*Fourthly*, there is biodiversity loss. Over the past 50 years, there has been a rapid growth in human consumption, population, global trade and urbanization, leading humanity to use more of the Earth's resources. A recent WWF report found that populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians declined on average by 68% from 1970 to 2016. The report attributes biodiversity loss to several factors, including land. Convert forests, grasslands and mangroves into an agricultural system. Some animals are also heavily impacted by the wildlife trade and are facing extinction. More than 500 species of terrestrial animals are on the verge of extinction and are expected to die out in the next 20 years.

*Fiveth*, plastic pollution. A report by the science journal, Nature, determined that currently, around 14 million tons of plastic enter the oceans annually, destroying the habitats of wildlife and the animals that live in them. The plastic crisis will increase to 29

million tons a year by 2040 if nothing is done. Even more surprising is that National Geographic found that 91% of all plastic ever produced is not recycled. We can imagine how people live with plastic garbage that takes 400 years to decompose.

*Sixth*, Deforestation. Every hour, a forest as large as 300 football fields is cut. It is estimated that in 2030, the planet will have only 10% of forests if deforestation is not stopped. Everything can vanish in under a hundred years. The primary cause for deforestation is agriculture. Land cleared for the rearing or plantation of certain crops such as oil palm and sugar cane. In addition to absorbing carbon, forests contribute to the prevention of soil erosion and are a renewable energy source.

*Seventh*, air pollution. Research from WHO has shown that an estimated 4.2 to 7 million people die from air pollution worldwide every year and 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants.

*Eighth*, melting ice sheets and rising sea levels. Currently, sea levels are rising at twice the rate they have been during most of the 20th century due to rising temperatures on Earth. Sea levels rise by an average of 3.2 mm per year on a global scale and will continue to rise by about 0.7 meters by the end of the century.

*Ninth* sea acidification. The Earth's oceans absorb about 30 per cent of the carbon dioxide emitted into the Earth's atmosphere. This is due to the higher concentration of carbon emissions released due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, as well as the effects of global climate change such as an increase in forest fires. Changes in pH can have a significant impact on ocean acidity levels, which can negatively impact the lives of marine ecosystems. The most feared thing about ocean acidification is the bleaching of coral reefs which then causes coral reefs to disappear.

*Tenth*, agriculture. Agricultural production frees up greenhouse gases like nitrous oxide through the use of fertilizers. Studies have shown that the global food system accounts for a third of all human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of which comes from livestock and fisheries.

*Eleventh*, food and water insecurity which results in around 1.1 billion people worldwide lacking access to water, and a total of 2.7 billion people have experienced water scarcity for at least one month a year.

*Twelfth*, Fast fashion and textile scrap. Textile waste is still seldom highlighted, but the rapid fashion style that is developing also has an impact on the pollution of the planet Earth.

*Lastly*, overfishing. The requirement for more protein causes overfishing. This situation can be detrimental to the environment, one of which is loss of biodiversity levels.

### **2023 resolution to pretend the temperature is going up.**

Several efforts can be made to reduce the long-term rise in Earth's temperature, such as:

The reduction of coal-fired power stations must be six times as rapid. At least before 2050, the world reduced PLTB by nearly 1,000 units. In addition, adding electric buses to major cities around the world reduces carbon production by 10 times at cement plants, which produce 500 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. Then restraining 2.5 times the rate of deforestation than usual, reducing eating burgers, switching to green buildings that are energy efficient and environmentally friendly, and finally reducing subsidies for fossil fuels that must be five times faster. Keep in mind that no matter the quality of the resolution, it will not mean actual action and consistency.

Continue Reading