

DAY 1: SETTING THE STAGE & LEGAL FOUNDATIONS

09:00 - 09:30	Registration & Morning Coffee
09:30 - 10:30	OPENING PLENARY: WELCOME, KEYNOTE, AND OPENING RITUAL HONORING THE LAND AND TERRITORY
<p>OBJECTIVE: To formally open the forum, honor Indigenous traditions, and set the tone for collective reflection and action.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This ceremonial session will begin with an Indigenous-led ritual that honors the land and territory where the forum is held. It will include traditional expressions, blessings, and reflections rooted in Indigenous worldviews, followed by keynote addresses that frame the forum's themes of conservation, biodiversity and human rights.</p>	
10:30 - 12:00	PLENARY SESSION 1: REGIONAL SITUATION REFLECTION & REPORT BACK
<p>OBJECTIVE: To assess and share the current realities, challenges, and opportunities and potential action of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) across Asia.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Participants will break into sub-regional groups to reflect on the state of EHRDs in their specific contexts, identifying key threats, opportunities, and advocacy efforts. Each group will then report back in plenary, fostering cross-sub-regional learning and solidarity.</p>	
10:30 - 10:35	Introduction to Regional Group Exercise
10:35 - 11:25	Group Work: Group 1 South-East Asia Group 2 South Asia Group 3 North/NE Group 4 West Asia
11:25 - 12:00	Report Back
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:15	SESSION 2: HUMAN RIGHTS & BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE
<p>OBJECTIVE: To provide an overview of the global landscape of biodiversity frameworks (international law and policy) and explore rights-based approaches to biodiversity governance.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This session will examine the intersection of international biodiversity law and policy and human rights, emphasizing inclusive governance, accountability, and the role of defenders in shaping conservation outcomes.</p>	
13:30 - 14:15	Plenary Panel
14:15 - 15:15	Parallel Sessions: 2A Land rights as a key element in the right to a healthy environment 2B Strengthening human rights-based approaches in biodiversity policy (including human rights principles for conservation actors)
15:15 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 - 17:15	SESSION 3 (PART 1): CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & BIODIVERSITY LOSS
<p>OBJECTIVE: To examine corporate impacts on biodiversity and explore mechanisms for accountability.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This session will investigate how businesses and industries—particularly in sectors like mining, agribusiness, and carbon markets—impact biodiversity and the rights of communities. It will highlight the strategies environmental human rights defenders use to seek justice, remedy, and systemic change.</p>	
15:30 - 16:15	Plenary Presentation
16:15 - 17:15	Parallel Sessions: 3A Logging & Agribusiness Impacts on Biodiversity & Defenders 3B Carbon Credit Schemes & Biodiversity
17:15 - 17:30	Wrap-up of Day 1
17:30 - 18:00	Engagement Space: Networking / Film Screening / Informal Dialogue

DAY 2: INTERSECTIONS OF CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & JUSTICE

09:00 - 09:15	Recap of Day 1 / Housekeeping announcement
09:15 - 10:15	SESSION 3 (PART 2): CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & BIODIVERSITY LOSS
09:15 - 10:15	3C Mining & Extraction Impacts on Biodiversity & Defenders 3D Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on the Just Energy Transition
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break
10:30 - 12:15	SESSION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY, LAND & HUMAN RIGHTS
<p>OBJECTIVE: To explore synergies among climate, biodiversity and land Conventions and rights-based environmental action.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This session discusses how climate change, biodiversity, and land governance intersect, and how human rights frameworks can guide holistic environmental protection. It emphasizes the importance of coherence across global agreements and the role of defenders in shaping inclusive and sustainable solutions.</p>	
10:30 - 11:15	Plenary Presentation
11:15 - 12:15	Parallel Sessions: 4A Climate-Biodiversity Nexus: Strategies for Integrated Protection 4B Nature-Based Solutions for Climate & Biodiversity Protection
12:15 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:15	SESSION 5 (PART 1): LEGAL PROTECTION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE
<p>OBJECTIVE: To increase awareness and build capacity of EHRDs on legal support systems for environmental human rights defenders.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This session explores the legal tools, institutional mechanisms, and support networks available to EHRDs. It highlights both systemic challenges and promising practices in securing legal aid, navigating and accessing grievance mechanisms, and holding violators accountable.</p>	
13:30 - 14:15	Plenary Presentation An overview of the legal landscape affecting and supporting EHRDs, including international standards and regional developments.
14:15 - 15:15	Parallel Sessions: 5A Access to Legal Aid & Legal Support for EHRDs 5B Legal Frameworks & Grievance Mechanisms for Access to Justice
15:15 - 16:15	SESSION 5 (PART 2): SECURITY & PROTECTION MECHANISMS
<p>OBJECTIVE: To address threats to defenders and promote effective protection strategies.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This session focuses on the risks and vulnerabilities experienced by EHRDs, particularly Indigenous and local community members, and explores institutional, legal, and grassroots mechanisms designed to safeguard their rights, safety, and security.</p>	
15:15 - 16:15	Parallel Sessions: 5C Protection Mechanisms 5D Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples in Conservation Context
16:15 - 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 - 18:30	Engagement Space: Coffee Corners & Organizational Presentations
<p>OBJECTIVE: To foster informal dialogue, peer-to-peer learning and showcase initiatives.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: A space for networking, collaboration, and sharing organizational work</p>	

DAY 3: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY STRATEGIES & CLOSING

09:00 - 09:15	Recap of Day 2 / House Keeping Announcement
09:15 - 12:00	PLENARY SESSION 6: POWER TOGETHER: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY STRATEGIES FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

OBJECTIVE: To effectively dismantle structural injustice and foster social cohesion, it is essential to recognize that defenders need external allies. This begins with mapping out who those allies are—and who they could be—while also breaking down silos within the group to imagine strategies that shift power beyond it. Central to this process is the need to center marginalized voices and build alliances that are both intersectional and intergenerational. Through this, participants can develop new insights, expand their networks, and craft strategies to connect with allies beyond their immediate circles. Ultimately, this lays the foundation for post-forum collaboration and sustained alliance building.

DESCRIPTION: Through interactive mapping, storytelling and a thematic world café, the session will close the forum on a constructive and energizing note, leaving participants with stronger networks inside the room and clearer ideas for finding and activating allies beyond it.

- Coffee break to be served in the session

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Time	Session	Description
20 MIN	Plenary: Opening and grounding Short keynote (5 min) of a firsthand experience of a successful transformative alliance	Framing 'whole-of-society' approach as collaboration from within defenders' circles and with other stakeholders. Keynote ideally delivered by a woman or non-binary speaker from a grassroots or community-based organization.
45 MIN	Interactive and reflective game: Mapping allies and influence Networking: Find the missing link	On a large collective poster (or on separate walls), various types of stakeholders are listed, including government actors at different levels, biodiversity scientists, journalists and media, academia, UN agencies, local businesses, human rights institutions, women's organizations (including feminist groups), Indigenous Peoples' organizations, international and local NGOs, religious leaders, and faith-based organizations. Each participant receives three color-coded stickers and is asked to write the name of their organization on each. One color represents a current strong ally, one represents a desired future ally, and one represents a stakeholder they struggle to engage with. Participants then place their stickers under the relevant stakeholder categories. Before starting the activity, facilitators should invite participants to reflect on the range of challenges they face in working with different actors — including structural or institutional barriers, political dynamics, stigma, or discriminatory attitudes. Emphasize that this is a space for honest but respectful dialogue, where participants are encouraged to speak from their own experiences while being mindful of others. Clarify that the purpose is not to assign blame, but to deepen understanding and collaboratively strategize ways to build or strengthen alliances. Once all participants have placed their three stickers, facilitators encourage them to find in the room people who can help them connect with potential new and powerful allies and exchange strategies. In pairs or in trio they answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Why is this actor importantWhat are the challenges of engaging with themHow could we do differently to get them/keep them on our side? Optional – participants write short insights on post-its that they place next to the relevant stakeholder on the collective poster.
1H10	World café: centering power, participation and protection in biodiversity justice Table 1: Indigenous Peoples and customary systems of conservation Table 2: Women, girls, and LGBTQ+ defenders Table 3: Youth and intergenerational justice Table 4: Access, language and disability inclusion Table 5: Scientists and conservation actors Table 6: From isolation to alliances – building a whole of society approach	Participants are invited to pick the table that interests them the most. They should rotate at least once or twice during the session. Tables are limited to 10 participants (not including one facilitator and one note-taker, from the organizing team). Thematic tables can be duplicated (e.g., tables 1 a, 1b and 1 c on IPs). The note-takers write down insights on posters or paper-table cloths. Participants who do not feel comfortable speaking up can also write down their thoughts on the paper. Facilitators make explicit connections between themes and approaches to highlight patterns that will be shared in the plenary.
30 MIN	Plenary reflection: what are we taking forward Thank you and closing.	Each table facilitator presents patterns from the café table. 2-3 defenders from different identities and/or regions are invited to share what they're leaving with.

12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	CLOSING PLENARY: REFLECTIONS, COMMITMENTS & NEXT STEPS

OBJECTIVE: To consolidate key insights from the forum and foster collective commitment to advancing environmental human rights.

DESCRIPTION: This final session invites participants to reflect on the forum’s discussions, share personal and organizational commitments, and identify collaborative pathways forward. It serves as a space to celebrate shared progress, acknowledge challenges, and build momentum for continued advocacy and action. Key messages/ Quick snapshot from the 6 thematic sessions.

15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break
15:00 - 18:00	Workshops: Interactive sessions offering practical tools and strategies for advocacy, security, and engagement in multilateral processes.

DAY 4: FIELD TRIP (OPTIONAL)

Detail to be shared soon

