



Navigating the Global Environmental Agenda: A Comprehensive Analysis of COP Conferences, with a Spotlight on COP28 and Key Environmental Challenges

Sabina Akhtar*[†] , S. Shaima*, G. Rita*, A. Rashid* and A. J. Rashed*

*College of Education, American University in the Emirates, Academic City, Dubai, U.A.E

[†]Corresponding author: Sabina Akhtar; akhtar.sabinaskuast@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research work is to explore the objective and competence of COP (Conference of Parties) in the context of environmental issues and climate change management and this is performed by evaluating respective articles published in the context of the subject. COP is found efficient in empowering global nations to be aligned with the objective of sustainable growth by making corrective negotiations and agreements as per the current and future environmental issues like the greenhouse effect and air pollution. COP helps ensure environmental issues are fixed by conducting benchmark index-based performance reviews and analyses. It has been observed that the agenda significantly contributes to the green economy, as it promotes sustainable change and development in the environment, society, and economy. A significant innovative strategy was developed at the conference to reduce global temperatures and emissions. In this context, the development of the EV sector plays a crucial role in mitigating environmental impact. The COP28 conference is addressing the climate and nature crisis, considering it a global health emergency. Methodology states that the literature search is conducted from peer-reviewed journal articles from authentic sources like Wiley's Online Library and Science Direct Pages. Only the journals that were published after the year 2019 have been used in the study. Also, it is seen that COP28 (2023) conventions focused on global warming, climate change, and the production of a green economy, which is continuously being considered, and also, the implications and steps that are required to be taken are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary global business environment, the concern of sustainable development has increased substantially as the degree of adverse impact on the surrounding environment in terms of the greenhouse effect, carbon emission, and pollution surged by more than 13 % in 2022 in comparison to the previous decade (Our World Data 2023). Sustainable development refers to the approach in which the authority belonging to a company or region follows a sustainable approach for conducting defined kinds of industrial or commercial practices so that the degree of adverse influence on surroundings might be minimized (Dey et al. 2022). To assist nations like the UAE and other countries of the world in having sustainable growth from the perspective of both economic and non-economic metrics, the provision for COP (Conference of Parties) is made by the authorities of the United Nations. The first and foremost objective of the COP meeting is to assist the governments of countries belonging to the world in making corrective decisions regarding commercial and non-commercial practices so that the degree of adverse influence on the surrounding environment and

community might be minimized (UNFCCC 2023). In the COP meeting, representatives of different countries take part in the conference to present their opinions regarding the competitive ways following which the rising risk of climate change in terms of carbon emission, resource shortage, and greenhouse effect might be identified and mitigated substantially.

The foundation of the COP meeting was made in 1992 with the strategic multilateral treaty adopted by the management and members of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) for understanding and monitoring the progress in the context of climate change management. To provide a competitive kind of future to the global population without facing any severe climate change effects, two types of landmark agreements are made by the members and authorities of UNFCCC and these are the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The Kyoto Protocol-related agreement was made by the authority and group members of UNFCCC in 1997 to ensure sustainable business and non-commercial practices within every field so that a higher degree of sustainable growth might be achieved

without any adverse impact (Saseendran 2023). On the other hand, the Paris Agreement was made in 2015 between all the group members of UNFCCC so that they might use innovative and creative techniques in their industrial and commercial practices to maximize sustainability across the globe without facing any resource shortage-related issues.

With the support of the article, the contribution made by the COP meetings related provision of UNFCCC is critically evaluated in the context of climate change and environmental issue management, and this is performed by analyzing peer-reviewed 5 competitive articles. The research work highlights the methodology, which is efficient for validating the insights derived from qualitative analysis or quantitative evaluation, and this is eventually used to find valuable inferences for addressing the problem of the artifact.

PAST STUDIES

Overview of COP, COP28, and its Goal

COP (Conference of Parties) is a kind of meeting that is held by the authority and group members of UNFCCC every year to bring all representatives of global countries on a single platform to make a competitive decision on the identification and management of climate change (UNFCCC 2023). The management of COP holds a meeting every year, and the respective collaborative decision is marked as COPFY (Financial Year), where FY is replaced with the name of the year in which the meeting is held. The meeting titled COP27 was held by the group countries and members of UNFCCC between 6th November 2022 and 18th November 2022 in Egypt. On the other hand, the next meeting of UNFCCC with the name of COP28 is to be held in 2023 in Dubai to empower global countries to consider the rising concern of environmental issues and climate change so that corrective decisions might be taken to mitigate respective adverse impacts on the global population. The Key objectives and goals of the COP meeting are detailed below in the context of short-term and long-term vision regarding global environment management-

- To develop a competitive agreement among group countries regarding the decision of the global climate change agreement so that the possibility of any deviation in terms of the usage of innovative and collaborative decisions in environmental sustainability might be curbed (Di Simone et al. 2022).
- To monitor the progress of the agreement and initiative taken by the group members of UNFCCC regarding the effective implementation of climate change management-related strategy

- To evaluate the financial need of each group member country regarding the effective implementation of climate change management-related strategy
- To develop and implement a pledge for balanced usage of financial and natural resources to augment the collaborative nature within group members regarding competitive action against climate change management (Dyer & Dyer 2017)
- To facilitate the effective kind of technology and platforms to the group countries to empower them to develop competitive kind of infrastructure across the regions for -managing and mitigating climate change-related risk precisely (Saseendran 2023)

Analysis of Different Environmental Issues and Their Short-term and Long-Term Impact

Environmental issue refers to the availability of adverse influences on the surrounding environment in terms of factors like pollution, greenhouse effect, carbon emission, and fertility rate, and this plays a significant role in determining the sustainability of the population belonging the world (Fig. 1). As per the principle of sustainable development, the understanding of key environmental issues associated with a region plays a significant role in determining corrective approaches in terms of the usage of financial and non-financial resources, and this eventually helps in meeting sustainable growth objectives (Gazi et al. 2022). The key environmental issues that the group members of COP authority significantly identify and UNFCCC are detailed below, along with highlighting respective influence in the surrounding ecosystem in the context of both short-term and long-term-

Air Pollution

An environmental issue is marked as air pollution when the ratio of CO₂ level and other pollutants like ozone gas is increased by more than the permissible limit. This plays a significant role in augmenting breathing and liveability-related issues for the surrounding population. If UNFCCC and its group members do not take corrective action on time regarding curbing the continuation of commercial and non-commercial activities responsible for air pollution, then the possibility of critical diseases related to respiration, heart, and lungs might increase, and this might prove deadly in critical condition (Kempeneer et al. 2021). Apart from this, the availability of extensive amounts of air pollution level in the atmosphere might create the possibility of acid rain in the long run and this might eventually damage the fertility of soil, which might surge acute hunger across the globe.

Climate Change

Climate change is one of the significant environmental issues which occur due to a substantial amount of variation in the composition of elements available in the air and this eventually leaves an adverse impact on the purity level of air and water.

If the management of UNFCCC and its group members do not take corrective action on time, then the possibility of heatwaves and hurricanes might surge across the nation, and this might eventually destroy farming systems. With the availability of destruction in the ecosystem of agriculture, the possibility of crop failure might surge and this might eventually create a food shortage-related situation in the long run. The availability of uncontrolled heatwaves and hurricanes might increase the level of the sea, and this might eventually create threats related to flood and water security (Lewandowski 2016).

Deforestation

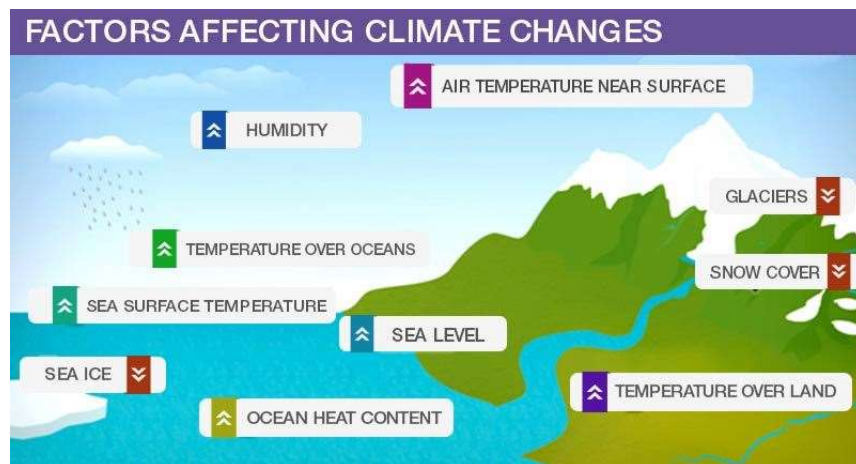
In the contemporary global environment, deforestation is one of the most critical environmental issues as the availability of the situation creates flood, carbon emission, and air pollution-related situations substantially and this might eventually surge the risk of sustainability-related risk in the long run. In the case of deforestation, the frequency of cutting trees is comparatively higher in comparison to normal situations and this eventually reduces the availability of plants efficient in controlling the ratio of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. With the reduction in the number of plants in the surrounding environment, the possibility of flood and greenhouse effect-related situations surges, and this might eventually maximize the probability of severe weather scenarios like

the disrupted cycle of weather and reduced level of oxygen in the environment (Lin et al. 2022).

Critical Analysis of the Competitiveness of COP in Environmental Issues and Climate Change Management

According to Oghazi & Mostaghel (2018), the availability of a central monitoring committee for strategy development in the context of sustainability management plays a significant role in ensuring the level of quality and accuracy of the implemented action, and this eventually helps in meeting objectives precisely. On the evaluation of the functionalities of COP, it is found that it plays a significant role in creating and managing a competitive kind of negotiation between the group members on an international level. This eventually helps in ensuring the implementation of a competitive kind of climate change management approach. For example, with the strategic and periodic negotiation management-related practice, the administration and authority of COP have been successful in getting the Paris Agreement executed and finalized precisely in 2015 without any internal conflict, and this eventually helped in deciding a competitive approach to managing climate change (UNFCCC 2023).

The availability of collaborative and precise kinds of international agreements like the Paris Agreement has played a significant role in the management of COP to bring all group members on a single platform to understand the critical situation of different environmental issues. This has eventually assisted in mitigating respective impacts. With the availability of a collaborative decision-making culture within the operational framework of COP, it has been feasible to include the opinions of different group members regarding the pros and cons of different environmental issues. This has eventually helped in taking corrective and innovative



Source: (Di Simone, Petracchi, & Piva, 2022).

Fig. 1: Climate change.

action on time. It means that the strategic agreement and negotiation kind of culture available within the operational framework of COP has significantly helped in finding the root cause of potential kind of environmental issues using collaborative decision-related traits and this has eventually assisted in meeting concerned objectives precisely.

On the contrary, Reim et al. (2019) stated the availability of COP meeting culture on an international level has played a significant role in measuring and evaluating the performance of each deployed climate change management strategy, and this has been possible by implementing a competitive kind of benchmark. On the evaluation of the strategic practices of COP, it is identified that it has implemented the culture for the usage of benchmark index for each environmental issue and climate change management-related strategy. This has eventually helped in reviewing respective performance periodically. For example, as per the strategic report of COP published in 2022, the respective authority has implemented a benchmark regarding the reduction in carbon emission to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and this has been eventually used to measure whether all group countries are on the way to achieving the metric or not (UNFCCC 2023). The outcome of the availability of benchmark index-based performance review techniques within the operational framework of COP is that its authority has been efficient in ensuring integrity and alignment between the actions of each country, and this has eventually assisted in taking corrective action on time. In short, the availability of periodic reviews and benchmark-based performance comparison related approach of COP has significantly helped in managing and improving the approaches of each group member country to manage environmental issues.

Overview of Green Economy and its Importance

Green economy refers to the economic system in which emphasis on promoting practices in all the commercial and non-commercial fields is made so that a progressive growth trend might be achieved without leaving any adverse impact on the surrounding environment, society, and community (Rodríguez-Olalla & Avilés-Palacios 2017). In other words, a green economy plays a significant role in the authority of a nation or region to shift its traditional economy to a sustainable system in which dependency on natural resources is limited in order to optimize any adverse harm to the surrounding environment (Fig. 2).

The inclusion of the green economy concept in the strategic practices of a nation plays a significant role in finding a competitive technique following the extensive usage of natural resources that might be optimized and minimized with the usage of alternative resources like solar panels. It means that the implementation of a green economy within the strategic practices of a country plays a pivotal role in curbing the possibility of resource shortage-related situations by diversifying dependency on environment-friendly resources, and this eventually reduces the amount of environmental and societal costs (Rodríguez-Olalla & Avilés-Palacios 2017). With the adoption of green economy-related concepts, it becomes easy for the authority of a nation like the UAE to find a competitive technique to reuse the limited natural resources to meet current and upcoming needs. This eventually assists in minimizing industrial costs and maximizing their GDP contribution.



Source: (Lewandowski 2016)

Fig. 2: Green Economy.

Contribution of COP Meetings to Green Economy Achievement

The significance of COP meetings related to green economy achievement is to bring world leaders together and address the impact of climate change. The meeting is referred to as a formal conference where the government acts as parties. It delivers the global effort related to the limitation of global warming, which can be close to the pre-industrial level. COP (“conference of the parties”) reviews the legal instruments that promote the implementation of the convention regarding administration and institutional arrangement. The contribution of parties which are involved with the COP conference mainly resolves the issues related to the “global average temperature” regarding 1.5°C to avoid the impact of climate change-related problems.

This action has an effective contribution to the economy and society, regarding “High-Level Champions” had launched to involve with global climate action to mitigate the environmental crisis. This global climate action needs to involve climate resilience which has a higher moral imperative that supports future generations to get prosperous and healthy future. Related to “The Marrakech Partnership at COP 27”, collaboration with stakeholder influence to take transformative action related to climate change has been catalyzed by regional and local circumstances related to well-being and health. In this conference, partners are brought together to take successful climate action related to adaptation efforts and climate mitigation related to global climate policy and science processes.

Considering the green economy, climate change is responsible for creating problems and results suffered by farmers related to agriculture. It also affects tourism and the fishing industry as “Red Sea coral reef ecosystems” have been hampered. However, due to the introduction of the EV industry, it is not harmful to the climate. Related to the landmark agreement regarding climate losses, the negotiation among different developed nations like the US and EU support to solve issues related to the burning of fossil fuels and emissions reduction to meet the 1.5C target. However, due to the damage and loss of funds, climate disasters have also been observed due to lower triggering options in developing countries. One of the effective contributions of COP is related to transitioning to clean energy and developing targets to slash emissions before 2030. In COP28, it occurs to adapt to the changes related to vulnerable communities. The contribution of COP28 is to set new formwork to deal with finance that will be related to accessible, available, and affordable in the case of developing countries. Additionally, it ensures the collaboration of the local community and Indigenous Peoples.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The COP conferences are mainly designed by the United Nations to enhance the goal of environmental sustainability and create a green economy throughout the globe (COP28 2023). It is a collaboration among several countries, and the present study focuses on reviewing the statements made at the latest conference called COP28 and its objectives (The Nature Conservancy 2023). To find out the environmental issues and how such instances are resolved, the present methodology that is adopted in this particular time is a descriptive-analytical method, which focuses on the peer-reviewed journals in the literature on COP28 of the economy.

The methodology is completely based on the present literature that is related to the green economy, which is mainly from the year 2019. Five peer-reviewed journals focus on the COP28 agenda, and objectives pertaining to the system are considered. One of the primary factors that is associated with the methodology constitutes the literature collection, and its process of screening, which is mentioned.

Literature Collection

The main focus of the COP28 conference is a complete focus on the parameters connected with global warming, and climate change, and also the factors that ensure the creation of a green economy. To understand these factors, and how it is required to be improved, such keywords are used in finding out specifically 7 articles, out of which 5 articles are shortlisted. The authentic sources are being used for finding out the articles that are mainly required, which constitutes the Science Direct Pages, Elsevier journals, and also, Wiley’s Online Library in order to find the information.

Screening of Specific Literature Articles

While doing the screening of the articles, the latest articles, which are from the year 2019 are considered. Also, it is seen that only peer-reviewed articles are considered to ensure that the details of the COP28 conference in the UN are understood in the connected processes, which mainly creates an understanding pertaining to the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The clarification of the articles by determining the country and considering the key findings. The articles are evaluated for analyzing the journals and considering COP28 in terms of tackling the climate challenges. The analysis of the five articles is determined based on representing authors, journal name, and country of publishing the articles and the key findings (Table 1).

Table 1: Analysis of Five Articles, including information on Authors, Journal, Country of publication, and Key Findings.

Author	Journal Name	Country	Key findings
Roberts et al. (2023)	UCL Open: Environment Preprint	United Kingdom	The article represents the annual conference of the parties (COP) for determining the collective actions towards tackling the climate challenge. UCL's carbon footprint calculator is determined to compare diverse modes of transport from the UK to COP28 in Dubai.
Leiter (2022)	Carbon and Climate Law Review	United Kingdom	The article determines that climate adaptation is an existing challenge and its impacts on the global economy. The increasingly diverse climate-related impacts evaluate the understanding of the COP28 climate conference.
Abbasi et al. (2023)	African Journal of Clinical and Experimental Microbiology	Africa	The journal ensures the understanding of the COP28 climate change conference in terms of determining the treatment towards the climate and nature crisis considering the invisible global health emergency.
Michaelowa (2022)	Handbook of International Climate Finance	UAE	The journal represents the understanding that ensures the international climate finance directed from advanced to developing countries through public interventions for mitigation and adaptation.
Evangelista-Vale et al. (2021)	Biological Conservation	Brazil	It is found from the article that the financial global climate change governance is the overall understanding in terms of considering the COP28 conferences. The article ensures the understudying of the issues related to climate and the policy, which determine the policy requirements.

Table 2: Articles Used in the Investigation.

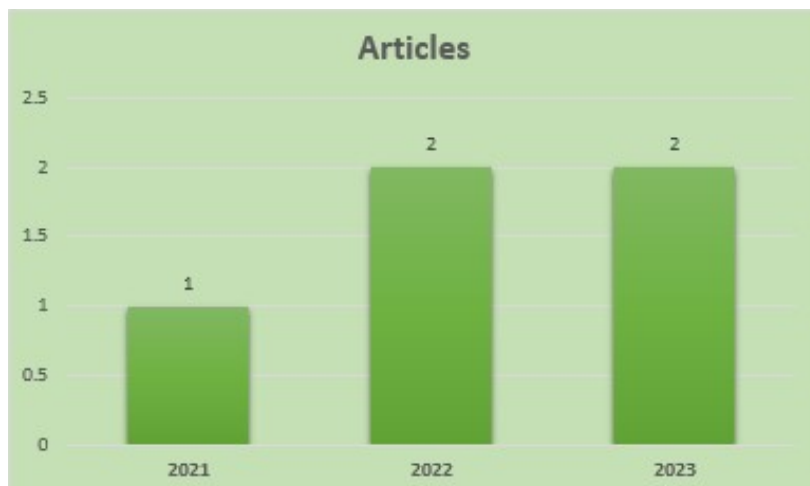
Year	Number of Articles	Articles
2021	1	Evangelista-Vale et al. (2021)
2022	2	Michaelowa (2022) Leiter (2022)
2023	2	Roberts et al. (2023) Abbasi et al. (2023)

The overall content represents the analysis that evaluates the main aims of the research that investigate the values towards determining the feasibility in terms of clarifying the journal name, authors, years, and findings. The clarification of the articles represents the use of the articles based on considering the topic and the analysis on considering the insight. The analysis of the articles represents an overall

understanding of the COP28 and the conference regarding environmental issues. It is found from the analysis that fossil fuel use must be reduced to increase the potential of a green economy, like the use of electric vehicles, even in public transport, as much as possible. Also, it is observed in the study that there are techniques that ensure the right kind of measures for climate change and global warming by reducing the carbon footprint and making the policies stricter.

The clarification of the articles by considering the years is also determined, which represents the utilization of the journals (Table 2).

The articles are selected researching the topic that determines the overall analysis of the workings investigating



Source: Author.

Fig. 3: Articles by years;

the possible years. It is seen that the literature is conducted based on determining the climate challenges and the aspect of COP28 that considers the research insights. The article selection is based on the last 3 years that determine overall determination. The analysis investigates the utilization of the content and its overall clarification that determines the utilization. The overall understanding illustrates that there are 2 articles from 2023, 2 from 2022, and 1 from 2021 (Fig. 3). The authors and the journal also evaluated towards considering the factors that evaluate the changes in the market situation for facing the challenges related to climate and COP28 concept determination.

Literature Review Analysis and Results

Based on the findings of secondary results in the literature review, it is seen that the green economy is involved with sustainable development, these are economy, environment, and social. Related to climate change action, the green economy has involved inclusive and sustainable growth, green jobs, and green transition. Sustainable climate change is interlinked with the green economy as it emits lower production of greenhouse gases by minimizing the eliminated waste and using effective resources. In the case of economic growth, this has been related to the income and employment that drive private and public investment. The green economy is responsible for creating people and social resilience through the effective transition. Investment in sustainable solutions turns on the end use of fossil fuel that is beneficial for controlling pollution. Discussion of this green economy refers to the combination of environmental responsibility and economic growth that led to social development.

COP has contributed to the launch of a number of initiatives that are related to a green economy. These are “Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe)” and “Low Carbon Transport for Urban Sustainability (L^cO₂TUS),” which have been related to sustainable transport and the use of renewable and affordable energy. Considering land management, a plan regarding climate action has also been taken in COP. The key fact in COP28 has seen are limitations of global warming by reducing temperature which has lower harmful effects on climate change. By demonstrating the collaboration of different cities, the goal related to climate change has been planning related to the transition of clean energy, centering lives, people, and nature, mobilizing inclusivity, and delivering on finance.

The thematic program of COP28 has been set by dramatically protecting livelihoods and lives and reducing emissions that support the green transition across society. In this climate meeting, digital action has been taken hold in UAE related to preparing a plan for future climate change. The international climate change meeting delivers effective

global efforts to meet global warming that decrease the possible chances of reduction of temperature. It has been seen that “global climate change governance” ensures understanding the issues that are related to the policy and climate change regarding the mitigation of environmental problems. This milestone involved a stock of progress which provided solutions on time for global change. It has also been evaluated that, in this global conference, nature and climate crises are being discussed, which solve invisible global health emergencies. In determining the carbon footprint, a discussion of the different diverse modes of transport has been calculated. By aligning and updating the climate plan, negotiating with foreign leaders, and government support to build resilience regarding society, reduce emissions, and invest in adaptation efforts and mitigation. This conference has also been aligned with digital action related to renewable energy transition and the application of natural climate solutions that assist synch countries related to climate change. It also ensures the voice of the local and Indigenous communities as they also suffer in this natural calamity.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded from the study that most of the factors that are linked with the COP28 conference in the UN are focused on the factors pertaining to global warming, climate change, and the green economy. It is seen that the global warming program plans to reduce the temperature by 1.5 degrees globally, and also, for the sake of climate change, the campaign for planting trees is considered, and also, the reduction of greenhouse gases is mainly important. Also, it is observed from the study that the peer-review-based research conducted, which focused on the green economy, found that the reduction of fossil fuels and the creation of sustainable energy are equally important.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis, it is seen that COP28 has also been focused on clean energy transition, protecting lives, and delivering finance. However, the recommendation is that in this international conference, leaders need to focus on policy development related to maintaining healthy water in the ocean, as it also harms biodiversity. Additionally, the research also needs to critically analyze in compare different COP program and their success, which would be effective for further planning related to climate change action.

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ORCID DETAILS OF THE AUTHORS

Sabina Akhtar: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6848-7738>