



United Nations Universal Periodic Review Recommendations Template

1. Issue: Logging of PNGs Forests – Destruction of Bio Diversity, Contributing to Climate Emergency, Evictions, Loss of Traditional Knowledge, Cultures and Livelihood & Seabed Mining

Logging Issues

UN SDG 15

- ✓ **Right to health** including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR, art. 25(1); ICESCR, art. 12, CRC, art. 24, CEDAW, art. 12, CMW, art. 28];
- ✓ **Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water** [UDHR, art. 25(1); ICESCR, art. 11].
- ✓ **Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources** [ICCPR, ICESCR article 1(2)].
- ✓ **Right to participate in cultural life** [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 15; ICERD, art. 5, 7, CRPD art.30; CRC art.31];
- ✓ **Right to access to information** [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art.19 (1)].

2. Summary of Information

Logging has been practiced over the last 40 years in not only in New Ireland Province but communities in PNG experienced with this industry. It is very sad to see our locals giving their consent to logging companies without actually benefitting from them.

Getting involved in Logging is a very risky business. These loggers used very few local people for their benefits. It is very important to note that rights of customary owners of forest resource shall be fully recognized and respected in all transaction affecting the resource owners but this is not the case with us.

Based on a wider community consultation process and awareness on logging issues in New Ireland, Caritas PNG Kavieng Diocese and West Coast Development Foundation have visited communities in Kavieng District (Putput village (06.08.18) & Munuwai Village (13.09.18)) and Four (4) in Namatanai (Napanta (17,09.18), Komalabuo (18.09.18), Lavatkana (20.09.18) am, Lamosong (20.09.18) pm about 97% of the community have fully supported the campaign based on these following reasons.

1. **Forest management Agreement** – under the Forestry Act 1991 the new arrangement that replaced Timber Rights Purchase (TRP) is called Forest Management Agreement. A couple of Logging

operation here in New Ireland are still using the old system. This is illegal and should be stopped.

2. **Incorporate Land Groups** – Signing of Forest management Agreement should be done by Incorporated Land Groups. Most of the clan groups do not have ILGs. For such cases when entering into agreement that has to be done by a clan agent through signing of Consent forms.
3. **Consent Form** - We are aware that under 57 (2b) of the forestry Act states that a clan can authorize a person to enter into agreement on behalf of the clan, if 75% of the adult member's in the clan living on the land give written consent. In most of the logging cases that has not been done.
4. **Entitlements/ Benefits** – As resource owners we only aware of the Royalties paid by the logging company. Other benefits such as Agriculture Levies, reforestation Levies, Export Levies are not used for the benefit of resource Owners. Logging companies should have also supported the government in terms of infrastructure has not been done over the last 40 years.
5. **Environmental Damaged Agreement-** We as Resource Owners have not sighted the MoU nor signed any MoA with the Developer. We have now witnessed our Environment damaged and how can we claim compensation.
6. **Lack of Free Prior Informed Consent**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation_in_Papua_New_Guinea

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/pngs-new-ireland-province-shuts-down-suspected-illegal-loggers/12048618>

<https://postcourier.com.pg/namatanai-to-address-logging-related-issues/>

<https://www.thenational.com.pg/juffa-angered-by-trespassing-loggers/>

<https://postcourier.com.pg/mori-agrees-to-convert-carbon-credits/>

Seabed Mining SDG 14

In 2008 the PNG Government gave Nautilus Mineral Ltd Environmental Permit for their work on Seabed Mining in New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea and in 2011 the PNG Government gave approval for the Mining License.

Since then, there has been a growing concern from the local coastal communities who are being threatened by this project. The concerned community members include, women, children, men and older people. These are indigenous people who use the ocean as part of their daily survival for the past 30,000 years. They have a bond with the ocean.

Throughout the licensing and mineral exploration process and since local community members they have consistently raised their concerns on numerous platforms through advocacy and lobbying, seminars and conferences and workshops not only in PNG but internationally as well.

There is overwhelming support from international scientist such as Sir David Attenborough and many academics and Concerned Environmental Groups.

- Accountability Zero: A Critique of Nautilus Minerals Environmental and Social Benchmarking Analysis of the Solwara 1 project (September 2015) http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/wp-content/uploads/accountabilityZERO_web.pdf
- Physical Oceanographic Assessment of the Nautilus Environmental Impact Statement for the Solwara 1 Project - An Independent Review (November 2012) <http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/wp-content/uploads/EIS-Review-FINAL-low-res.pdf>
- Out of our Depth: Mining the Ocean Floor in Papua New Guinea (November 2011) <http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/wp-content/uploads/Out-Of-Our-Depth-low-res.pdf>
- The Socio-Political And Regulatory Context For Sea Bed Mining In Papua New Guinea

<http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/wp-content/uploads/DSMC-PNG-Report-on-Deep-Sea-Mining.pdf>

<https://postcourier.com.pg/call-to-ban-massive-seabed-mining>

<https://www.thenational.com.pg/council-of-churches-wants-ban-on-seabed-mining>

<https://dsmobserver.com/2019/01/seabed-mining-project-in-png-gets-500000-loan>

<https://www.edo.org.au/2020/09/14/community-win-over-foi-bid-in-png-seabed-mining-case>

<https://postcourier.com.pg/campaign-against-deep-sea-mining-continues>

Some of the issues raised are being

1. The Project is an experiment and it is a threat to coastal communities who are currently being affected by the impacts of Climate Change
2. The Project is a threat to the peoples economy whom they depend on fish for earning an income at local setting and a threat to the National economy as fisheries also contributes to the countries National Budget. Tourism also contributes to local and provincial economies and has the potential to expand.
3. The Project is a threat to our Traditional Custom or Culture. The current Project Site is on the unique New Irelanders Mandak and Barok Indigenous Shark Calling People
Lack of Free Prior Informed Consent from the Local Communities and PNG civil society

3. Recommendations

Logging

1. UPR to review UPR 2nd Cycle and the PNG Government Commitment in 2016 to address Logging Issue In PNG
2. UN Climate Change Agreement must be strictly followed by member countries to address Climate Change Commitment
3. Include Calculation of Climate Impacts of Forestry and Logging in PNGs NDCs for UNFCCC
4. Ensure adherence to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Right
5. No Logging to be permitted without companies conducting and continuing human rights due diligence

Seabed Mining

6. PNG should adopt a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights that includes the issues of Sea Bed Mining
7. PNG should develop a strategy to promote knowledge and understanding of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to communities, government officials and to the private sector
8. The International Seabed Authority and Respective National Governments must stop issuing both mining and exploration licenses until more is known about the impacts on ecosystem and communities and until civil society makes an informed decision about whether this industry should proceed.
9. Prior to developing legislative frameworks for seabed mining, Governments must undertake a consultation process to ensure they have the consent of their civil societies for this industry. Any legislation developed must prioritize human, environmental and cultural rights.
10. PNG should support a global moratorium on Seabed Mining