

This submission is on behalf of [Labour for a Green New Deal](#) (LGND), a UK-based campaigning organisation committed to climate and economic justice. LGND is compelled by Papuan voices to understand the centrality of their struggle to wider global struggles for sovereignty and democracy as key pillars of global energy transition. As such LGND brings a global perspective to the issue of environmental destruction and state repression in West Papua. In doing so, we seek to highlight the connections between local specificities of injustice experienced directly by Papuans, the global dimensions of climate change, and the structural political-economic trends through which these injustices are produced.

The details of environmental degradation within West Papua are well documented in a series of public reports as well as other submissions to this Permanent Peoples' Tribunal session.

[Reports of mass deforestation](#) have been considerable, for example highlighting the [razing of ancestral forests](#) to facilitate the production of palm oil. Pollution has been highlighted as a major ecological consequence of industrial mining, including [300,000 tonnes of waste dumped](#) into local river systems every day. There is also an important economic dimension of local environmental destruction as indigenous Papuans are neglected in employment in extractive projects while traditional livelihoods are undermined with [fishing grounds blocked](#).

Taking a global perspective on the destruction and repression in West Papuan allows us to identify a double effect of industrial extraction and associated environmental destruction. On the one hand, the local environmental destructions highlighted undermine the ability of indigenous Papuans to live healthy and sustainable lives in tune with traditional practices. The scale and severity of local ecological devastation is of course justification on its own for considerable action against the perpetrators. However, we can also highlight the other side of the double effect. Environmental destruction in West Papua is a significant contributor to the globally distributed social and ecological harms of climate change. This comes as fossil fuels are extracted from the territory as well as large-scale deforestation – both exacerbating the problem of greenhouse gas emissions. The [production of natural gas](#) is one major example of fossil fuel extraction which continues to intensify as firms discover new reserves and the Indonesian government grants long-term contracts.

This point is important for understanding the nexus of state-corporate power that drives local-global environmental destruction in West Papua. Using the activities of [British multinational BP](#) as a case study highlights a) the interrelationship between corporate and state power, and b) the significance of West Papua to global climate change. BP has been a leading actor in extracting liquified natural gas (LNG) in particular. Operating a major gas field in Bintuni Bay, BP extracts its [14.4 trillion cub feet of liquified gas](#). BP's constant search for new reserves to exploit was underlined by its recent [discovery of new offshore gas](#). This comes despite scientific consensus on the role of fossil fuel extraction in driving climate change and global targets to reduce emissions. The process of expansion is facilitated by the Indonesian state which has recently [granted BP a new 20 year contract to produce LNG](#). Indonesia is implicated in the benefits of such extraction as it receives [considerable revenue from taxation](#) of extractive operations as well as [receiving significant proportions of gas for its own state electricity company](#).

Having surveyed UK complicity in local-global environmental destruction across geographies, it is apparent that the case of West Papua is one of the most locally devastating and globally impactful. In addition to the high stakes for Papuan life and ecology, it is apparent that global climate change cannot be halted without a reversal of the industrial extractive trends taking place in West Papua. Notwithstanding the exceptional nature of destruction in West Papua, we

find it analytically useful to identify the continuity between the modes of extraction and technologies of social repression deployed in West Papua and those prevalent across the global system of extraction, domination and accumulation. West Papua exists as perhaps the most egregious example of the socially violent and ecologically destructive tendencies of industrial capitalism. It is with this insight that LGND calls for meaningful solidarity for the West Papuan struggle from international civil society actors concerned with human rights violations, sovereignty, environmental destruction, climate change in any geography. The international community must take decisive action against both the Indonesian state and multinational corporate interests to promote justice for Papuans and as the basis of international action against local-global ecological harms.

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