

International Response to Urge United States' Carbon Reduction Commitment on Willow Project

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Abstract. *A large oil drilling project located in Alaska, United States, called Willow aims to explore significant oil reserves. Although the project is intended to increase fossil fuel production in the region, its impacts have raised concerns worldwide because of its potential to produce significant carbon emissions. These emissions could exacerbate climate change worldwide and threaten local Alaskan ecosystems, including flora and fauna that are vulnerable to noise and air pollution. These effects could also disrupt nearby communities that rely heavily on a clean and healthy environment. The Willow Project's compliance with international environmental law—specifically the Paris Agreement—is evaluated through case study and normative juridical methods. One of the responsibilities of signatory countries to this agreement is to reduce carbon emissions that will limit global warming. The findings show that the Willow Project is in conflict with this commitment and shows that the United States is not on board with its efforts to combat climate change. In addition, the study examines how the Willow Project impacts human rights, particularly the right to a clean environment. Many issues relate to transparency and accountability because the public is not sufficiently involved in the decision-making process of the project. The results of this study confirm that stricter international regulations must be implemented and greater oversight is needed for high-risk energy projects. Therefore, the international community must push for decisive action to ensure environmental sustainability and human rights protection in the future.*

Keywords: *Agreement; Climate; Oil; Willow.*

1. Introduction

One of the biggest challenges currently facing humanity is global climate change.¹In Alaska, fossil fuel projects such as the Willow Project or commonly known as the Willow Project have

¹ Aldy Nofansya, Deasy Silvy Sari, And Dina Yulianti, (2023). "Implementasi Perjanjian Paris Dalam Kebijakan Luar Negeri Indonesia", p.5

the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, can threaten ecosystems, increase greenhouse gas emissions which also contribute to global warming.²A project created and planned with the aim of exploring large oil reserves,³but it turns out that it will worsen global warming which is currently in a critical condition. While on the other hand, the international community has begun to pay attention to issues and phenomena related to the increasing intensity of natural disasters that occur due to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities.⁴The UN is highlighting this problem, which was triggered by concerns about the increase in gas emission production, to take concrete steps to reduce climate change, systematically and holistically.⁵

In the international arena, so many countries are committed to their dependence on using fossil fuels, this is stated in international agreements, one of which is the Paris Agreement.⁶ The Paris Agreement itself was approved by quite a number of countries and then implemented since November 2016, and requires ratification of the Paris Agreement to be made in the form of a document which will later be named NDC or Nationally Determined Contribution.⁷ In its implementation, compliance is often ignored, this is what creates a major challenge for fairer environmental law enforcement.⁸Indeed, this disregard for compliance is often based on a sense of ethical dilemma where economic gain takes precedence over environmental protection.⁹

According to official research from Conoco Philips, the Willow Project will have an impact on the economic sector. Although the project is presented as a development platform for responsible resources, the Willow Project is considered to have failed to meet the National Environmental Policy Act in terms of environmental impact statements, legal challenges, community involvement, and the complexity of balancing economic benefits with

² Torun Hammar, Cecilia Sundberg, And Per-Anders Hansson, (2016). *Climate Impact Assessment Of Willow Energy From A Landscape Perspective: A Swedish Case Study*, Wiley 9, No. 5

³ Esmā Erdem, (2023). *Willow Project Exposes Urgent Need For Permitting Reform - The Tufts Daily*, Gale Academic Onefile,

⁴ Mona Febriani Irma, *Tingginya Kenaikan Suhu Akibat Peningkatan Emisi Gas Rumah Kaca Di Indonesia*, Jssit: Jurnal Sains Dan Sains Terapan 2, No. 1 (March 28, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.30631/jssit.v2i1.49>.

⁵ Sharon Easter Baroleh, (2023). *Implementasi Konvensi Internasional Paris Agreement Tentang Mitigasi Perubahan Iklim Di Indonesia*, Lex Privatum 11, No. 5

⁶ Hizkia Bryan Hulu, Novriest Umbu Walangara Nau, And Roberto Oktavianus Cornelis Seba, *Analisis Efektivitas Paris Agreement Terhadap Indonesia Sebagai Anggota G20 Dalam Menangani Climate Change*, Jurnal Niara 17, No. 2 (August 14, 2024): 280–98, <https://doi.org/10.31849/Niara.V17i2.22369>.

⁷ Adinda Noura Ayuningsih Et Al., *Ratifikasi Paris Agreement Dan Pengaplikasian National Determined Contribution (Ndc) Indonesia*, Jisip Unja (Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Ilmu Politik Universitas Jambi) 7, No. 1 (April 28, 2023): 60–69, <https://doi.org/10.22437/jisip.unja.v7i1.21859>.

⁸ Lfiyah Nur Inayah, Aliyah Sabina Nur Putri, And Regina Azzahra Afriandy, (2024). *The Catastrophe Of Oil Drilling In Normative Legal Analysis: Willow Project Study Case*, Hasanuddin University, Faculty Of Law, Students

⁹ Tania Ega Mahardika, *Willow Project : Dilema Kepentingan Amerika Serikat Serta Desakan Masyarakat Internasional*, Jurnal Post, 2023, <https://jurnalpost.com/read/willow-project-dilema-kepentingan-amerika-serikat-serta-desakan-masyarakat-internasional/2226/>.

environmental considerations.¹⁰ Several studies related to fossil fuel projects that have an impact on the environment are among those that show the influence of fossil fuel project emissions on increasing respiratory diseases. Meanwhile, in terms of international legal norm conflicts, the study noted that there were norms that were weakly implemented so that many countries ignored their responsibilities in terms of compliance with international agreements.¹¹

In addition, this study aims to analyze the global impact of the Willow Project on the environment and the United States commitment in the Paris Agreement regarding carbon emission reduction. The main focus of this study includes the first international legal implications of the Willow Project, including its relationship to the Paris Agreement, the second impact of this project on human rights, especially for local communities and the right to a clean environment, and the third sustainable policy recommendations for various parties. This study also examines the response of the international community by highlighting three subjects of international law such as NGOs as international communities, Intergovernmental Organizations (UN), and coastal countries directly bordering Alaska.

In relation to the analysis of international legal implications, the author can test the violation of international agreements and national environmental norms, whether the Willow Project violates the commitments agreed to by the United States in its international agreements, or also conflicts with international norms containing environmental protection and human rights. Second, the author can evaluate the impact of the willow project on human rights, where the project is indeed detrimental to the community due to the loss of the right to a clean environment, as well as the environmental impact on health. Meanwhile, in answering the third objective, community involvement will be tested in relation to decision making, and also the relationship between energy policy and the environment.

It is important to pay attention to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, which have become a core part of international policy, but on the other hand the Willow Project has the potential to conflict with these goals. Therefore, it is important to identify the problems related to how international law can be used to deal with projects that harm human rights and the environment. Identification of the problems will be the beginning of the analysis of the impact of the willow project from an international legal perspective. The identification of the problems in this research article is about concrete steps that can be taken by the international community against the Willow Project which is contrary to *ius cogens* because it has a negative impact. And besides that, considering that America is a country that prioritizes human rights

¹⁰ Alfiyah Hamzah, Regina Azzahra Afriandy, And Aliyah Sabina Nur Putri, *"The Catastrophe Of Oil Drilling In Normative Legal Analysis: Willow Project Study Case," Ssrn Electronic Journal*, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4807280>.

¹¹ Sarah Amanda, Gladys Azalia, And Yesica Berliana, *"Willow Project Dan Potensi Dampaknya Dalam Lingkup Internasional," Jurnal Panorama Hukum* 8, No. 1 (July 15, 2023): 24–37, <https://doi.org/10.21067/jph.v8i1.8794>.

and on the other hand has a project that has an impact on the environment, the problem lies in how the international community opposes it.

The potential impacts that can occur due to the Willow Project on the environment are problems related to carbon emissions and climate. As is well known, climate problems are currently a crucial issue that has attracted the attention of many parties because they cause many negative impacts on human life, so that countries are now making various efforts to minimize the occurrence of even greater climate problems. The United States (US) as one of the developed countries that contributes a lot to carbon emissions that cause climate problems, even though it has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, must still make efforts to protect the environment. One form of disturbance that will definitely occur is noise and air pollution. This project has the potential to disrupt wildlife due to air and noise pollution that occurs continuously. Based on a report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, noise or underwater noise pollution from construction activities can injure and disorient animals living around it.¹²

2. Research Methods

This research used normative legal research which a type of legal research that focuses on the study of normative legal materials, such as laws, doctrines, and court decisions. This research aims to identify and analyze the impacts of the Willow Project from an international legal perspective.

This research also includes case study research. Case study research is a research method that involves an in-depth study of one or more specific cases in a real-life context, which aims to understand complex phenomena and the dynamics that occur in them. This method is useful for gaining detailed insight into a case in a specific situation. The case study research method was chosen in this study because it allows researchers to conduct an in-depth analysis of the impacts caused by the Willow Project from an international environmental law perspective. By using this case study, researchers will explore in detail how the regulations applied in the construction of the Willow Project and its impacts in the international legal environment.

In this study, the main data source comes from relevant legal documents and discusses the development of the Willow Project and its impacts from the perspective of international environmental law. The data source is obtained from a literature study which is secondary data and comes from journals, books, articles, the internet and also other sources that are still related to the specific objectives of the study. The data source contains concepts, principles, doctrines as sources of law with the aim of answering legal issues in efforts to solve problems related to the perspective of international law.

¹² Xaviera Amalia Putri, et al., "Polemik "Willow Project" Terhadap Kelestarian Lingkungan Hidup Dunia," *Senaspolhi 5 Fisp Unwahas* (2023): 16494–500, <https://doi.org/10.31004/joe.v5i4.2812>.

The legal materials used in this study are primary legal materials, which constitute the main sources of law used as the foundation within the legal system. These include regulations with legal force and serve as the basis for the formation of law in society. Primary legal materials are considered authoritative sources because they directly establish rights, obligations, and binding rules. This research utilize primary legal materials, namely the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment.

The data analysis method used in this study is a legal policy analysis that aims to assess the effectiveness of regulations related to the development of the Willow Project along with the impacts resulting from the development from an international environmental law perspective. In this process, policies such as compliance with the Paris Agreement commitments, compliance with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples, The Rio Declaration and the Stockholm Declaration are the main references for assessing the extent of effectiveness in protecting against environmental impacts caused by the Willow Project Development.¹³

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Impact of the Willow Project on the Environment and the Climate Change Convention

Energy company ConocoPhillips is working on a major oil drilling project in Alaska, United States, known as Willow. The goal of the project is to explore and extract oil reserves estimated at hundreds of millions of barrels. It is projected that this could increase domestic energy production in the United States. However, the environmental impact of the project has raised many concerns, especially regarding the significant increase in carbon emissions. According to official estimates released by ConocoPhillips, the Willow Project has the potential to produce about 287 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over the next thirty years. This is equivalent to the emissions produced by about 76 coal-fired power plants in one year. With emissions of this magnitude, the Willow Project is expected to worsen climate change, counteracting global efforts to reduce emissions.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 and entered into force in 2016, is an international agreement agreed by almost all countries in the world to limit the increase in global temperatures to no more than 2°C. The ideal goal is to keep global temperature increases below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This agreement is based on the agreement that each country will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are emission reduction targets set by each country. The United States has a major responsibility to achieve the goals of the Paris

¹³Svitlana Karvatska, *Ius Cogens: Problem of the Role in Treaty Interpretation* "Jurnal Cita Hukum (Indonesian Law Journal)" Fsh Uin Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta Vol. 9 No. 2 (2021), Pp. 305-318, Doi:10.15408/Jch.V9i2.22235.

Agreement as it is one of the world's largest carbon emitters. Through its NDC, the United States committed to reducing emissions by 50-52% compared to 2005 levels¹⁴. However, the United States government has shown inconsistency in achieving this target by approving the Willow Project. They see this project as contradictory because the United States continues to support the development of large-scale fossil fuel projects, even though they have committed to reducing carbon emissions.

The Willow oil drilling project in Alaska is causing a number of environmental rights violations, which have significant impacts both locally and globally. Environmental rights violations, such as the right to a clean and healthy environment, impacts on local ecosystems, lack of community participation. The following is a detailed explanation of the environmental rights that are being violated in the project, and their relationship to the threats that the project poses to the environment and climate change globally. The Willow project threatens human rights or commonly referred to as human rights. The human rights that are threatened refer to the right to a clean and healthy environment. Local communities who depend on a stable and healthy environment will feel disadvantaged by this project. The Willow oil drilling project could cause increased air and noise pollution. Carbon emissions from the project are estimated to reach 287 metric tons over thirty years¹⁵. This can worsen air quality and public health. Furthermore, other negative impacts are that it can cause respiratory problems & increase the risk of disease. The Willow oil drilling project also has a negative impact on the Alaskan ecosystem. Increased carbon emissions and pollution resulting from drilling activities can threaten local flora and fauna, including protected species. Noise and air pollution can disrupt the habitat of wildlife. In addition, other negative impacts can affect the balance of the ecosystem which can cause changes in the way of life of local communities that depend on natural resources.¹⁶

One of the main criticisms of the Willow project is the lack of participation of Alaska Native peoples in the decision-making process, especially the Iñupiat community.¹⁷ Local communities are less actively involved in this project. This shows that their rights to participate in decisions that affect the environment tend to be ignored. This is part of the

¹⁴ *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, The United States' Nationally Determined Contribution, Reducing Greenhouse Gases in the United States: A 2030 Emissions Target.*

¹⁵ Siler Wes, "The Alaska Oil Willow Project Could Destroy Biden's Climate Legacy", *News*, 2023, <https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/environment/biden-alaska-oil-willow-project-climate>.

¹⁶ Bohrer Becky, Brown Matthew, Daly Matthew, "What is the controversy behind the Alaska Willow oil project?", *News*, 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-is-the-controversy-behind-the-alaska-willow-oil-project>.

¹⁷ Herz Nathaniel, "As Conoco's Willow project advances, 2 local governments have withdrawn their criticism", *Northern Journal*, 2024, <https://alaskapublic.org/2024/01/10/as-conocos-willow-project-advances-2-local-governments-have-withdrawn-their-criticism/>.

violation of the principles of environmental justice.¹⁸, which has been mentioned in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) in article 19 that UNDRIP stipulates that governments must consult with indigenous peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before approving projects that may affect them, as criticism of the Willow Project includes a lack of in-depth engagement with affected indigenous communities. Then in articles 25 and 26 it is stated that UNDRIP recognizes that indigenous peoples have the right to own, control and use the lands and natural resources that they traditionally own or use. The Willow Project raises concerns about environmental damage that could affect the traditional territories of Alaskan Indigenous Peoples, especially the Iñupiat Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, UNDRIP in article 29 guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples to environmental protection and the preservation of their lands and resources. Projects such as Willow could contribute to environmental damage that disproportionately affects indigenous peoples, including changes in the migration patterns of animals that are the source of their traditional livelihoods.¹⁹

In addition, the approval of this project highlights the problems and inconsistencies in United States environmental policy. Under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to reduce the amount of energy they consume and switch to more environmentally friendly and renewable energy sources. During the oil drilling process, the Willow project still relies on fossil fuels, which are a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, the decision to move forward with this project goes against the main goal of the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and switch to more environmentally friendly energy sources. Not only does this project contradict its NDC commitments, it also challenges the credibility of the United States in climate change efforts in international forums. The decision to support this project could give a mixed impression to other countries that are also trying to reduce emissions. As a country that has a lot of influence in global diplomacy, this inconsistency could have an impact on global efforts to reduce emissions.

Overall, the approval of the Willow Project is considered to violate the Paris Agreement commitments from the perspective of global environmental justice and national emission reduction targets. Countries often face a dilemma between economic interests and environmental responsibilities, as this project demonstrates. In this case, the environmental impacts of the Willow Project show that the United States has not fully met the emissions targets agreed to in Paris. As a result, the sustainability of the long-term goal of reducing the rate of climate change is at risk. The Willow project could potentially produce huge carbon emissions that could worsen climate change. With emissions that large, it is

¹⁸ Herz Nathaniel, "As ConocoPhillips' Willow project advances, two local governments have withdrawn their criticism", Northern Journal, 2024, <https://alaskabeacon.com/2024/01/10/as-conocophillips-willow-project-advances-two-local-governments-have-withdrawn-their-criticism/>.

¹⁹United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. (2007).

equivalent to 76 coal-fired power plants in one year.²⁰ The Willow project also goes against international commitments set out in the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature increases to below 2°C. These increased emissions could undermine global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Willow oil drilling project in Alaska has raised concerns worldwide, due to its wide-ranging and negative environmental impacts.²¹ This project threatens Alaska's ecosystem and significantly increases carbon emissions, potentially worsening current global warming.²² According to reports from environmental organizations, emissions from fossil fuel projects like Willow can cause air and noise pollution from construction activities that impact the health of local communities and wildlife.²³ For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says that marine animals can be disturbed by noise generated from oil drilling and other construction.²⁴ The increase in carbon emissions & pollution produced by the Willow Project not only impacts the environment but also climate change. Climate change caused by carbon emissions can affect global weather patterns, melt ice in the Arctic, and can disrupt ecosystems around the world. This shows that the impact of this project can affect human life and ecosystems around the world.

On the contrary, this project will affect human rights and the environment. Local communities consider the Willow project detrimental, especially because they are deprived of their right to a healthy and clean environment. This right is one of the many basic human rights recognized in different international treaties. Increased air pollution that can worsen respiratory problems also puts the health of local communities at risk. Therefore, there is a significant conflict between human rights and economic interests and environmental protection in this project. By running a project that produces large emissions, the United States shows inconsistency. The inconsistency in question is the United States' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This affects the credibility of the United States in international forums. Furthermore, it also reduces the effectiveness of global efforts to reduce emissions. Inconsistency has a negative impact from other countries on the United States, which has a commitment to try to reduce emissions but in fact violates it itself. This is a challenge for the United States to carry out international cooperation for climate change. There is a possibility that the Willow Project will violate the Paris Agreement, a global treaty aimed at reducing carbon emissions to prevent climate change.²⁵ The United

²⁰ Montgomery Ellen, "What is the Willow Project? A Ticking "Carbon Bomb", News, 2024, <https://environmentamerica.org/articles/what-is-the-willow-project-a-ticking-carbon-bomb/>.

²¹Yulia, P. S., Wastu, A. R. R., Ristawati, A., Pauhesti, P., Husla, R., Timpal, G. B. J., ... & Yanti, W. (2023). *SOSIALISASI DAMPAK DAN MANFAAT WILLOW PROJECT SEBAGAI PENGENALAN TEKNIK PERMINYAKAN DI SMA YOS SUDARSO METRO*. *Jurnal Abdi Masyarakat Indonesia (JAMIN)*, 5(2), 88-93.

²²Basri, S. K. M. (2024). *PROTEKSI LINGKUNGAN DAN PRODUK BERSIH*. Rizmedia Pustaka Indonesia.

²³Firdhausi, N. F. (2024). Oleh Nirmala Fitria Firdhausi, S. Si., M. Si. *Biologi Lingkungan*, 42.

²⁴Saputra, S. (2023). *Populasi Dalam Ekosistem*. *Ilmu Lingkungan*, 48.

²⁵Amanda, S., Azalia, G., & Berliana, Y. (2023). *Willow Project Willow Project dan Potensi Dampaknya dalam Lingkup Internasional*. *Jurnal Panorama Hukum*, 8(1), 24-37.

States is expected to comply with international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as one of the countries with high emission levels.²⁶ However, the development of the Willow Project will produce significant carbon emissions. The United States still has a moral and political responsibility to mitigate the impacts of climate change, even though it has left the Paris Agreement.²⁷

In terms of environmental protection, the implementation of international law faces many challenges, especially regarding fossil fuel projects such as the Willow Project.²⁸ On the one hand, international agreements and regulations such as the Rio Declaration and the Stockholm Declaration focus on environmental protection, but their practice is still weak. When energy projects generate significant economic benefits, many countries, including the United States, tend to ignore compliance with these agreements. In addition, ethical dilemmas arise when political decisions are often influenced by economic interests related to fossil fuel projects.²⁹ In the case of Project Willow, the United States government faced a dilemma between prioritizing economic growth through the exploitation of natural resources and meeting international environmental obligations. Project Willow is a prime example of economic considerations being weighed against commitment to international agreements, despite its proven negative consequences for human health and the environment.

The lack of community participation in the decision-making process is one of the main criticisms of the Willow Project.³⁰ Communities around the project, especially those most affected, have the right to be involved in this process. Community participation is considered essential in international environmental law and often demonstrates accountability and transparency in large projects. However, in this case, community involvement was deemed insufficient, indicating that their rights were ignored during important decision-making.³¹ International legal standards set out in various environmental declarations and conventions violate this lack of community participation. Governments and developers can reduce social conflicts by involving communities. However, the lack of local community participation in the Willow Project shows the government's tendency to prioritize economic benefits over social and environmental benefits.

²⁶Puspitaningtyas, G. T. (2024). *PENGARUH GROWTH, FIRM SIZE, DAN PROFITABILITY TERHADAP CARBON EMISSION DISCLOSURE (STUDI EMPIRIS PERUSAHAAN MANUFAKTUR SEKTOR INDUSTRI YANG TERDAFTAR DI BURSA EFEK INDONESIA TAHUN 2019-2022)* (Doctoral dissertation, UPN Veteran Jawa Timur).

²⁷Hamonangan, I. (2021). *Kebijakan luar negeri Prancis dalam merespons dinamika negosiasi iklim global*. UI Publishing.

²⁸Firdhausi, N. F. (2024). Oleh Nirmala Fitria Firdhausi, S. Si., M. Si. *Biologi Lingkungan*, 42.

²⁹Setiartiti, L., & Al-Hasibi, R. A. (2024). *MONOGRAF: TRANSISI ENERGI TERBARUKAN UNTUK PEMBANGUNAN BERKELANJUTAN*. Penerbit P4I.

³⁰Lewlandy, L., Amri, I. F., Christina, N., & Pangaribuan, J. B. (2023). *Analisis Perspektif Hukum Internasional Terkait Willow Project yang Berdampak Bagi Iklim Dunia*. *Journal on Education*, 5(4), 16494-16500.

³¹Putri, X. A., Ismiyatun, I., & Raharjo, W. A. (2023). *POLEMIK "WILLOW PROJECT" TERHADAP KELESTARIAN LINGKUNGAN HIDUP DUNIA*. *PROSIDING SENASPOLHI*, 5(1).

This analysis yields several recommendations that the international community should consider. First, stricter international policies should be implemented to monitor and control high-risk projects such as the Willow Project. International agreements such as the Paris Agreement should be used to pressure countries to make environmental commitments. Second, the international community should work together to increase political pressure on countries that undertake high-risk projects. In addition, it is important for non-governmental organizations such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to continue to monitor and support environmental issues around the world. Therefore, it is hoped that fossil energy sources will be gradually reduced to replace them with more environmentally friendly and sustainable energy sources.

3.2. International Community Efforts on United States Emission Reduction Commitments on Willow Project

a. The Role of the International Community through Non-Governmental Organizations

WWF (World Wildlife Fund), one of the world's largest environmental organizations, is committed to protecting ecosystems around the world, especially those most vulnerable to climate change. WWF actively calls on countries, including the United States, to fulfill their pledges in the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stop global warming. WWF states that the goals and targets of the agreement are in direct conflict with Project Willow in Alaska. WWF is particularly concerned about the Willow Project because it could endanger the sensitive ecosystems of the Arctic region. Protected species, such as polar bears and seals, rely heavily on a stable environment in this area. Industrial activity and oil drilling in this area could accelerate the melting of the ice, negatively impacting global temperatures and changing the Arctic ecosystem.

WWF states that carbon emissions from the Willow Project could accelerate global warming with emissions of 287 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over the life of the project. WWF sees this as a major threat to the United States' commitment to reduce emissions in accordance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) set out in the Paris Agreement. To encourage the United States government to reconsider its approval of the Willow Project, WWF took actions such as public campaigns and global awareness, WWF raised global public awareness of the negative impacts of the Willow Project through public campaigns conducted through various media, including online petitions, social media, and collaboration with influencers to convey messages to international audiences. WWF then works with local communities, especially Alaska Natives, whose livelihoods depend on a healthy and stable environment. Often, local communities are most affected by large energy projects like Project Willow, both because of environmental changes and because of the health risks caused by pollution. WWF helps local communities fight for their right to a healthy environment and ensures that their

voices are heard in decision-making processes. WWF continues to engage in international diplomacy to emphasize the importance of reducing fossil fuel emissions.

WWF also encourages countries with strong commitments to climate change to pressure the United States to reconsider Project Willow. Through international meetings, the organization ensures that the global community adheres to the Paris Agreement targets and does not undermine collective efforts to halt rising temperatures. WWF actively communicates scientific data on the potential negative impacts of Project Willow on the global climate. This data comes from a variety of scientific studies documenting the link between fossil fuel emissions and global warming, as well as the effects of Project Willow on specific Arctic regions. Through evidence-based advocacy, WWF provides a strong scientific basis for its arguments, enabling the United States government and the international community³².

WWF believes that the Willow Project is evidence of the United States' inconsistency in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and other global commitments to reduce emissions. As an organization that participates in various international forums, WWF continues to remind member countries of the Paris Agreement to maintain actions that are in line with the agreed emission targets. WWF is taking this strong action to stop Project Willow or, at least, to emphasize that the project is in conflict with the United States' international responsibility to mitigate climate change. In addition, the organization hopes that international countries will become stronger in implementing stricter environmental regulations and ensuring that economic interests do not sacrifice the sustainability of the world's ecosystems.

Greenpeace, an environmental organization that focuses on climate protection around the world, considers the Willow Project to be a major threat to climate change mitigation efforts. Greenpeace has consistently opposed the initiative through various activities and campaigns to urge the United States government to stop the development of dangerous fossil fuel sources. One of the most famous actions was an online petition that gathered millions of signatures asking the United States government to stop the project. In addition, Greenpeace has tried to draw public attention to the dangers of the project through protests and direct actions outside the White House. Greenpeace is demanding that the United States commit to reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and focus on developing sustainable renewable energy. As part of its campaign, Greenpeace is demanding that the United States government not only halt the Willow project, but also review its energy policies to ensure they are following the Paris Agreement's goals for reducing emissions. Greenpeace argues that every dollar spent on fossil fuel projects like Willow is a step backward that hinders the shift to clean energy.

³² U.S. Climate Policy Program, <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/climate-policy-program>

To achieve its goals, Greenpeace uses a variety of advocacy strategies, including strategic litigation to demand that the United States government comply with international laws related to climate change and environmental protection. Greenpeace also focuses on collaborating with activists, local communities, and other international organizations to amplify its message and create greater political pressure on the United States government. Greenpeace is demanding that the United States commit to reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and focus on developing sustainable renewable energy. As part of its campaign, Greenpeace is demanding that the United States government not only stop the Willow project, but also review its energy policies to ensure that they are following the Paris Agreement goals to reduce emissions. Greenpeace argues that every dollar spent on fossil fuel projects like Willow is a step backward that hinders the shift to clean energy.³³

b. The Role of the Intergovernmental Organization through UN Organs

The annual UN Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties (COP)—held since 1995—is one of the UN’s main mechanisms for advancing global commitments on climate change. The COP has become an important international platform for discussing the latest research on climate change issues, and assessing how far each country has come in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Below are some specific ways in which the United Nations plays a key role in supporting global climate pledges, first created the UN International Legal Framework to strengthen international commitments to address climate change. The UN helps countries design emissions reduction targets consistent with global goals through documents such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. In the Paris Agreement, countries pledged to keep global temperature increases below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, with a goal of holding the maximum temperature increase to 1.5°C. Second, monitoring through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs are one of the key innovations in the Paris Agreement, and encourage each member country to voluntarily set their emission reduction targets according to their national capabilities. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are formal promises made by each country regarding their efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The UN plays a key role in monitoring and ensuring that each country updates their NDC targets periodically, every five years, and increases ambition in line with technological and scientific advances that enable greater climate action. Third, facilitating transparency and accountability The UN through the Conference of The Parties (COP) and the UNFCCC provides a transparency framework that allows countries to report their progress openly and allows other countries to assess their progress. This includes regular reporting on

³³Aisyah, G. A. (2022). *Kebijakan Perubahan Iklim Australia pada Masa Pemerintahan Scott Morrison terhadap Australian Bushfires Periode 2019-2020* (Bachelor's thesis, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).

emission reductions and changes made. To ensure that each country is accountable for its commitments and to allow countries to learn from each other's experiences in achieving climate targets, this process is essential.³⁴ Fourth, renew and strengthen commitments through the COP: Every year, all member countries gather at the COP to plan greater action to address the climate crisis. This includes evaluating the achievement of emission targets, recognizing countries' challenges in implementing NDCs, and discussing how to increase financial and technological support. The COP is also an opportunity to discuss new policies that are more in line with changing global climate conditions and needs. This allows each country to change their commitments according to the latest developments.

Then there is also an international document adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, namely the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). This document sets minimum standards for the protection of human rights, freedoms, and collective rights of indigenous peoples around the world. UNDRIP covers a variety of issues such as land rights, resources, autonomy, culture, education, and participation in decision-making. Environmental protection is central to international law, and declarations such as the Rio Declaration and the Stockholm Declaration demonstrate that states must act to prevent environmental damage that crosses borders and could affect the territories of other states. The Declaration on the Willow Project Because of its potential carbon emissions, the Willow project in Alaska has international implications. The UN has a legal basis to call on the United States to mitigate climate-endangering actions. And as an international pressure mechanism, the UN can push for strict regulations that limit fossil fuel exploration, especially those that pose high environmental risks, through diplomacy and cooperation between states.

c. The Role of Other Countries Directly Bordering the Willow Project

The Paris Agreement member states must work together to meet their commitments to reduce emissions. In this way, they can work together to force the United States to halt initiatives that increase carbon emissions. A global alliance of diplomatic pressure, such as European countries, Japan, and some developing countries affected by climate change, could lead this effort. They have the ability to introduce policies or resolutions to ensure that projects that increase emissions are not supported. In a multilateral approach, countries could lobby at the UN climate change conference to strengthen emission reduction rules that curb projects like Willow. The international community could also increase pressure on the United States through diplomatic alliances and push for policy changes.³⁵ As neighboring countries to Alaska, Russia and Canada are potentially affected by the environmental impacts of the Willow Project. The emissions from the project could

³⁴Furqoni, S., & Leviza, J. (2024). PENGATURAN MENGENAI PENGANGGARAN HIJAU (GREEN BUDGETING) BERBASIS KEADILAN EKOLOGI. *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan Masyarakat*, 15(5).

³⁵DILA, G. F. (2021). Analisis Alasan Tiongkok Bertahan Dalam Paris Agreement Sebagai Negara Penyumbang Emisi Gas Terbesar di Dunia Pada Tahun 2017.

affect the environment across borders, including the Russian and Canadian Arctic regions. First, Russia, as a member of the Paris Agreement, could demand that the United States comply with its climate change commitments through bilateral and cooperative approaches to reduce carbon emissions in the Arctic. Russia seeks to prevent rising temperatures from affecting permafrost and melting ice in neighboring Alaska.³⁶ Second, Canada, perhaps the country is also affected by United States energy policy because it is a northern country that is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Canada has long been committed to developing clean energy and combating climate change. Canada can work with other countries in the context of Project Willow to ensure that the United States commitment to the Paris Agreement is not ignored.³⁷

Based on the analysis of the impact of the Willow Project and the United States' inconsistency in achieving the emission reduction targets agreed in the Paris Agreement, here are some strategies suggested for the international community to encourage the United States' continued climate commitment. First, increasing environmental collaboration between countries and international organizations, including Paris Agreement member countries and global environmental organizations such as WWF and Greenpeace, should work more closely together to pressure countries that are inconsistent in fulfilling their climate change commitments, including the United States. This alliance should not only highlight the environmental impacts of projects such as Willow but also encourage policy changes worldwide. This can be achieved in various ways, such as using diplomatic pressure or measurable economic actions, such as the implementation of green trade incentives or even environmental sanctions for countries that ignore their climate responsibilities. Countries in Europe, Asia, and Latin America that are very concerned about reducing global emissions can join this alliance to demand stronger commitments from the United States. A stronger environmental alliance can increase diplomatic pressure on the United States and accelerate global emission reductions.³⁸

Second, to monitor and provide transparency on fossil fuel projects, the international community needs to improve monitoring mechanisms for emissions and the impacts of fossil fuel projects. International organizations such as WWF, Greenpeace, and the UN can continue and expand global campaigns to monitor the environmental impacts of fossil fuel projects, including the Willow Project. Such campaigns will ensure that large energy projects such as the Willow Project are closely monitored. In addition, environmental organizations can work with independent research institutions and scientists to produce accurate and objective data on the environmental impacts of such projects. This data can

³⁶Zahfira, S. Z. A. *Respons Energi Dan Komitmen Perubahan Iklim Di Uni Eropa Selama Perang Rusia-Ukraina Tahun 2022* (Bachelor's thesis, Program Studi Ilmu Hubungan Internasional Fakultas Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).

³⁷Sulkan, M. (2020). *Pemanasan global dan masa depan bumi*. Alprin.

³⁸Hamonangan, I. (2021). *Kebijakan luar negeri Prancis dalam merespons dinamika negosiasi iklim global*. UI Publishing.

be distributed to the public, government agencies, and international organizations to increase pressure on emitting countries, including the United States, to be accountable for their climate commitments. This transparency will be beneficial because environmental organizations can make these efforts more manageable.

Third, taking a multilateral diplomatic approach is one important way to force the United States to strengthen its environmental policy by using a diplomatic approach carried out by various countries. The Paris Agreement member countries can strengthen their position and put stronger diplomatic pressure on the United States through international meetings, UN conferences, and climate forums such as the Conference of the Parties (COP). These forums also allow the international community to directly convey the inconsistency of the United States' fossil fuel plans with the goals of the Paris Agreement.³⁹

Countries that are parties to the Paris Agreement, especially those affected by climate change, are expected to build a strong diplomatic bloc to force the United States to adopt tougher climate policies. This multilateral pressure, aided by a variety of countries, could lead to more substantial policy changes at home. In addition, this multilateral approach also allows other countries to set higher global environmental standards and strengthen international commitments to climate change mitigation efforts.

Ultimately, to ensure the United States' commitment to global climate goals, a combination of strengthening environmental alliances, monitoring and transparency of fossil fuel projects, and a multilateral diplomatic approach would be an effective strategy for the international community. This strategy is expected to not only encourage the United States to stop environmentally damaging fossil fuel projects, but also inspire better policy changes related to fossil fuels.

4. Conclusion

ConocoPhillips' Willow oil drilling project in Alaska has raised global concerns over its significant environmental impact. The project aims to increase United States energy production, but it is expected to produce massive carbon emissions, violating United States commitments to the Paris Agreement and threatening global efforts to combat climate change. In addition, the project threatens Alaska's ecosystems, the health of local communities, and their right to a healthy environment. The United States' inconsistency in reducing carbon emissions from these projects is believed to be due to economic priorities that override environmental responsibilities and international obligations, as well as the need for stronger global regulation of high-risk projects. The international community, including non-governmental organizations (such as WWF and Greenpeace), intergovernmental

³⁹Hamonangan, I. (2021). French foreign policy in responding to the dynamics of global climate negotiations. UI Publishing.

organizations (such as the United Nations), and countries bordering the Willow Project and those participating in the Paris Agreement, will play a critical role in pressuring UN countries to meet their climate change commitments worldwide. The US-operated Willow Project in Alaska has serious implications because of its potential negative impacts on the Arctic environment, including threats to fragile ecosystems and increased carbon emissions that could worsen climate change. Organizations such as WWF and Greenpeace are conducting global campaigns, advocacy, and diplomatic efforts to highlight the Willow Project's environmental impacts and engage the international community. Through mechanisms such as the COP, the UNDRIP, and the UNFCCC, the UN continues to ensure transparency, oversight, and accountability in achieving emissions targets, and to ensure member states, including the United States, commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Countries bordering the project area, such as Russia and Canada, as well as other Paris Agreement countries, can use diplomatic tools to pressure the United States to more consistently implement its climate change commitments. Through international alliances and strict oversight of fossil fuel projects, the international community must pressure the United States to reevaluate its energy policies, strengthen environmental protection standards, and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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