

ASIA PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FORUM

PROTECTING THOSE WHO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT



CONVENED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



SUPPORTED BY:





AGENDA

Hybrid event: Bangkok | Online

*this event is scheduled in Bangkok time | ICT+7

DAY 1	25 th Oct 2022
08:00	Registration <i>(for in-person participants) and technical checking (for online participants)</i>
08:30	Opening session
09:00	Session 1: Setting the context
<p>The 2021 Asia Pacific Forum for Environmental Human Rights Defenders was the first-ever regional forum in Asia-Pacific that provided a dedicated safe space for dialogue and learning exchange amongst EHRDs. The session will provide a recap of the 2021 Forum discussions and recommendations. The session will also canvas recent trends and challenges across the Asia Pacific region.</p>	
10:00	Presentation of EHRDs Toolkit
10:20	Break
10:40	Session 2: EHRDs in conflict situations
<p>Asia Pacific contained the second largest number of active armed conflicts with nine countries in 2021. This session will provide space to discuss the challenges faced in locations of compounding issues of resources extraction, land conflicts and development projects alongside military forces and violent action. The session will also focus on how militarisation aggravates and exacerbates the challenges of environmental protection and community rights to land, territories and resources.</p>	
12:10	Wrap-up <i>(for hybrid session)</i>
12:20	Lunch break
13:30	Parallel networking sessions for EHRDs <i>(In-person and on-line participants)</i>
15:00	Break
15:20	World Café <i>(in-person participants)</i>
16:20	Wrap-up for Day 1 <i>(for in-person participants)</i>

DAY 2	26 th Oct 2022
08:30	Welcome to Day 2 - Recap of Day 1
08:40	Session 3 – Reporting human rights violations and engaging with Special Procedures.
<p>An alleged victim of a human rights violation can turn to one of three UN Human Rights Mechanisms to submit a complaint: Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies or the Human Rights Council. Through addressing complaints, the mechanisms aim to ensure that violations are prevented, stopped, investigated or that remedial action is taken. This session will start with a short presentation on the engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms in particular special procedures. The session will explore the communications, reporting and advocacy functions of special procedures. Defenders will share their experience on how they have used special procedures to support the work of EHRDs and address violations of rights. There will be an extended Q&A session with experts.</p>	
10:10	Break
10:30	Session 4 – Tools and emergency support for EHRDs at the national level
<p>There are a number of tools and emergency support available for EHRDs. At this session, organisations working in the region will share tools and information on a range of topics including; support provided by NHRIs to EHRDs, emergency grants, legal aid and digital security support. Within breakout sessions defenders can share their experience of using and accessing tools including best practices, challenges, and suggestions for improvement.</p>	
12:00	Wrap-up <i>(for hybrid session)</i>
12:10	Lunch break
13:10	Parallel networking session for EHRDs <i>(in-person and online participants)</i>
14:50	Advocacy brainstorm/workshop <i>(for in-person participants)</i>
16:50	Wrap-up for Day 2 <i>(for in-person participants)</i>

DAY 3	27 th Oct 2022
08:30	Welcome to Day 3 - Recap of Day 2
08:40	Session 5 – Advocacy tactics
<p>This session focuses on successful advocacy tactics to promote environmental rights and campaign for the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Defenders from the region will share their stories and experience relating to communication, campaigns, lobbying, grassroots organising, direct action, divestment and mapping of friends and allies.</p>	
10:10	Break
10:30	Session 6 – Development of a regional framework on environmental rights
<p>In July 2022, the General Assembly declared that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a universal human right. While Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú) and Europe (Aarhus) have agreements protecting procedural rights in environmental decision making and the protection of EHRDs, such a regional agreement does not yet exist in the Asia Pacific region. At the regional and sub-regional levels there are increasing calls for the development of regional frameworks to protect environmental rights. Such an agreement is under discussion within the framework of ASEAN. This session will review the progress towards regional and sub-regional frameworks in the Asia Pacific region and the potential for further advocacy towards such instruments.</p>	
12:00	Closing Session
12:30	Conclusions
12:40	Lunch break
13:40	Parallel networking sessions for EHRDs <i>(in-person and online participants)</i>