HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

CENTER FOR PROTECTION AND REVIVAL OF LOCAL COMMUNITY RIGHTS

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Situation in Thailand
Issue I: **Mining and Human Rights**

Implementation of previous recommendation

- Indonesia: Continue to enhance the participation of local communities in land conservation and forest management, including by recognizing the local community's role in the global climate action agenda

Situation in Thailand
Issue I: **Mining and Human Rights**

Current Situation

- Mineral Management Master Plans developed without meaningful public participation
- **5,956 potential mining areas**, around **40%** of these areas are **located in Northern Thailand**, where mountainous areas are home to many ethnic communities.
- Omkoi Coal Mining Project (Chiang Mai Province): False information in the EIA report; no interpretation in Indigenous language during public consultation.

Situation in Thailand
Issue I: **Mining and Human Rights**

Current Situation

- **Mining Activities in Myanmar** are linked to cross-border arsenic and heavy metal contamination in the Kok, Sai, and Ruak Rivers and the Salween River in Thailand.
- This has affected local and indigenous communities that depend on these rivers for **agriculture**, fishing, drinking water, and other domestic uses.

Recommendations
Issue I: **Mining and Human Rights**

We recommended that the Thai government to:

- **Reform** the Mineral Act B.E. 2560 (2017) and the Mineral Management Master Plans within one year **to establish a rights-based framework**
- **Guarantee** the full and **effective participation** of communities that may be affected by mining and other large-scale projects at every stage, and ensure their meaningful participation in the laws and HRDD bill.
- **Address arsenic and other heavy metal contamination** exceeding permissible standards **in the Kok, Sai, Ruak, and Salween Rivers** in Thailand, and establish effective measures for environmental rehabilitation, and remediation for affected persons within one year.

Situation in Thailand
Issue II: **Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

Implementation of previous recommendation

- **Nepal**: Continue its efforts towards the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities

- **Romania**: Ensure that the protection and promotion of the way of life of ethnic groups act is drafted and implemented in accordance with the relevant international human rights law and standards

Situation in Thailand
Issue II: **Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

New developments

- Thailand enacted the Ethnic Groups Protection and Promotion of Cultural Way of Life Act B.E. 2568 (2025)

- The law does not recognize the status of "Indigenous Peoples", but instead **uses the term "ethnic groups."**

- The principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (**FPIC**), as affirmed in the UNDRIP, **has not yet been fully recognized** under Thai law.

Situation in Thailand
Issue II: **Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

We recommended that the Thai government to:

- Recognize the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples under Thai law, and ensure they are not subjected to discrimination and are able to maintain their traditional ways of life and cultural practices.

Situation in Thailand
Issue III: **Environmental HRDs**

Implementation of previous recommendation

- **6 Countries (Latvia, Norway, Austria, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czechia)**: Ensure the protection of human rights defenders.

Situation in Thailand
Issue III: Environmental HRDs

New developments

- Relevant government agencies are currently in the process of drafting an Anti-SLAPP law.

We recommended that the Thai government to:

- **Enact** legislation, including **an anti-SLAPP law** within one year, to prevent the misuse of judicial processes against environmental human rights defenders.
- Provide regular and mandatory **human rights training to public officials at all levels**, including on the protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Thank you

From all the members of our coalition:

- Villagers from Ban Ka Boe Din (Chiang Mai Province)
- Villagers from Mae Buan Nuea and Mae Tub (Chiang Mai Province)
- Villagers from Ban Huai Makok (Mae Hong Son Province)
- Villagers from Ban Mae Liang (Lampang Province)
- Center for Protection and Revival of Local Community Rights (CPCR)
- Foundation for Environment and Natural Resources (FENR)