



Universal Periodic Review of Papua New Guinea

UPR Info pre-session for PNG – October 2021
Lucielle Paru (Papua Native Landowners Association Inc.)

Papua Native Landowners Association Inc.

- Our organization deals with the native landowners of the former territory of Papua that are seeking justice for the abuses and injustice to the Indigenous peoples during colonization.
- We also assist other Indigenous clans and groups to connect with Government Agencies and to network to find means of justice for our Crown land and issues relating to land.
- We provide them with:



✓ assistance with regard to land cases



✓ research and compilation of documentation



✓ and advocacy.

UPR 2nd cycle's recommendations on Environmental issues

104.152 Take measures to guarantee full respect of human rights to indigenous peoples, in particular through the establishment of mechanisms for their prior and informed consent on issues that affect them **(Mexico)**;

104.153 Review the state policy that affects indigenous lands, known as the “Plan of Agricultural and Industrial Leases” regarding non-indigenous companies, reinforcing the work of the Commission of Inquiry that has found irregularities in many of the leases investigated **(Chile)**;

104.154 Take appropriate measures to prevent land grabbing and illegal logging and ensure that future actions are based on a respect for fundamental human rights and environmental protection **(Norway)**;

104.155 Take more effective measures to guarantee that large-scale projects respect environmental standards **(Algeria)**;

104.156 Continue to take into account, in the implementation of Vision 2050 and other development plans, the improvement, conservation and protection of the environment **(Cuba)**;

104.157 Implement the accepted recommendations from the first universal periodic review of increasing the oversight of extracting and logging industries as well as related enterprises and businesses, with a view to mitigating the adverse human rights effects on affected populations and reducing its negative impact in the environment establishing more rigorous and transparent measures **(Guatemala)**;

Legislative framework

- **PNG's 4th National Goal**

“The natural resources and the environment of Papua New Guinea should be conserved and used for the collective benefit of the people: and should be replenished in the interest of future generations”

- **Environment Act 2000**



Mining (1/2)

- Sand mining:
 - Environmental standards and social impacts ignored
 - Failure to carry out adequate consultations and awareness on the environment and social impacts
 - Denying affected population participation in the process
 - i.e. : case of Niugini sands withdrawn in 2021
 - Still 2 other projects into consideration



Mining (2/2)

- Frieda River Copper and Gold mine
 - Impact over 400 000 sepiak people's home, identity and environment
 - Risk of dam failure and contamination of waters
 - Supreme Sukundimi Declaration from 28 spiritual houses opposing the project
 - Risk of using deep sea tailing placement a practice prohibited in many countries

« We wish to express our serious concern regarding the potential and actual threats to the human rights to life, health, bodily integrity, water, food, and others of the project »

Joint letter from 10 UN Special Rapporteurs

Logging

- Current situation
 - Legislative framework: 1991 Forestry Act and others
 - PNG = world's largest tropical timber's exporter
 - 70% of logging activities takes place illegally
 - Special Agriculture and Business Leases taking place without the free, prior and informed consent of people living on the affected land

“it was unacceptable that many businesses had been granted licenses to engage in extractive industries without the free, prior and informed consent of the people living on the affected land, particularly under the Special Agriculture Business Leases (SABL). Many communities have been forcibly evicted from their homes, often reportedly violently, with impunity and allegedly sometimes with the complicity of local police.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, 2018

Our recommendations

- ***Ensure that communities affected by extractive and logging related projects and activities be consulted at all stages in a free, prior and informed manner in accordance with international human rights standards.***
- ***Take more rigorous and transparent measures to increase the oversight of extracting and logging related projects to ensure their compliance with international human rights and environmental standards.***
- ***Take the necessary measures to ensure that all economic, social and cultural rights are fully respected and rights holders adequately protected in the context of corporate activities.***
- ***Take appropriate measures to stop and prevent illegal logging and ensure that all logging activities are based on a respect for fundamental human rights and environmental protection.***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**