

SMALL ISLAND STATES VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Przemysław Osóbka

Kazimierz Wielki University, Law and Economy Institute, Pl. Weysenhoffa 11. 85-072 Bydgoszcz, Poland
p.osobka@ukw.edu.pl

Research Question: Problem discussed in the article is how to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change for vulnerable countries and communities, especially for small island states in Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean Sea?

Purpose: Climate change is a global problem. Partial solutions contribute to the lesser discomfort of the whole. Therefore, finding solutions suitable for small island states is important for the entire planet. Solutions proposed in the article could be applied in these parts of the world and may contribute to reducing migration pressure, preventing climate deterritorialization as well as environmental losses and damages.

Method: Using historical and formal-dogmatic methods, conclusions de lege lata and de lege ferenda will be demonstrated. They will concern both the already existing legal solutions supporting the vulnerability of small island states as well as those that could develop this support.

Results: The results will show both the existing and potential possibilities of supporting the vulnerability of small island states in the field of counteracting climate deterritorialization, environmental migration and the development of natural disaster warning systems.

Organization: Impact of results can be helpful for decision-making factors in small island states as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations supporting them in designing further aid activities or modifying currently implemented ones.

Society: The article takes into account the need to identify those responsible for climate change and the social, economic and political problems it causes. At the same time, the great complexity of the problem of responsibility of states and international corporations will be indicated. The impact of climate change on the everyday life of the societies of small island states will also be presented.

Originality: The societies of small island states urgently need support to protect their own and their families' life and health. The international community is ready to provide this help, but grappling with its own problems that limit it in this regard. The originality of the presented approach consists in taking both of these reasons into account and looking for solutions that help meet expectations, needs with opportunities and limitations.

Limitations / further research: On the one hand, the article is based on the more than 10-year-long scientific achievements of the author, and on the other hand, it is a good starting point for further research on the vulnerability of small island states.

Keywords: climate change, vulnerability, resilience, small island states, environment, climate deterritorialization, migrations, natural disasters.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Przemysław Osóbka, ORCID 0000-0003-4632-840X

Education: Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, PL, PhD (Faculty of Law and Administration)

Employment: Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz PL, Adiunct (Law and Economy Institute)

Selected scientific achievements:

- P. Osóbka, Climate Change and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, "Polish Review of International and European Law", Vol 10 No 1 (2021)
- P. Osóbka, Political and economic aspects of climate change, in "Scientific challenges. Economic and legal challenges 2019", Lviv 2019
- P. Osóbka, International responsibility of states on climate change consequences in the frame of public international law, in D. Zdziech (ed.), Oceania – an important part of the Pacific, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków 2018
- P. Osóbka, The Problem of "Climate Refugees" in the Perspective of International Humanitarian Law- Selected Issues, »Studia z zakresu nauk prawnoustrojowych. Miscellanea, No. VIII vol. 2, Bydgoszcz 2018
- P. Osóbka, Systemy konstytucyjne państw Oceanii, Wydawnictwo Sejmowe, Warszawa 2012