

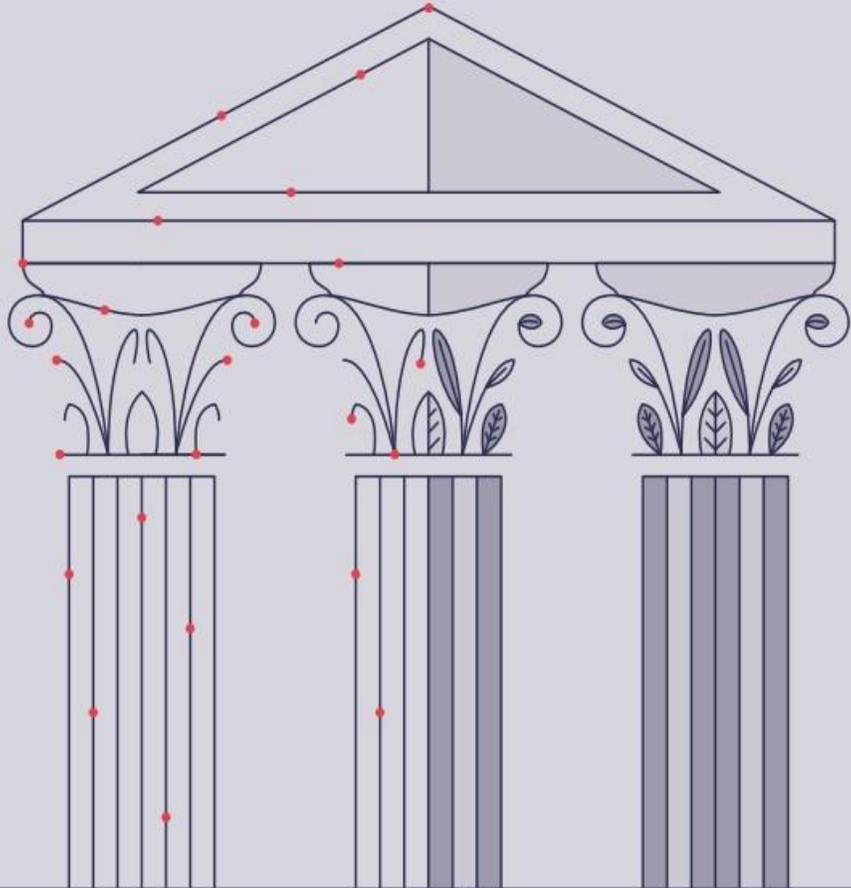
Global trends in climate change litigation

Catherine Higham

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
London School of Economics

Global trends in climate change litigation: 2023 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Catherine Higham



LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

Powered by Climate Policy Radar

Climate Change Laws of the World

Use our database to search climate laws and policies globally

Search full text of 3,500+ climate laws and policies

Search 3500+ climate law and policy documents from every country

See exact matches and related phrases highlighted in the text

Climate litigation is coming soon. Access it now at [Climate Case Chart](#)

Learn more about [how to use this site](#)

Feedback

Global trends in climate change litigation: 2019 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Rebecca Byrnes
Policy report
July 2019

Global trends in climate change litigation: 2020 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Rebecca Byrnes
Policy report
July 2020

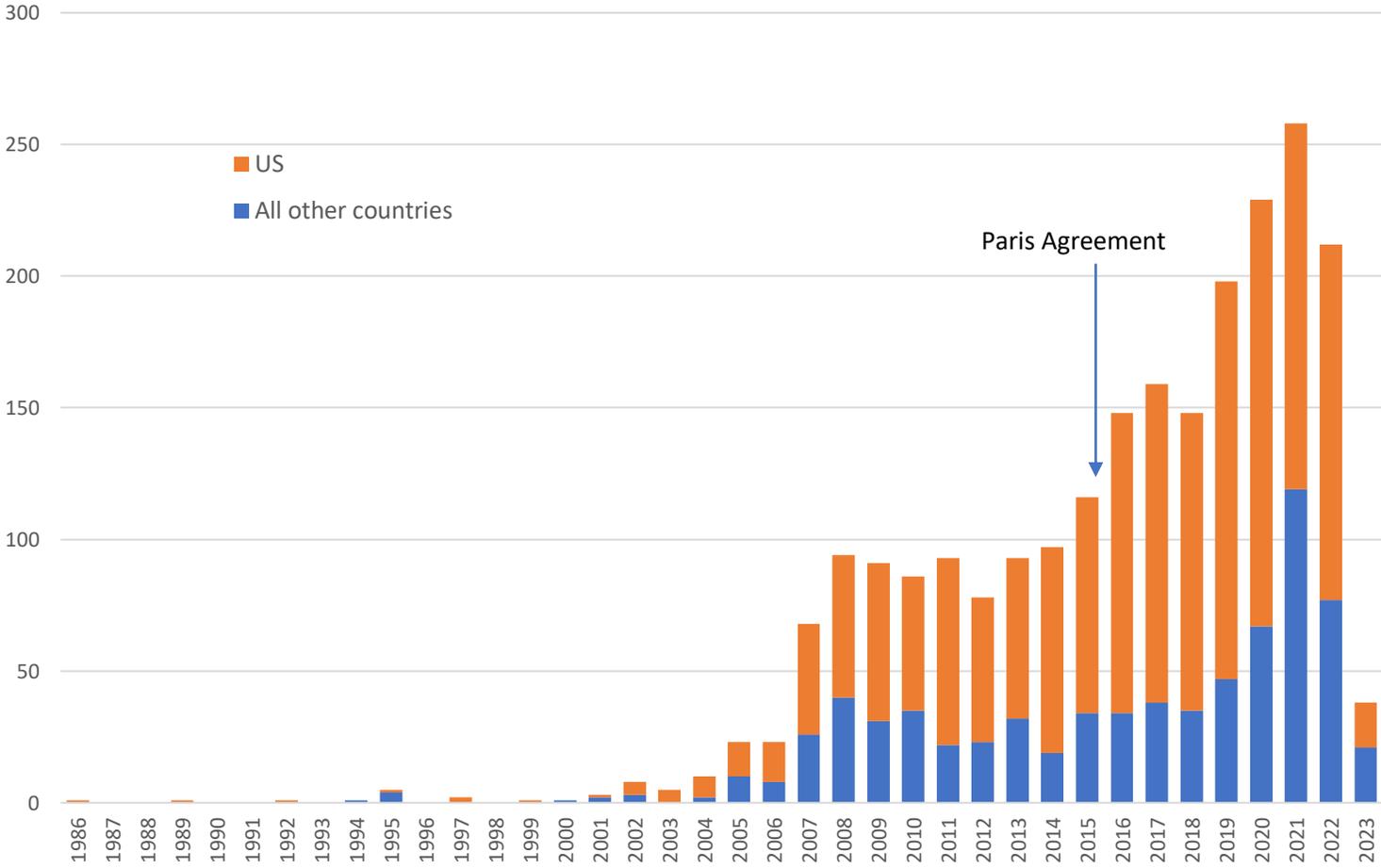
Global trends in climate change litigation: 2021 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Catherine Higham
Policy report
July 2021

Global trends in climate change litigation: 2022 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Catherine Higham
Policy report
June 2022

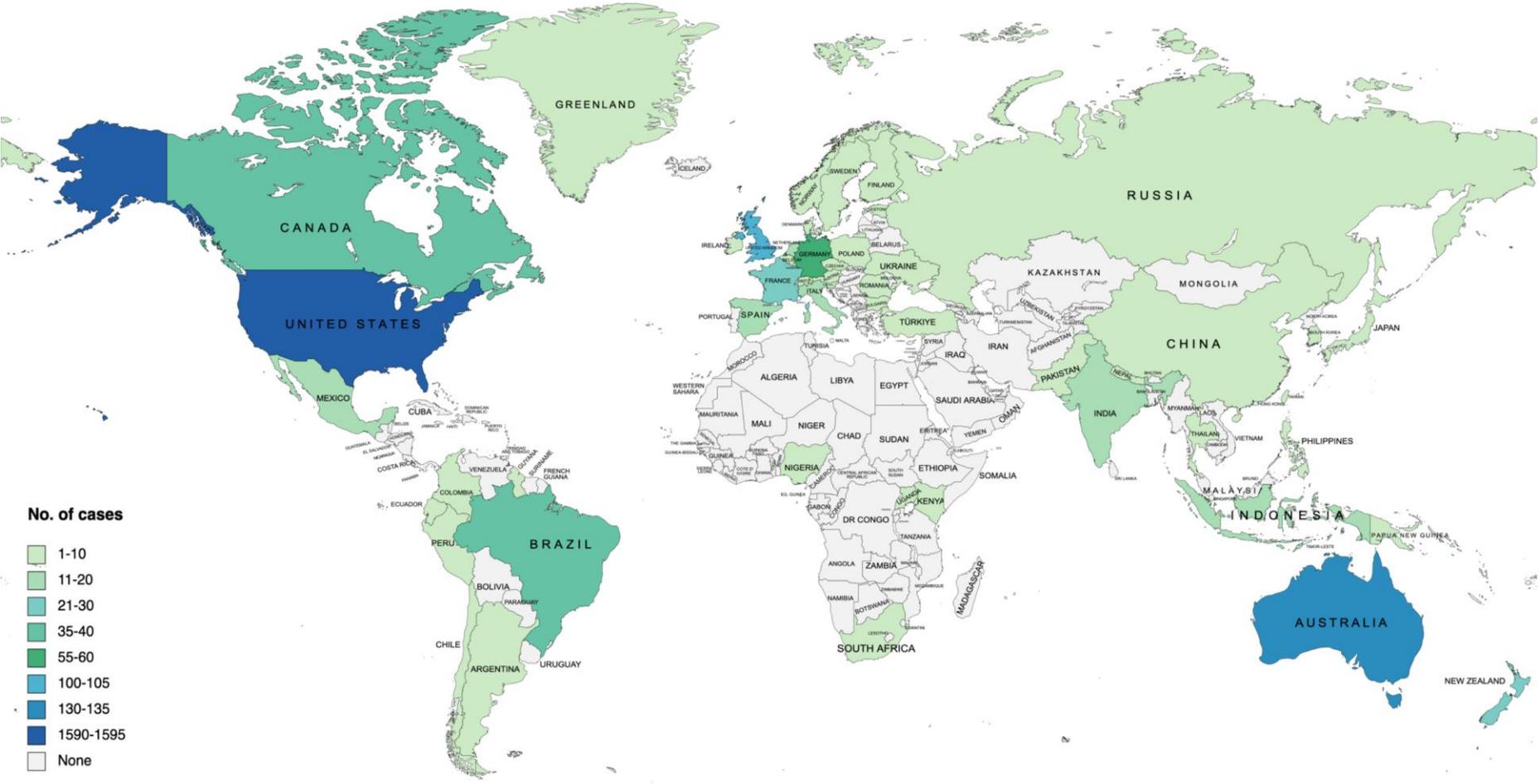
Case numbers rising year on year



- Over 2,340 cases
 - 1,590 in the US
- 2/3 since the Paris Agreement
- 190 cases in the last 12 months
- 2021 highest annual number of cases

Note: Up to end of May 2023, based on Sabin Center databases

Climate litigation continues to spread to new jurisdictions



Number of climate litigation cases around the world, per jurisdiction (up to 31 May 2023)

51 countries

7 new jurisdictions:
 Bulgaria (2021), China (2016), Finland (2022), Romania (2023), Russia (2022), Thailand (2022), and Turkey (2021)

135 cases in the Global South

+ 50 cases before 11 International and regional courts, UN Treaty Bodies and the UNFCCC compliance committee

Strategic cases increasing in numbers and diversity

Climate-aligned

Government framework (80+)

Failure to adapt (14)

Corporate framework (17)

Polluter pays (17)

Integrating climate considerations (206)

Climate-washing (57)

Turning off the taps (28)

Personal responsibility (8)

Global guidance (4)

Just transition cases

Distributional impacts of policies

Challenge JT policies

Non-climate-aligned

Regulatory powers

Stranded assets

SLAPPs

Two key types of government framework cases

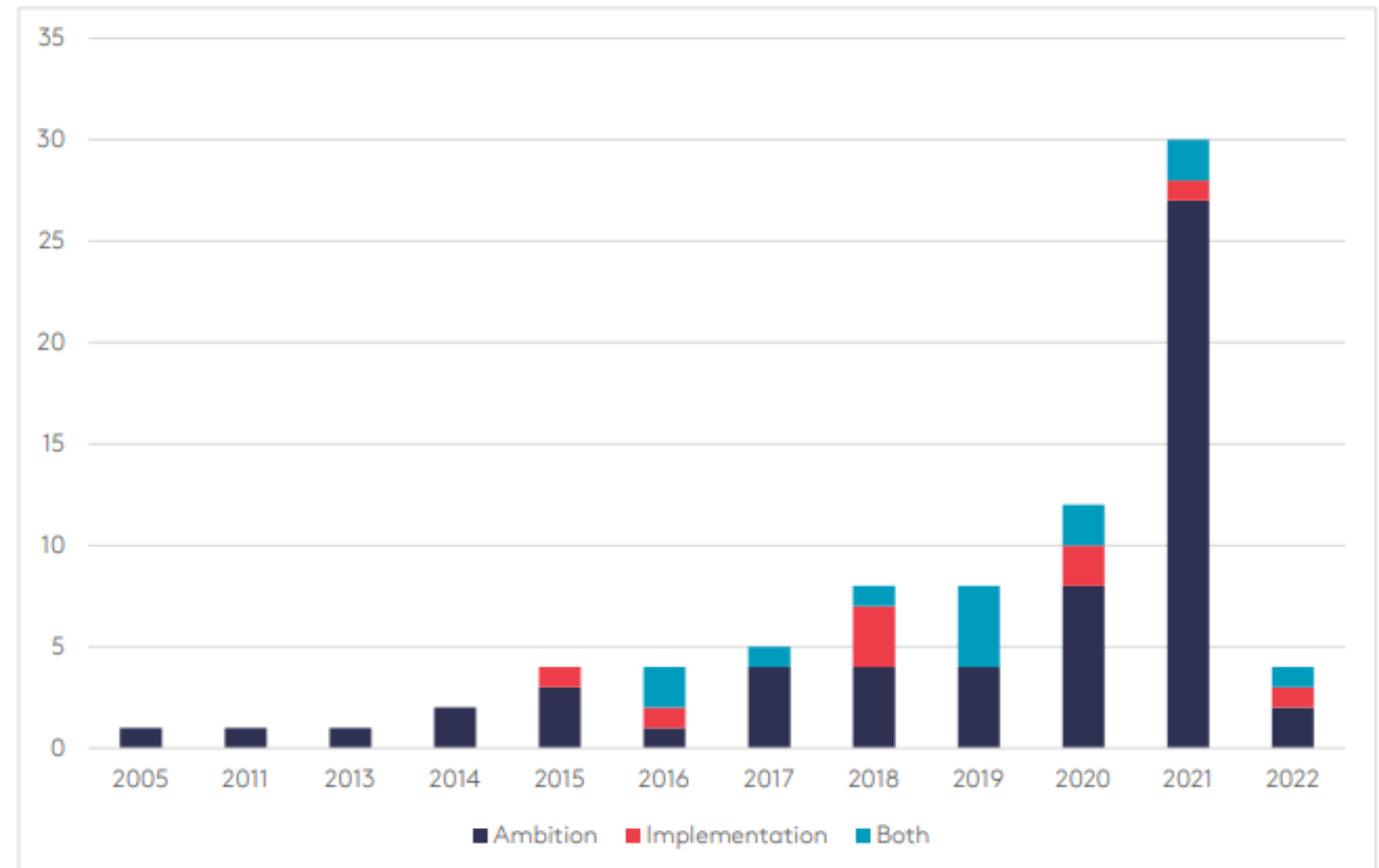
'AMBITION CASES'

concerning the absence, adequacy or design of a government's policy response to climate change

'IMPLEMENTATION CASES'

concerning the enforcement of climate protection measures to meet existing targets or implement existing plans

Figure 2.2. Government framework cases filed over time, by type (up to 31 July 2022)



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ex rel. ROB BONTA, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

**EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION;
EXXONMOBIL OIL CORPORATION;
SHELL PLC; SHELL USA, INC.; SHELL OIL PRODUCTS COMPANY LLC;
CHEVRON CORPORATION; CHEVRON U.S.A. INC.; CONOCOPHILLIPS;
CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY;
PHILLIPS 66; PHILLIPS 66 COMPANY; BP P.L.C.; BP AMERICA INC.; AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE,**

Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR ABATEMENT, EQUITABLE RELIEF, PENALTIES, AND DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

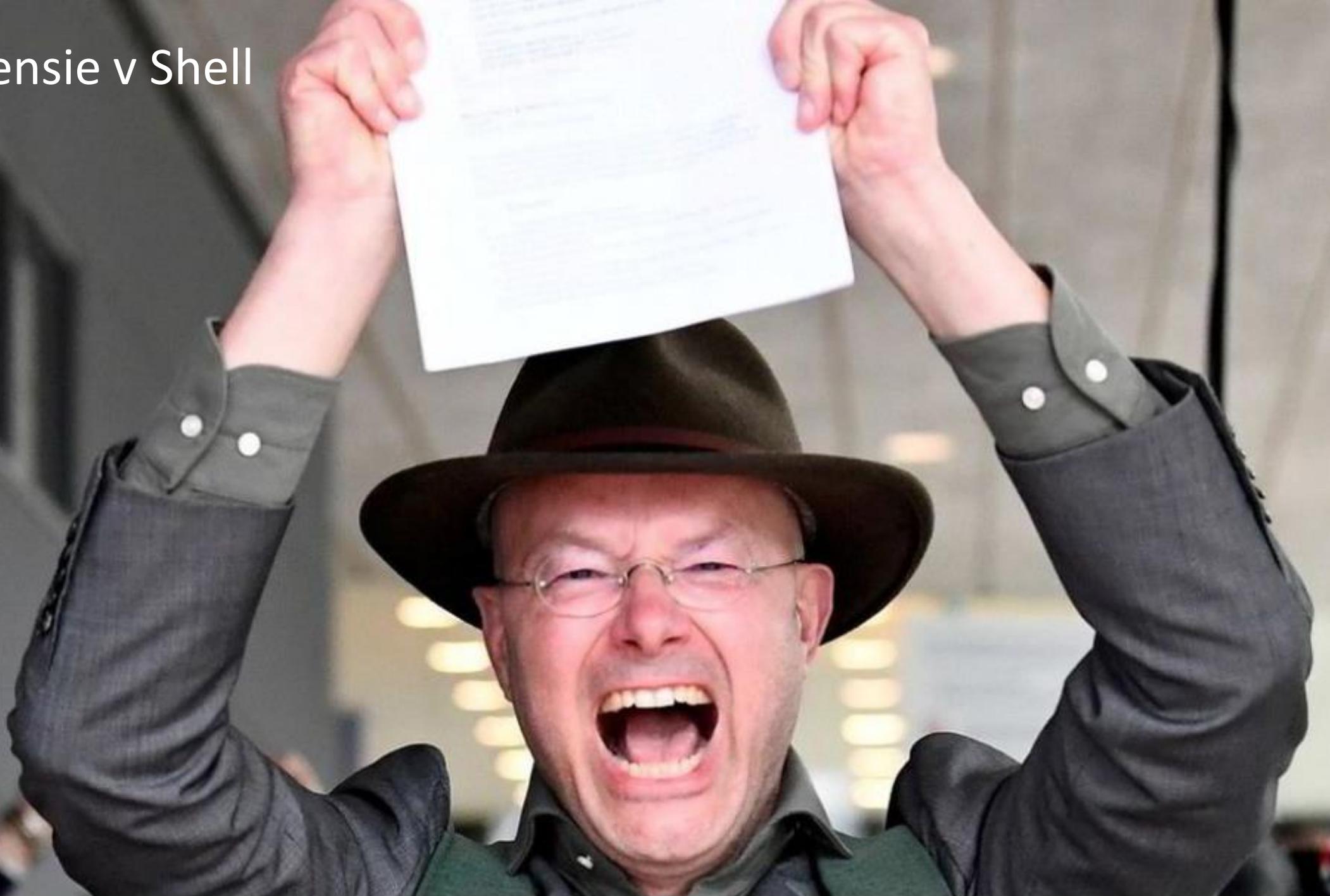
- (1) PUBLIC NUISANCE;**
- (2) GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 12607;**
- (3) UNTRUE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISING;**
- (4) MISLEADING ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETING;**
- (5) UNLAWFUL, UNFAIR, OR FRAUDULENT BUSINESS PRACTICES;**
- (6) STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN; AND**
- (7) NEGLIGENT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN**



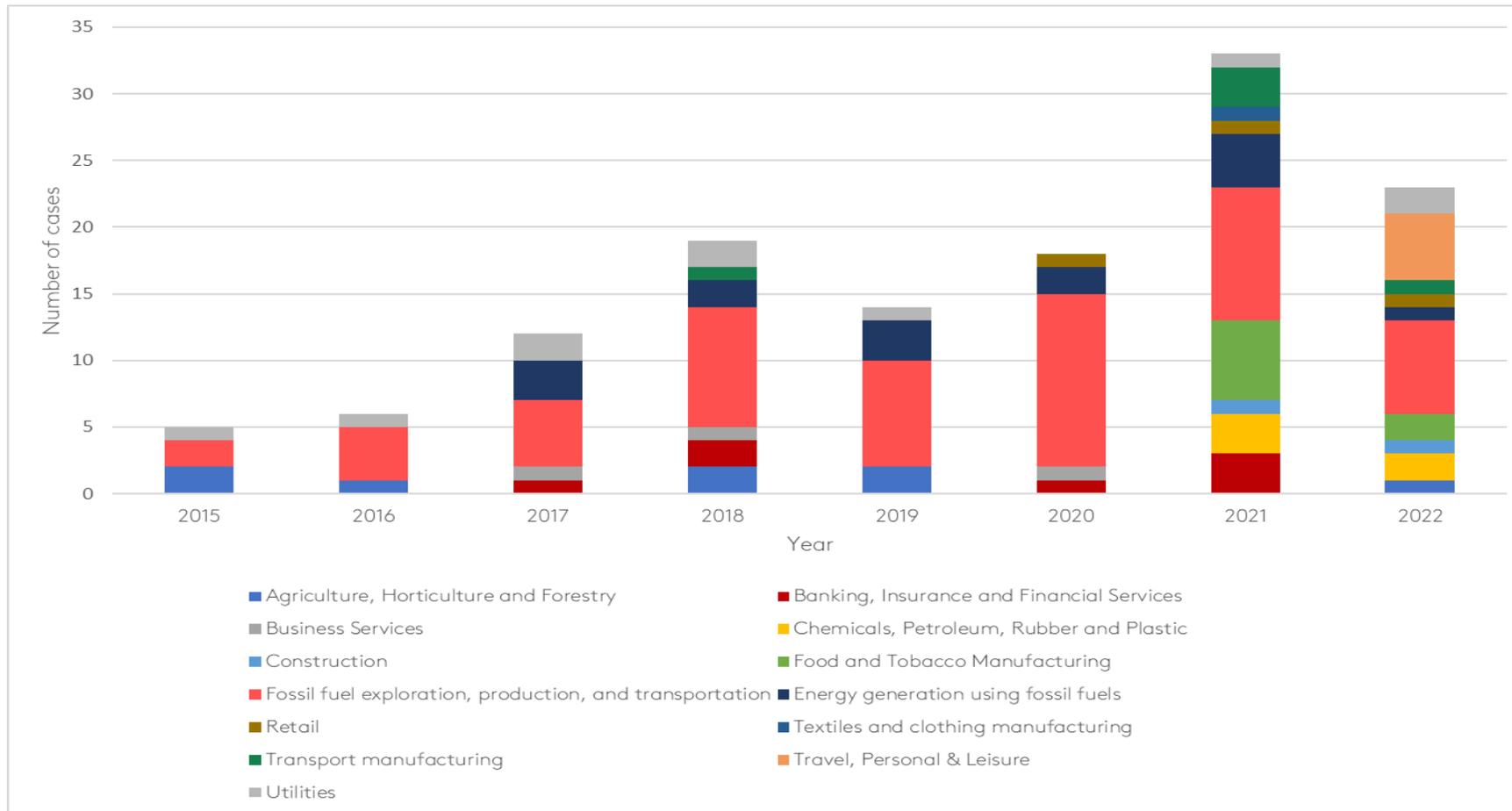
Saúl Luciano Lliuya v RWE

Photo credits: Walter Hupiu Tapia / Germanwatch e.V.

Milieudefensie v Shell



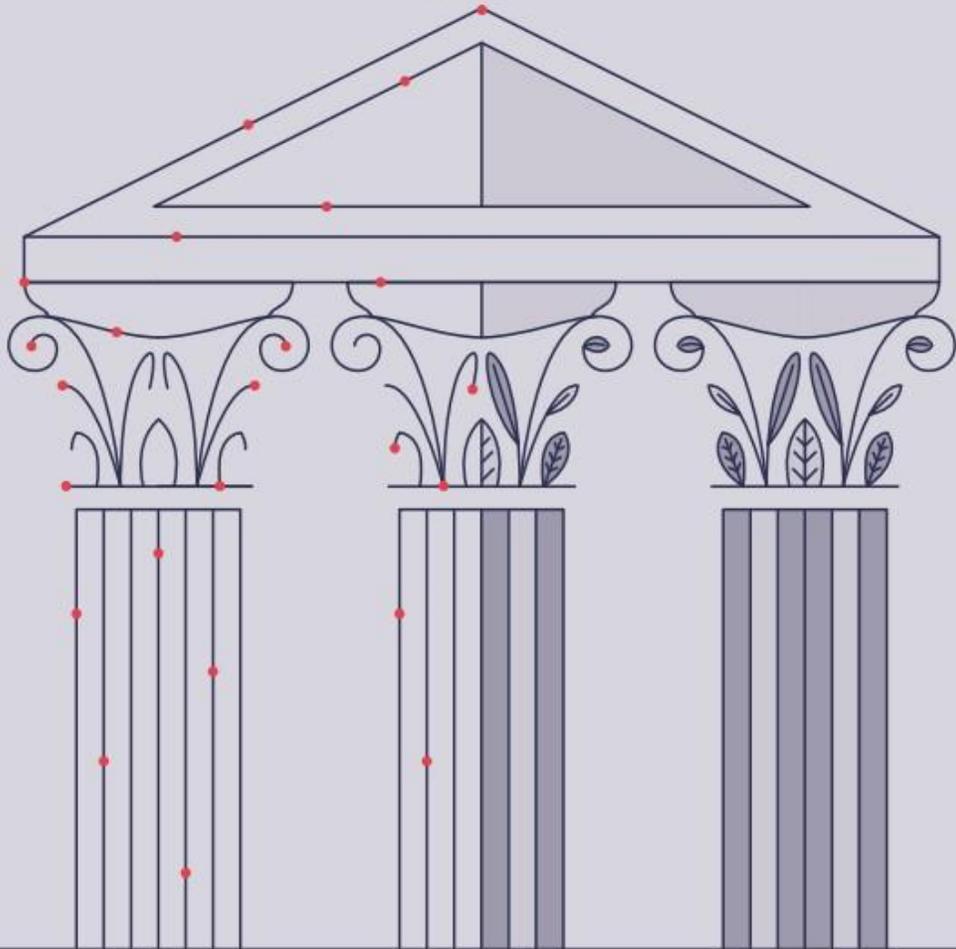
Corporate cases: more sectors, because there are more legal arguments



Number of cases against corporations by sector type including US and Global cases (2015–2022)

Global trends in climate change litigation: 2023 snapshot

Joana Setzer and Catherine Higham



Thank you!

- **Access the 2023 report**
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/publication/global-trends-in-climate-litigation-2023-snapshot>
- **Access the database:**
<https://climate-laws.org>
- **Contact us:**
Joana Setzer - j.setzer@lse.ac.uk
Kate Higham – c.m.higham@lse.ac.uk