

DAY 1: SETTING THE STAGE & LEGAL FOUNDATIONS

09:00 - 09:30

Registration 📍 Thongkhaw Room

09:30 - 10:30

OPENING PLENARY: WELCOME, KEYNOTE, AND OPENING RITUAL HONORING THE LAND AND TERRITORY 📍 Thongkhaw Room

OBJECTIVE: To formally open the forum, honor Indigenous traditions, and set the tone for collective reflection and action.

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.

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:15

PLENARY SESSION 1: REGIONAL SITUATION REFLECTION & REPORT BACK 📍 Thongkhaw Room

OBJECTIVE: To assess and share the current realities, challenges, and opportunities and potential action of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) across Asia.

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.

Subregional Discussion:

Group 1

South-East Asia

Group 2

South Asia

Group 3

Central Asia

Group 4

East Asia

12:15 - 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:15

SESSION 2: HUMAN RIGHTS & BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE 📍 Thongkhaw Room

OBJECTIVE: To provide an overview of the global landscape of biodiversity frameworks (international law and policy) and explore rights-based approaches to biodiversity governance.

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.

13:30 - 14:15

Plenary Panel 📍 Thongkhaw Room

14:30 - 15:30

Parallel Sessions:
2A

 Land rights as a key element
in the right to a healthy environment

📍 Thongkhaw 1 Room
2B

 Strengthening human rights-based
approaches in biodiversity policy

📍 Thongkhaw 2 Room

15:30 - 15:45

Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:30

SESSION 3 (PART 1): CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & BIODIVERSITY LOSS 📍 Thongkhaw Room

OBJECTIVE: To examine corporate impacts on biodiversity and explore mechanisms for accountability.

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.

15:45 - 16:30

Plenary Panel 📍 Thongkhaw Room

16:30 - 17:30

Parallel Sessions:
3A

 Nexus between food systems, land
and the right to a healthy environment

📍 Thongkhaw 1 Room
3B

Carbon Credit Schemes & Biodiversity

📍 Thongkhaw 2 Room

17:30 - 18:00

Wrap-up of Day 1

DAY 2: INTERSECTIONS OF CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & JUSTICE

09:00 - 09:15	Recap of Day 1 / Housekeeping announcement  Thongkhaw Room	
09:15 - 10:15	SESSION 3 (PART 2): CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & BIODIVERSITY LOSS  Thongkhaw Room	
09:15 - 10:15	3C Mining & Extraction Impacts on Biodiversity & Defenders  Thongkhaw 1 Room	3D Indigenous Peoples’ Perspectives on the Just Energy Transition  Thongkhaw 2 Room
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:15	SESSION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY, LAND & HUMAN RIGHTS  Thongkhaw Room	
OBJECTIVE: To explore synergies among climate, biodiversity and land Conventions and rights-based environmental action. 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.		
12:15 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:15	SESSION 5 (PART 1): LEGAL PROTECTION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE  Thongkhaw Room	
OBJECTIVE: To increase awareness and build capacity of EHRDs on legal support systems for environmental human rights defenders. 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.		
13:30 - 14:15	Plenary Panel  Thongkhaw Room 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  Thongkhaw 1 Room	5B Legal Frameworks & Grievance Mechanisms for Access to Justice  Thongkhaw 2 Room
15:15 - 16:15	SESSION 5 (PART 2): SECURITY & PROTECTION MECHANISMS  Thongkhaw Room	
OBJECTIVE: To address threats to defenders and promote effective protection strategies. 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.		
15:15 - 16:15	Parallel Sessions: 5C Protection Mechanisms  Thongkhaw 1 Room	5D Protecting Indigenous Peoples Rights: Addressing Environmental Challenges  Thongkhaw 2 Room
16:15 - 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 - 18:05	Engagement Space: Coffee Corners & Organizational Presentations  Thongkhaw Room	
OBJECTIVE: To foster informal dialogue, peer-to-peer learning and showcase initiatives. DESCRIPTION: A space for networking, collaboration, and sharing organizational work		

DAY 3: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY STRATEGIES & CLOSING

09:00 - 09:15

Recap of Day 2 / House Keeping Announcement  Inthanin Room

09:15 - 12:00

PLENARY SESSION 6: POWER TOGETHER: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY STRATEGIES FOR BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS  Inthanin Room

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.

12:00 - 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:00

CLOSING PLENARY: REFLECTIONS, COMMITMENTS & NEXT STEPS  Inthanin Room

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

15:15 - 18:00

WORKSHOPS

DESCRIPTION: Interactive sessions offering practical tools and strategies for advocacy, security, and engagement in multilateral processes.

Workshop **organized** by partners:

A

Workshop on Engagement Strategies for Multilateral Processes

B

The WeSIS (Wellbeing, Self-care and Integrated Security) Workshop