

**GREENPEACE**

# **RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL**

Journeying  
Towards a Green  
and Just Future



Kiki Taufik, Global Head Indonesian Forest Campaign hugs a huge Merbau tree in the Papuan forest. Greenpeace Indonesia holds a Forest Defender Camp inside the forest in Sira Village, Saifi district, South Sorong Regency, South West Papua to help train the Indigenous Peoples' youth from various communities to protect the Papuan forest in Papua Island.

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Naderev "Yeb" Saño, Executive Director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia poses for a photograph during his visit on the Rainbow Warrior currently docked in Tacloban port for the Climate Ship tour.

Greenpeace joined communities in Tacloban City and around the world in calling for reparations from fossil fuel companies for the impacts of the climate crisis. The call was made in commemoration of the 10th year anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda, the most powerful and most destructive storm to make landfall in the Philippines.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the sun rises over the North Atlantic, a group of Greenpeace activists aboard the Arctic Sunrise readies for action. Their target is a colossal Shell oil platform, en route to the North Sea for oil and gas drilling. With banners boldly proclaiming “Stop Drilling, Start Paying,” they launch inflatables into the waves, preparing for a peaceful protest.

The oil platform towers over the watercraft, symbolising the immense challenge Greenpeace Southeast Asia faces in its fight against climate destruction. This mission underscores our steadfast resolve to protect people and the planet as Shell prioritises profit over sustainability, despite the planet’s dire climate emergency.

For over three decades, we have collaborated with communities to tackle environmental issues, fostering a blend of hope and determination. The environmental crisis confronting humanity – from deforestation to plastic pollution – disproportionately affects those least responsible. Renewable energy is gaining momentum, but the world remains locked in its dependence on fossil fuels. In Southeast Asia, this challenge is compounded by rising authoritarianism, where populist regimes tighten their grip, shrinking civic spaces and undermining human rights. The stakes have never been higher, and the urgency to act is undeniable.

The scientific consensus paints a sobering picture: the world has less than seven years to prevent global warming from surpassing 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Beyond this tipping point, the risk of runaway climate change threatens ecosystems and humanity alike. But we are committed to inspiring hope and mobilising collective action, even in uncertain times. The region’s rainforests and oceans are vital to global climate stability, making the region’s environmental progress a critical piece of the global puzzle.

Since 2020, as the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, Southeast Asia has faced intensified climate challenges. Greenpeace Southeast Asia has

risen to the occasion, championing transformative initiatives such as solarising schools and hospitals, supporting refillable stores, and promoting indigenous stewardship of ecosystems like the Papuan forests. These efforts reflect our organisation’s mission to catalyse tangible, lasting change. A landmark victory came when the Philippine Commission of Human Rights (CHR) recognised climate change as a human rights issue, setting a precedent for corporate accountability in the climate crisis.

The journey to environmental justice is not without setbacks. In 2022, Indonesia resisted air quality reforms despite Jakarta’s notorious pollution, while temporary progress on plastic reduction in Thailand highlighted the need for durable solutions. These challenges drive us to refine strategies and develop innovative approaches to protect the planet.

Hope is the lifeblood of this mission. It fuels every action, from confronting polluters to empowering communities. Greenpeace Southeast Asia amplifies the voices of youth, indigenous groups, and farmers, fostering resilience and inspiring change. Through peaceful protests, grassroots advocacy, and storytelling, we challenge corporations and governments to prioritise sustainability and equity.

The journey continues, powered by the trust and support of millions who believe in Greenpeace Southeast Asia’s vision. Together, we work toward a future rooted in dignity, justice, and resilience. With unwavering determination, we push for transformative change, proving that a just, sustainable world is within reach.

**Yeb Saño**

*Executive Director  
Greenpeace Southeast Asia*

## FOREWORD



From 2021 to 2023, Greenpeace Southeast Asia found itself at the forefront of significant environmental challenges, confronting escalating climate impacts and ecological crises across the region. This collection of stories captures a pivotal chapter in our journey, reflecting the resilience, hope, and determination that fuel our relentless campaigns for a just and sustainable future.

In this book, resilience and renewal emerge as central themes. Resilience embodies our determination to fight for justice, to stand firm against powerful interests that threaten the environment, and to remain committed to driving meaningful change. Renewal speaks to our dedication to healing and restoring natural environments and communities, championing sustainable practices that provide enduring benefits for both nature and people.

Hope is woven into the heart of this work. Despite the immense challenges we face, it is hope that sustains our resilience, inspiring us to push forward. Our annual reports highlight achievements and ongoing efforts across Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines, yet this book focuses on the advocacy stories of 2021 to 2023, celebrating the courage it takes to fight for a world that can endure.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of our mission. While it brought temporary reductions in pollution, it also intensified issues like plastic waste and economic strain, highlighting the pressing need for sustainable solutions. We remained resolute throughout, campaigning with the conviction that change is possible – even in the face of daunting obstacles.

Looking ahead, Greenpeace Southeast Asia is unwavering in its mission, fortified by the hope shared by the communities, activists, and youth who stand alongside us. Their courage and commitment strengthen our campaigns and bring us closer to a future rooted in justice and sustainability.

Reflecting on these years sharpens our resolve, helping us to grow from both the victories and setbacks that have shaped our approach to advocacy. This book is an invitation to join us on this journey – guided by transparency, accountability and the collective belief that we can reshape our world through resilience and shared purpose.

We invite you to explore these stories, to find inspiration in each narrative and to see hope as a catalyst for action. These stories go beyond recounting past experiences; they call upon us to reflect on our shared responsibilities and to carry forward the lessons learned. Together, let us transform this reflection into action, building a movement rooted in the conviction that a sustainable and just future is within reach.

Remember, the true impact of these stories lies beyond these pages – in the actions we continue to take, the commitments we uphold and the hope that empowers us as we remain at the forefront of the environmental movement.

**Jasper Inventor**  
Programme Director  
Greenpeace Southeast Asia



Greenpeace flagship The Rainbow Warrior sails around Bilangbilangan island at sunset as it visits sinking islands in the Philippines, ten years on from the devastating typhoon Haiyan in Bilangbilangan, Bohol, Philippines. The small island communities in the Philippines are on the front line of climate change due to their extremely vulnerable nature. Greenpeace is engaging with communities in the area to make big polluters pay reparations.

© Chris J Ratcliffe / Greenpeace

A Greenpeace volunteer holds a paper cut out reading pollution will eat you alive at the Suralaya coal power plant in Cilegon city, Banten Province, Indonesia.

© Rendra Hernawan / Greenpeace

**POLLUTION  
WILL EAT YOU  
ALIVE!**

01

# **GREENER HORIZONS**

Steps Towards  
Sustainable Wins



# LANDMARK VICTORY IN GLOBAL CLIMATE EQUITY



Climate change is real and a human rights issue.

This was the conclusion of the National Inquiry on Climate Change (NICC) report released by the CHR of the Philippines in 2022. The 160-page document was the result of a seven-year investigation into the effects of climate change on the Philippines, highlighting the responsibility of both states and private entities in addressing increasing climate impacts.

The inquiry began after Greenpeace Southeast Asia and others petitioned CHR in 2015, urging the commission to determine the impact of climate change on the rights of Filipinos. This was prompted by Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan), which devastated the Philippines in 2013, causing over 6,000 deaths<sup>1</sup>. The NICC marked the first time a national human rights institution investigated climate change as a human rights issue and

probed corporate accountability in the climate emergency.

## **A Seven-Year Pursuit of Climate Truth**

The petitioners argued that businesses, along with states, are responsible for upholding human rights. They specifically called for the "Carbon Majors" cited in the petition – 47 investor-owned oil, gas, and cement companies responsible for significant emissions – to be held accountable. The CHR inquiry collected data through interviews, community dialogues, and public hearings in Manila, New York, and London.

Corporations challenged CHR's jurisdiction, arguing that their operations outside the Philippines were beyond the commission's reach. However, CHR maintained that its mandate included investigating human rights violations affecting Filipinos, regardless of location.

Representatives from local communities hold a banner that reads "Climate Justice Wins" and "Climate Action Now" in front of the CHR in the Philippines building after the agency's released its groundbreaking report on the NICC.

© Jilson Tiu / Greenpeace



Protestors march the streets, holding a banner reading, "Hold the Big Polluters Accountable." Typhoon survivors and civil society groups in the Philippines, delivered a complaint to the CHR, calling for an investigation into the responsibility of big fossil fuel companies for fueling catastrophic climate change that is resulting in human rights violations.

© Vincent Go / Greenpeace

L-R Community witnesses from Banaue, Ifugao Dalia Nalliw, William Mamangko and Buacan Hangdaan attend the Philippine CHR Inquiry on Climate Change in Quezon City.

© Roy Lagarde / Greenpeace





Climate activists, typhoon survivors, farmers, and fisherfolk trooped to CHR on the eve of Human Rights Day to demand the issuance of the long-delayed report on the world's first NICC, which sought to investigate the responsibility of investor-owned fossil fuel companies for human rights harms arising from the climate crisis.

© Vincent Go / Greenpeace

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We are very thankful to the CHR because our petition was not in vain. We, the coconut farmers, are one in supporting this.

**Rafael Sarucam**

*Nagkakaisang Ugnayan ng Mga Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (NIUGAN)*

### Findings and Conclusion

The NICC revealed that approximately 400,000 deaths<sup>2</sup> occur annually due to extreme weather events, diseases, and food and water insecurity, a number expected to rise by 2030. The report emphasised that climate change also threatens cultural rights, especially for Indigenous communities, by causing displacement and resource depletion.

CHR outlined the responsibility of states to protect human rights by regulating non-state actors and enforcing laws against environmental harm. It also called for reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to renewable energy by 2030.

### The Case Against Carbon Majors

The report cited scientific studies by the Climate Accountability Institute that show how much emissions are attributed to the 47 Carbon Major respondents. The companies refused to participate in the inquiry. But evidence showed these companies were aware of the

deleterious impacts of their greenhouse gas emissions, and had misled the public. CHR concluded that these companies were liable under Philippine law for delaying climate action.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia's Executive Director, Yeb Saño, said, “[The NICC report] is historic and sets a solid legal basis for asserting that climate-destructive business activities by fossil fuel and cement companies contribute to human rights harms. The message is clear: these corporate behemoths cannot continue to transgress human rights and put profit before people and planet.”

The report recommended actions for corporations, including disclosing climate impact plans, halting misinformation about climate science, and shifting investments to clean energy.

### The Road Ahead

As one of the countries most affected by the climate crisis, the Philippines hopes to inspire similar investigations in other

nations. The NICC called for stronger human rights obligations from all states, urging regulation of corporate activities domestically and internationally. The report also emphasised the importance of state influence in global forums and the need for international standards to prevent corporate harm.

CHR acknowledged the role of NGOs like Greenpeace in holding corporations accountable and advancing human rights. These organisations were encouraged to pursue strategic legal actions and influence public policy in favour of a zero-carbon transition.

While this investigation marks a historic milestone, it is only the beginning. Climate justice advocates will continue to push for corporate accountability and stronger protections for vulnerable communities. [G](#)



Indigenous Papuan women of Awyu cook sago worms during a ceremony of installing cross sign in Kowo village, Boven Digoel, South Papua.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

# PAPUAN INDIGENOUS FORESTS: NOT EMPTY LAND



The Indonesian province of Papua is renowned for its vast indigenous forests, with estimates indicating that millions of acres of these pristine woodlands still exist. These are home to a wide range of unique flora and fauna, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. These forests also act as carbon sinks, reducing greenhouse gas levels and supporting biodiversity.

Moreover, the area is home to a diverse range of indigenous communities, each with unique traditions, languages and ways of life that are deeply connected to their natural environment.

But these forests are in danger, with millions of hectares being seized by plantation companies. This extensive land grabbing

is causing significant deforestation, threatening biodiversity and infringing on the rights of indigenous communities.

## Taking Action against the Land Grabbers

In March 2023, the Awyu people sued the Papua provincial government, seeking to annul an environmental permit issued to PT Indo Asiana Lestari, a Malaysian palm oil company. Filed at the Jayapura State Administrative Court (PTUN), the lawsuit argues the permit, covering Awyu land, violates Indonesia's climate goals. The permit could cause deforestation of 26,326 hectares<sup>3</sup>, contrary to the country's commitment to reduce emissions in 31% by 2030.

Gregorius Yame from the Papuan Indigenous People of the Awyu Tribe, prepares to take part in the hearing on the case of revocation of forest area permits at the PTUN, Jakarta. Hendrikus Franky Woro and Gregorius Yame became witnesses for the defendant in relation to a lawsuit filed by two oil palm plantation companies in the Boven Digoel area, KCP and MJR against the KLHK for the Revocation of Forest Area Permits.

© Muhammad Adimaja / Greenpeace



Indigenous Papuan people of Awyu gather during a ceremony of installing cross sign in Kowo village, Boven Digoel, South Papua.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Trees in Awyu indigenous tribe forest in Boven Digoel, South Papua.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

Two months later, the Awyu people returned to court to intervene in cases brought by two palm oil companies, PT Megakarya Jaya Raya (MJR) and PT Kartika Cipta Pratama (KCP). The companies were appealing a decision by Indonesia's Minister of Environment and Forestry regarding Indigenous land in Boven Digoel, West Papua. The Awyu appeared in Jakarta court in traditional attire, carrying legal documents to defend their land rights.

### **Wins and Losses**

Preventing industrial encroachment by large corporations is a lengthy and ongoing struggle, marked by both successes and setbacks.

In September 2023, the Awyu celebrated a victory in the Jakarta Administrative Court, which upheld the cancellation of permits for PT KCP and PT MJR. The court rejected the companies' lawsuit against a decision by the Minister of Environment and Forestry, potentially saving 65,415 hectares<sup>4</sup> of pristine rainforest. The companies are now prohibited from further deforestation beyond the 8,828 hectares already cleared for palm oil plantations.

But the celebration was short-lived because in that same year, the PTUN rejected an environmental and climate change lawsuit filed by Indigenous Awyu landholder Hendrikus Woro. The lawsuit challenged the issuance of an environmental permit for PT Indo Asiana Lestari to clear 39,190 hectares of Awyu traditional forest lands in West Papua for an oil palm plantation. The Awyu, alongside the Advocacy Team to Save Papua's Forests, expressed their disappointment and lodged an appeal to a higher court.



Gregorius Yame from the Papuan Indigenous People of the Awyu Tribe, testifies at the hearing on the case of revocation of forest area permits at the PTUN, Jakarta. Hendrikus Frangky Woro and Gregorius Yame became witnesses for the defendant in relation to a lawsuit filed by two oil palm plantation companies in the Boven Digoel area, PT KCP and PT MJR against the KLHK for the Revocation of Forest Area Permits.

© Muhammad Adimaja / Greenpeace

### Standing Strong

The struggle continues as Indigenous People file cassation appeals to the Supreme Court, where they are currently under review. Awyu and Moi activists from Tanah Papua, dressed in traditional attire, held ceremonies outside the Supreme Court in Jakarta. Through rituals and dances, they urged the court to protect their ancestral lands from palm oil plantations, symbolically presenting a piece of their homeland.

Indigenous People, who have owned the land for centuries, are not backing down. Industries are seizing the land as if it's uninhabited, disregarding its environmental significance. These forests are not empty land; they are vibrant ecosystems and sacred cultural cradles, now threatened by the relentless pursuit of profit.

It is deeply ironic that the very people who should be supported to maintain the country's environmental balance and cultural identity are being oppressed. The fight for their right to live on and protect their homeland is also a fight for the nation's own long-term prosperity and stability. 

Protecting these forests is crucial not only for preserving Indigenous heritage but also for safeguarding Indonesia's future.



Papuan Indigenous People from the Awyu tribe donned traditional body paint and bird of paradise headdresses before officially intervening in legal proceedings taken by two palm oil companies in the Jakarta State Administrative Court. They also visit Human Right National Commission to get support and investigation.

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Recognition of customary forests is very important to keep Indigenous Communities from conflict with companies overrunning their land and livelihoods. The KLHK should learn from the outcome of this case that Tanah Papua is not ‘empty land’. There is no reason to delay any longer, immediately recognize customary forests!

**Tigor Gemdita Hutapea**

*Legal team member for the Awyu People*

Students and Greenpeace activists together with Papuan Indigenous People of the Awyu Tribe, Hendrikus Franky Woro and Gregorius Yame, stand in solidarity as they attend the hearing on the case of revocation of forest area permits at the PTUN, Jakarta. Hendrikus Franky Woro and Gregorius Yame became witnesses for the

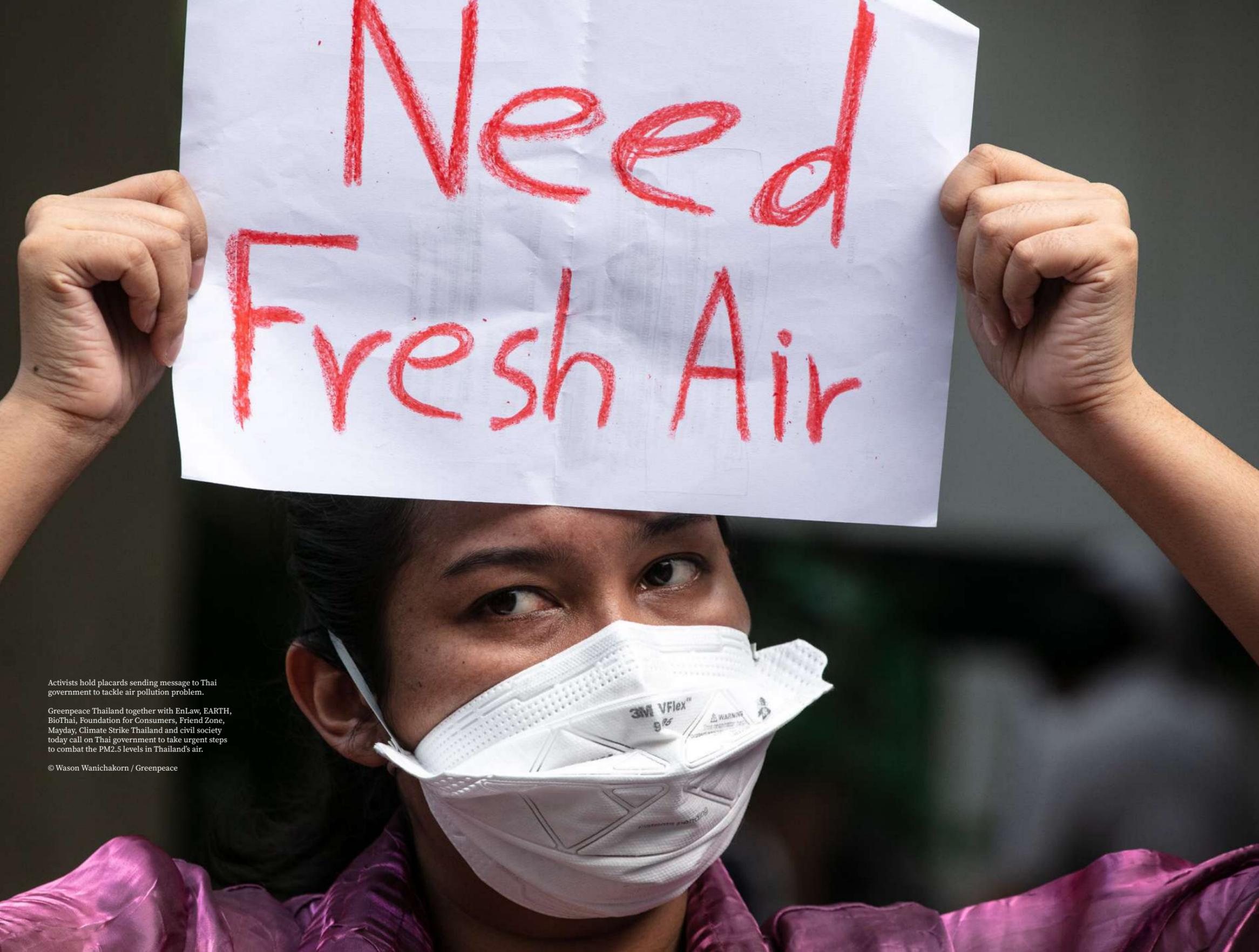
defendant in relation to a lawsuit filed by two oil palm plantation companies in the Boven Digoel area, PT KCP and PT MJR against the KLHK for the Revocation of Forest Area Permits.

© Muhammad Adimaja / Greenpeace



Papuan Indigenous Peoples from the Awyu and Moi Signi tribes, joined by activists, returned to the Supreme Court to submit a petition supporting their fight against palm oil companies threatening their forests.

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Activists hold placards sending message to Thai government to tackle air pollution problem.

Greenpeace Thailand together with EnLaw, EARTH, BioThai, Foundation for Consumers, Friend Zone, Mayday, Climate Strike Thailand and civil society today call on Thai government to take urgent steps to combat the PM2.5 levels in Thailand's air.

© Wason Wanichakorn / Greenpeace

# BREATHING EASIER: THAILAND'S TRIUMPH IN AIR QUALITY MONITORING



Air pollution is the world's leading environmental health threat, responsible for seven million deaths<sup>5</sup>, with an economic impact exceeding \$8 trillion<sup>6</sup>. Vulnerable populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, are most affected. The greatest health risk comes from tiny particles, especially PM2.5, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

PM2.5, a fine particulate matter up to 2.5 microns in diameter and measured in micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), is

a key air quality indicator, produced by activities like vehicle emissions and power generation, as well as natural events like wildfires.

Due to extensive scientific research over the past 15 years highlighting the effects of PM2.5 on air quality and health, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated its air quality guidelines in 2021. It lowered the recommended annual mean concentration limit for PM2.5 from  $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , setting stricter standards to enhance public health and safety.

Representatives from EnLAW Foundation, Greenpeace Thailand, EARTH Foundation, and other environmental groups filed a lawsuit against three public departments for neglecting their duty to protect Thai citizens' right to clean air.

© Panumas Sanguanwong / Greenpeace





### Championing Better Air Quality and Standards

For many years, Greenpeace Thailand has been advocating for the right to clean air to protect public health from pollution. The WHO's updated guidelines reflect the persistent efforts and research from various groups that have long championed the cause of clean air.

In 2022, a coalition of private citizens and environmental advocates, including Greenpeace Thailand, sued the National Environment Board (NEB) and the Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Industry Ministries (MIND), stating their failure to address the PM2.5 crisis. The lawsuit argued that the response measures fell short of the commitments in the 2019 Driving National Agenda on "Solving the Problem of Particulate Matter," leading to insufficient protection of public health.

The four key directives in the "Right to Clean Air" case were as follows: First, the NEB must update PM2.5 standards to match WHO guidelines, with 24-hour levels not exceeding 37 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and annual levels not exceeding 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Second, the NEB and MNRE must regulate factory PM2.5 emissions to meet global standards. Third, the MIND must revise its notifications to ensure factory emissions comply with these limits. Finally, the MIND must include PM2.5 in the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR).

Surachai Trong-ngam, General Secretary of EnLaw, Alliya Moun-Ob from Greenpeace Thailand, and activists in air pollution mascot costumes submitted a letter to the Ministry of Industry, urging the creation of a PRTR to address the PM2.5 and air pollution crisis. Panuwat Triyankulsri received their demands.

© Tadchakorn Kitchaiphon / Greenpeace

After a year, the verdict was in: The Central Administrative Court ordered the MIND, under the direction of its minister, to implement the PRTR within 60 days. The PRTR is a regulation adopted by many countries to manage pollution. It mandated that agencies report and disclose information on pollutants released into the environment, including air, soil and water. The report should also include the types and amounts of chemicals and pollutants, as well as how wastewater or waste is treated or disposed of.

**Victory and Vigilance**

Following this significant victory, Greenpeace Thailand and allied groups are diligently monitoring and enforcing the court's regulations on the MIND. They are mobilising public support to advance the PRTR through an online platform, aiming to establish a transparent and accessible pollutant database in Thailand.

Citizens are united in the fight for their fundamental right to clean air. This win is a big step forward, but staying alert is crucial to ensure that the changes are implemented and the air remains clean for current and future generations. 

Greenpeace activists hold a banner as they presenting an hourglass filled with dust from areas in Bangkok and other provinces most affected by the severe air pollution to a representative of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha at the Office of the Civil Service Commission.

According to activists, the hourglass symbolize calls on the government to urgently tackle the air pollution crisis caused by PM2.5 from transportation, open burning, electricity generation and manufacturing. They also submitted an open letter to the government.

© Wason Wanichakorn / Greenpeace





# JAKARTA'S HARD-WON VICTORY AGAINST AIR POLLUTION



In 2021, the WHO updated its air pollution guidelines, revealing that 99%<sup>7</sup> of the global population breathes unhealthy air. Jakarta, home to over 10.5 million residents, is one of the most polluted cities worldwide. Its air pollution primarily comes from vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and coal-fired power plants in nearby areas.

In the same year the WHO issued its new air quality standards, the court announced its decision: the defendants were found to have neglected citizens' rights to clean air and were required to implement monitoring stations and additional measures to improve air quality in the capital.

Indonesian residents have long been aware of the unhealthy air quality they are breathing. Two years prior, 32 residents of Jakarta filed a lawsuit against President Joko Widodo and other government officials, citing inaction on air pollution and disregard for health risks. They sought urgent measures from Jakarta's local government and neighbouring regions to effectively address and control air pollution.

### Judicial Demands for Government Action

The Central Jakarta District Court ruled in favour of the plaintiffs in the Citizens' Lawsuit on Jakarta Air Pollution, finding seven state officials responsible for the worsening air quality in the capital. The officials included President Widodo, the Ministers of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Health (MoH) and Home Affairs (MIA), as well as the Governors of Jakarta, Banten and West Java.

Greenpeace Indonesia activists hold a photo opp for an air pollution campaign as they carry boards that read "CLEAN AIR NOW!" in a tunnel in Jakarta. The activists demand the government to take the air pollution problem in Indonesia seriously, especially in big cities like Jakarta.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

Dozens of Ibukota coalition members protested at Jakarta City Hall, demanding the Governor to take responsibility for the city's severe air pollution.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



The verdict called for stricter national air quality standards to protect human health, the environment and ecosystems, especially for vulnerable populations. The court also required the MOEF to oversee the Governors of DKI Jakarta, Banten and West Java to enforce stricter controls on cross-border emissions from these provinces.

Furthermore, the court ordered the MOEF to guide Jakarta's air pollution control efforts and the MoH to evaluate health impact reductions to guide the city's strategy. The Jakarta Governor was tasked with ensuring regulatory compliance, enforcing penalties, informing the public and setting stricter air quality standards. Additionally, they must assess air quality, project pollution, and develop strategies with public input. The court also imposed court fees of IDR 4,255,000 on the defendants.

Ayu Eza Tiara, a member of the plaintiffs' legal team, acknowledged that their demands were partially granted. While

the judge rejected claims of human rights violations, other requests were approved. Although the governors of Banten and West Java were not penalised, they were expected to help ensure that the remaining defendants comply with the court's directives.

"We consider that this decision is a right and wise decision, considering that all evidence presented clearly shows that the Government had been negligent in controlling [Jakarta's] air pollution," she stated.

#### Refusal to Comply

In 2022, the president and his ministries filed an appeal, which was denied, and the original decision was upheld. The following year, the defendants submitted a cassation to the Supreme Court.

Such actions reflected the government's reluctance to implement changes, despite Jakarta being ranked the worst in the

world for air quality by IQAir in 2022.<sup>8</sup> Throughout August that year, Jakarta was repeatedly named the most polluted city on Earth due to severe air pollution levels.

The citizens and the government are at odds on this issue. While the plaintiffs remain vigilant, they are deeply disappointed by the government's actions. The government is expected to address and act on the concerns of its people, but in this case, it has ignored citizens' voices and failed in its duty to protect and serve the nation.

However, every victory deserves to be celebrated. With the citizens' win, there is renewed hope that the court remains a powerful avenue for achieving justice. ♻️

“

I am concerned because of my children. Who would want their children to live in conditions like this? I want them to have a better life and better air than this.

**Elisa**  
Plaintiff and Resident,  
Jakarta, Indonesia



The message "Clean Air Please!" is cleverly placed over Jakarta's Welcome statues during an air pollution campaign.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Greenpeace advocates prepare for a peaceful protest in Jakarta, aiming to highlight the need for clean air and stronger environmental protections.

© Veri Sanovri / Greenpeace



Entitled 'To Dream of Blue Skies', the art piece is a dream cloud hanging over a baby's crib to represent their hopes of a future with clean air for their child. The cloud is made from photos of blue skies printed on used paper that is sourced from a primary school. The images were submitted by citizens from around the world joining Greenpeace's The Air We Share movement to demand clean air.

Greenpeace Malaysia collaborated with Malaysian art duo co2\_karbonioksida to turn photographs of blue skies collected into an artwork, to coincide with the UN's International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which falls on 7th September.

© Kelvin Oon / Greenpeace

## A CLEAR VISION FOR MALAYSIA'S HAZE



Access to a clean, safe and sustainable environment is a fundamental human right. This was established by a landmark resolution of the UN General Assembly in July 2022, which was celebrated by environmental advocates worldwide.

The declaration clearly included the right to clean, untainted air. A month after this historic announcement, Greenpeace Malaysia, together with CERAH, launched a pledge campaign for all Members of Parliament to endorse. Essentially, the pledge urged signatories to recognise the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable

environment as a basic freedom and to support its inclusion in future laws, amendments to the Federal Constitution and environmental policies and programs.

CERAH, a civil society group advocating for the right to clean air by addressing transboundary haze issues, emphasised that although Malaysian judges have interpreted the right to life in Article 5(1) of the Federal Constitution to include a healthy and clean environment, the Constitution does not explicitly mention environmental rights.



Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi, Tunku Abdul Rahman chair at the University of Malaya, summed it up: “In the area of sustainable development and the rights of future generations, we are at the commencement of a journey and the law is lagging behind. But if more of us, with courage, determination and hope start walking in a particular direction, I have no doubt that, in time, a path will emerge for others to follow.”

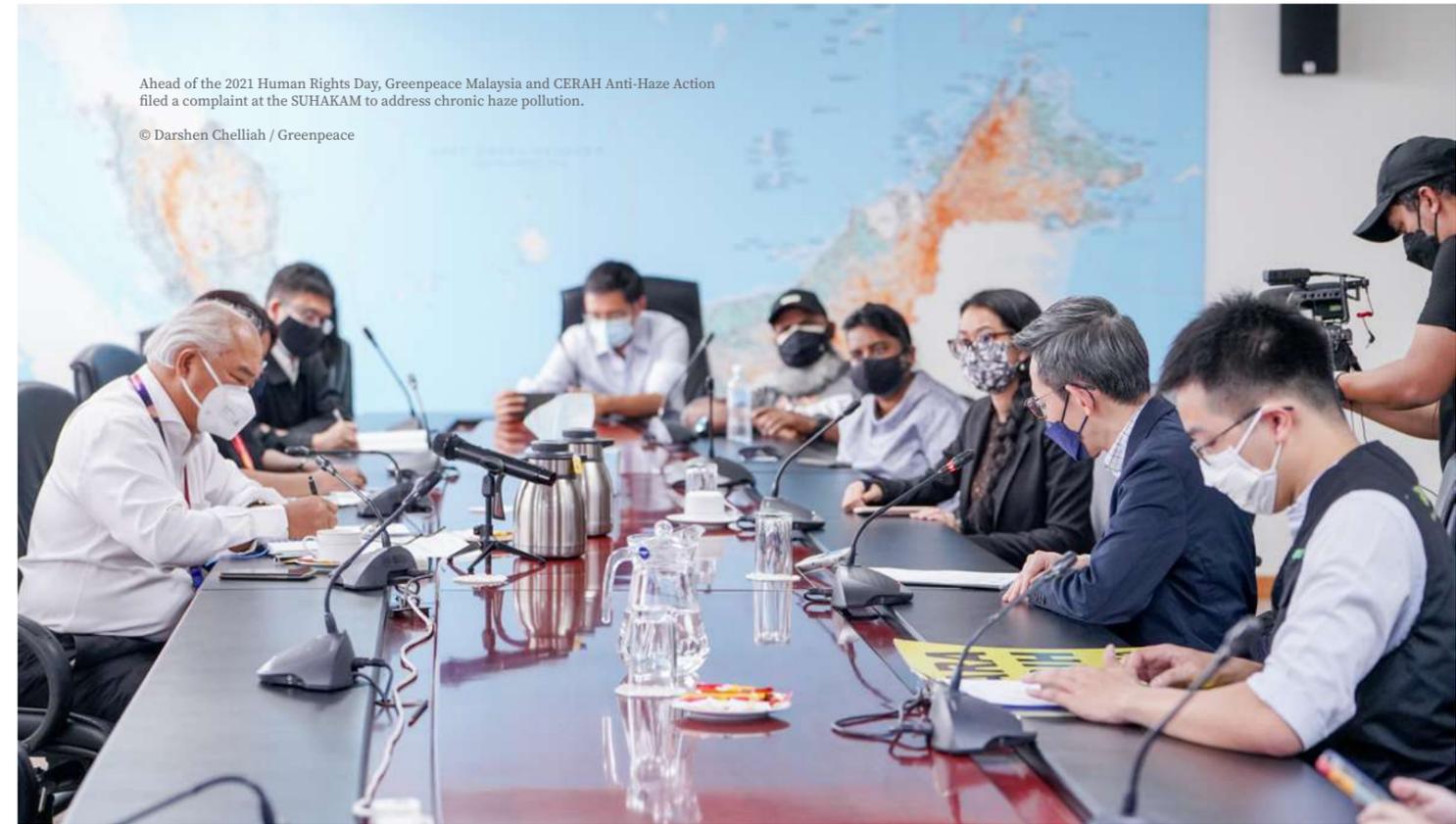
**Filing a Pioneering Grievance**

A few months later, a coalition of civil society organisations submitted a groundbreaking complaint to the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) as a proactive step to tackle the ongoing haze pollution.

This development made history as the first Malaysian petition to combine environmental issues with human rights. It called for a public inquiry into the shortcomings in managing both domestic and transboundary haze pollution. Its goal was to achieve comprehensive solutions for addressing haze pollution and safeguarding the right to clean air.

Recommendations included strengthening the recognition of environmental rights in Malaysia, enhancing the country’s air quality governance, improving the management of transboundary haze pollution and advancing business and human rights practices. These measures aimed to establish a more robust framework for addressing both environmental and human rights challenges effectively.

“What happens to people who continue to suffer from the after-effects for years to come? The haze in itself is not a nigh annual, mass smog event but an aggregate symptom of the broader issue of unchecked protected peatland burning, the continued encroachment into reserved forest areas compounded and driven by still rampant fossil fuel use in developing countries. The lodging of this complaint to SUHAKAM is an urgent, overdue, shared response to a lack of clear, meaningful solutions or legal pathways for common citizens to end man-made atmospheric pollution affecting the South East Asian region and countless millions of lives,” stated CERAH Chairperson, Dennis Chan.



### The Unaddressed Haze in Malaysia

The petition noted that among all environmental pollution complaints received by the Department of Environment, air pollution was the most prevalent, accounting for over 81% of the total grievances in 2019. In fact, the average outdoor air quality in Malaysia has consistently remained below the standards set by the World Health Organization.

Additionally, the coalition urged SUHAKAM to review Malaysian and regional laws to recommend improvements for better protecting people's rights to a safe and clean environment. It also emphasised the need to update systems to better adhere to the "Polluter Pays, No Harm, and Precautionary Principles".

The petition ended with recommendations, such as enacting a law to address haze pollution and holding polluters accountable, taking regional leadership on the issue and implementing the UN's "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework for Business and Human Rights.

Klima Action Malaysia representative Aroe Ajoeni highlighted the significance of these steps, saying, "I hope this initiative will be a start to effectively campaign against the transboundary haze crisis. This will be a relief to the people suffering in Malaysia and the locals who have dealt with this toxic and deadly haze for decades." 

“

The unknown level of suffering to humans and wildlife has been going on for a long time due to man made haze. Other than finger pointing, the governments and authorities have not made much progress to provide a clear solution to the matter.

**Puan Sri Sharifah Sabrina Bt Syed Akil**  
*Pertubuhan Pelindung Alam Malaysia (PEKA) President*



Representatives from the coalition, alongside Greenpeace Malaysia volunteers, staged an offline action outside the Human Rights Commission building, demanding recognition of clean, haze-free air as a basic human right.

© Darshen Chelliah / Greenpeace



Greenpeace Malaysia pushed for climate change to be prioritised through the #Vote4Climate initiative, highlighting that the first 150 days of a new government are crucial in shaping policies that will determine the country's future.

© Norman Hiu / Greenpeace

# THE GREEN STANDARD: A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE



Good leadership means taking strategic action now to shape the future. While the climate crisis presents a bleak outlook, effective leadership holds the power to change its course.

Greenpeace Malaysia had this in mind when they sent a letter to the new Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change minister, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, urging a priority focus on a comprehensive and integrated approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

This follow-up was built on pre-election demands for Malaysians and their representatives to prioritise climate change with the #Vote4Climate initiative. The first 150 days of a new government are crucial for setting its direction, indicating how its policies will shape the country's future.

As Minister Nik Nazmi assumed his new role, Greenpeace Malaysia urged him to fulfil his promises by driving impactful changes in government policies and actions.

Greenpeace Malaysia Senior Programme Manager Thing Siew Shuen advocated for stricter air quality regulations, accountability for haze pollution, and revisions to environmental laws to improve pollution control.

© Norman Hiu / Greenpeace





Greenpeace Malaysia activists and volunteers unfurled a banner at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur. The action encouraged voters and political parties in the 15th General Election to push for stronger climate policies.

© Greenpeace

### Act Today, Reap Tomorrow

To make a positive impact on the climate crisis, Greenpeace Malaysia recommended three key legislative Acts:

#### Act 1: Climate Change Act

Despite the efforts of the Climate Change Division and the Malaysia Green Technology and Climate Change Center, Malaysia lacked binding legislation to support these initiatives. The country urgently needed a long-term strategy for carbon reduction and climate adaptation. A Climate Change Act was essential to establish a legislative framework. Also, this Act would give the minister the authority to manage both environmental issues, such as biodiversity and forestry, and pollution-related concerns, including air quality and public health. Moreover, it would address vital climate issues like forest management, water resources, agriculture, coastal erosion, carbon taxation and renewable energy.

#### Act 2: Transboundary Haze Pollution Act or Clean Air Act

Malaysia's recurring haze problem, worsened by forest fires and peatland degradation in Indonesia, underscored the need for strict air quality regulations. Greenpeace Malaysia called for a Transboundary Haze Pollution Act to hold Malaysian companies accountable for their role in these crises. Aligning national air quality standards with WHO guidelines would help protect public health and ensure cleaner air for everyone.

#### Act 3: Revised Environmental Quality Act (EQA) 1974

Strengthening the EQA was essential for improving pollution prevention, monitoring, and enforcement. Greenpeace Malaysia advocated for comprehensive updates to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines to ensure fairness and

transparency. It also recommended adopting a circular economy approach, emphasising resource recovery and stricter controls on toxic chemicals. Revising the EQA would help Malaysia manage environmental impacts more effectively and encourage sustainable practices.

#### Voting for a Greener Tomorrow

Before elections began the following the year, Greenpeace Malaysia spotlighted the message #UndiIklim (#Vote4Climate), urging Malaysians to elect candidates and parties committed to climate action.

The choice of leaders was crucial; their decisions would determine whether the planet would be saved or pushed to the brink of disaster. Voting for those who prioritised climate action was not just a choice but a vital opportunity to ensure a sustainable environment for generations to come. ♻️

Drone shot

© Norman Hiu / Greenpeace



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There have been many suggestions of how ordinary Malaysians can do their part to reduce climate change... But ultimately, what is needed is for governments to lead the way by their policies and actions.”

**Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad**

*Minister, Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability of Malaysia*



Greenpeace Malaysia displays signs across six states to raise awareness on the need for climate conscious candidates as state representatives, while encouraging people to vote.

Pictured are campaigners in action, holding up placards highlighting the need for the protection of biodiversity, renewable energy, clean air and stopping plastic pollution at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly building in the city of Shah Alam, Malaysia.

© Rohit Shaun Kirby / Greenpeace

Activists carrying portraits of former human trafficking victims during the protest in front of the Ministry of Manpower, Jakarta. The SBMI and Greenpeace Indonesia held a peaceful protest to urge improvement for placement policies and protection of migrant worker crews from Indonesia working on foreign fishing vessels outside the country. The protest was held one day before the commemoration of International Human Rights Day which is celebrated on 10 December.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



# ENDING SLAVERY AT THE SEA



Catching fish has become increasingly difficult due to a growing population and environmental challenges. Today's fisheries need twice the effort to catch the same amount of fish, leading to longer trips, more fuel use and fishing farther out at sea. To stay profitable, companies often cut costs, which can lead to serious labour abuses, including practices similar to human trafficking.

This alarming human rights violation by profit-driven fishing companies was highlighted by Greenpeace Southeast Asia ahead of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states' high-level talks in Jakarta in 2023. As the discussions included refining the recently adopted ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers, the team aimed to ensure that migrant fishers' rights were prioritised.

Also involved was Team 9, a special team supported by Greenpeace Southeast Asia, working to accelerate the ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (C-188), which outlines comprehensive standards for fishers' working conditions. So far, only Thailand has ratified it.

## Building Momentum for Fisher Protection

To highlight these key issues, Team 9 held a workshop at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference in Jakarta, titled "ASEAN Matters: Joint Efforts in Protecting Marine and Fisheries Sustainability Through Enhancing Workers' Protection." They also met with the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss the role of civil society in supporting the ASEAN Declaration on migrant fishers' rights.

Activists from the SBMI hold a protest in front of the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta. They urge the Chinese government to investigate the death of Indonesian fishers who worked in a Chinese fishing vessel this year. They also demand an end to the modern slavery practice that occurs at sea.

© SBMI / Afriadi Hikmal





Securities seize banner from the activists of SBMI as they hold a protest in front of Nusantara I building of Indonesian Parliament buildings complex in Jakarta. The activist urge the Parliament to issue the regulation to protect Indonesian ship crews that are working in the overseas and stop modern slavery on the sea. Some Indonesian crews died while working in the China fishing ships recently.

© Dhemas Reviyanto / SBMI / Greenpeace

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Economic development is meaningless if we fail to protect people. Human rights protections are essential to build a stronger regional economy and we need member states to adopt C-188 to promote a safer working environment.

**Hariyanto Suwarno**

*Chairman, Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI)*



Fisherman unload the catches from troll ship at Tegal port, Central Java. Fishery is one of the main livelihoods for people living in the North Coast area of Java.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

Additionally, Team 9 released a report with nine recommendations for Indonesia to expedite ratifying the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (C-188), which was sent to relevant authorities. Though progress appeared promising, Greenpeace Southeast Asia and other civil organisations were committed to ensuring that it continued without faltering. “The ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers is an important first step towards eradicating forced labour and human rights abuses in the fishing industry, but the declaration needs to be actualised to make a difference,” stated Arifsyah Nasution, Senior Oceans Campaign Strategist for Greenpeace Southeast Asia. “Together with Team 9, we want ASEAN to advance the discussion, provide concrete guidelines, and implement measures to end modern slavery at sea.”

### A Win for Migrant Fishers

The INFOFISH Tuna Conference held several months later in Bangkok saw Greenpeace Southeast Asia engaging with key stakeholders to push for the integration of labour standards into policies. A significant takeaway was the European Union (EU)'s upcoming regulation, effective from 2026, which will prohibit the sale, import and export of goods produced with forced labour, ensuring that such products are intercepted at EU borders.

This is critical for Indonesia, a major supplier of tuna to the EU, as well as for Thailand, which relies on Indonesian imports for its seafood exports. Without addressing forced labour issues, Indonesia risks substantial revenue losses due

to non-compliance with the new EU regulations.

Currently, the team is monitoring the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission as it drafts Conservation and Management Measures on labour standards. This marks the first time Regional Fisheries Management Organisations are tackling forced labour in the global fishery industry.

With these measures, there is hope for ending fisher abuse, whether on the high seas or in any maritime setting, and breaking the cycle of exploitation. ♻️



The documentary *Before You Eat (BYE)* was screened at the Environment Journalist Forum in Banda Aceh. Produced by SBMI and supported by Greenpeace Indonesia, it exposed the root causes of Indonesian crew members' slavery on foreign fishing vessels.

© Syifa Yulinna / Greenpeace



Activists protested at the Central Java Governor's office in Semarang on International Migrant Worker Day. Greenpeace Indonesia, SBMI, and BEM BREGAS called on the Governor to protect Central Java's fishing crews from modern slavery at sea.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Papuan Indigenous youths walk through the camp, making a strong appeal on the final night for forest protection and recognition of Indigenous rights.  
© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

02

# GENZs X GRASSROOTS

Stories of Local Climate Initiatives

Participants declare the Indigenous Youths Statement call for customary land and forest protection as the result of Forest Defender Camp. Greenpeace Indonesia holds a Forest Defender Camp inside the forest in Sira village, Saifi district, South Sorong Regency, South West Papua to train Papuan Indigenous youths from various areas to protect the Papuan forest in Papua Island.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

# PAPUA'S NEW GENERATION OF FOREST DEFENDERS



Papua's forests, the last great rainforests of Indonesia, shelter an extraordinary array of plant and animal species, many of which exist nowhere else on Earth and some of which have only recently been discovered by science. Beyond being a sanctuary for biodiversity, these forests are also the ancestral home of over 271 Indigenous tribes, whose communities span from the coastal regions to the heart of the untamed Papuan wilderness.

However, year after year, Papua's forests are increasingly being diminished by plantation development, mining activities and illegal logging. A report by Greenpeace International, titled *Stop Baku Deception: The Dark Side of Licensing in Papua*, highlighted that nearly one million hectares of forest were cleared for plantations between 2000 and 2019.

The report also emphasised severe issues with the exploitation of Papua's forests. It revealed corruption in the palm oil licensing process, leading to widespread deforestation that harms biodiversity and Indigenous communities. The report also noted the violation of Indigenous rights, lack of transparency in licensing, and severe environmental impacts, such as habitat loss and increased carbon emissions.

## Continuing the Legacy of Forest Protection

To ensure that the Papuan forest always has passionate defenders, Greenpeace Indonesia assembled over 100 Indigenous Papuan youth in Manggroholo-Sira Village, South Sorong in 2023. For three

Greenpeace Indonesia Digital Campaigner Pratikto Dwi Rahardjo gives a presentation during the multimedia workshop at the camp.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



days, these young activists gathered in the village forest owned by the Knasimos Indigenous community for the inaugural Forest Defender Camp. The event, organised in partnership with the Indigenous groups Sadir Wet Yifi and Bentara Papua, was designed to inspire and equip the next generation with the tools and knowledge to protect their precious forests.

Most participants were from Sorong Raya, including Sorong City, South Sorong Regency, Maybrat, Tambraw and Raja Ampat. Additionally, Indigenous youth from the Arfak Mountains, Manokwari, Boven Digoel, Bintuni, Jayapura and Merauke joined the event. Many of these attendees were from communities affected by the growth of the extractive industry in Papua.

At the Forest Defender Camp, participants took part in discussions, workshops and learned to map Indigenous territories. They stayed in huts of wood and woven sago leaves in the Knasimos community's village forest. Meanwhile, local mothers from Mangrohulo-Sira Village served local meals like grilled sago, papeda, taro, and sweet potatoes. The camp became a platform for sharing experiences and strategies to overcome the challenges faced by Indigenous peoples.

#### Indigenous Youth Demands Government Action

On the final night of the Forest Defender Camp, participants made a powerful appeal for forest preservation and the

acknowledgment of Indigenous rights. They called on the government to revoke all permits for natural resource exploitation in Papua that endangered Indigenous Communities and to ratify the Indigenous Peoples Bill to bolster their rights. They urged political leaders and candidates to fully recognise Indigenous Communities and pressed local governments in Papua to create and enforce regulations that safeguarded Indigenous rights. Additionally, they requested special funds for mapping Indigenous territories and appealed to leaders across Papua—government, political, religious and traditional—to provide greater support for Indigenous Peoples.

"Through this FDC activity, we want Indigenous youth in Papua to be the spearhead in answering environmental issues, especially encouraging government recognition of our customary territory and our rights as Indigenous peoples," said Frengky Sremere, Chairman of Sadir Wet Yifi.

Orpa Novita Yoshua, a young Indigenous woman from the Namblong tribe, who is actively opposing the palm oil company PT Permata Nusa Mandiri in Jayapura, added, "We are pleased to be part of this FDC event. Indigenous youth from various regions have come together to address issues in Papua, particularly concerning our customary lands, and to find ways to protect the forests and customary lands of Papua from Sorong to Merauke. We will bring back the knowledge we've acquired to strengthen movements within our own Indigenous Communities."

Papuan Indigenous youths from various communities stand before a massive Merbau tree in the forest. Papua's forests shelter unique plant and animal species, and are the ancestral home to hundreds of Indigenous tribes.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Though the government has previously overlooked the destruction of Papua's forests, now is the time for decisive action. By protecting Papua's forests, which are crucial carbon sinks, the Indonesian government can reaffirm its commitment to tackling the climate crisis while safeguarding both the environment and Indigenous cultures on the global stage.

Meanwhile, the new generation of forest keepers ensures that the fight continues. Driven by the knowledge and solidarity gained at the Forest Defender Camp, they are dedicated to protecting Papua's forests and upholding Indigenous rights, hoping that the next generation will not have to face the same struggles. 🌱



Children from the Papuan Indigenous Peoples' community prepare for a welcome dance ceremony for the Forest Defender Camp participants.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

Greenpeace Global Head of Indonesian Forest Campaign Kiki Taufik (in black shirt) walks with the Indigenous community during the camp's welcome ceremony.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Papuan youths held a banner supporting the Awyu tribe, advocating for the protection of their ancestral lands against deforestation.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



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More than 75% of natural resources in Indonesia are controlled by only 1% of oligarchs or a group of rich people who have the power to influence state policy makers for the benefit of their group. The power of young people is needed to protect the Land of Papua so that future generations do not experience the curse of natural resources.

**Kiki Taufik**

Head of the Indonesian Forest Global Campaign  
Greenpeace Indonesia



Volunteers wearing protective masks as a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 prepare donated food at a 'sustainable' community pantry in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

## FROM FARM TO PANTRY: HOW INDIGENOUS FARMERS FED URBAN COMMUNITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC



When Ana Patricia Non parked a small bamboo cart filled with rice, fresh produce and other food items along Maginhawa Street in Quezon City in 2021, roughly a year after the pandemic-driven nationwide lockdown, little did she know that she would spark a mutual-aid movement.

Above the cart, a piece of cardboard was tacked on a lamp post with the handwritten request: *Magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha batay sa pangangailangan.* (Give what you can, take what you need).

Since then, community pantries mushroomed all over Metro Manila and the provinces, helping feed the hungry at a time when livelihoods were lost and economic hardships were widespread.

### Aid from Those Who Need Aid

As part of its #BetterNormal project during the pandemic, Greenpeace Philippines reached out to the Dumagat Remontado farmers and youth in Daraitan, Rizal and connected them to youth community pantry movements in Metro Manila, such as those in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig

City. The intention was to strengthen youth agency and to foster solidarity among rural and urban youth, while connecting community pantries to indigenous people's rights as well as ecological approaches such as no single use plastics and sourcing from farmers promoting ecological agriculture.

The Indigenous Community had its own problems. A new source of income – guiding tourists among Tinipak River's massive marble foundations – was cut short by the pandemic. A year before, the farmers endured the devastation caused by Typhoon Ulysses (international name Vamco). But their biggest challenge was the construction of the Kaliwa Dam on their ancestral lands, which would potentially cause floods and force their tribe and others to relocate upland.

But 21-year-old Joemar Pauig had heard of Non's viral community pantry and how it inspired a wave of similar initiatives across the country. Like the other Dumagat farmers, Pauig readily harvested his crops – bundles of gabi and ube – to help feed the city-dwellers. With the pandemic making it difficult to sell their produce, they were now able to give it away.



Residents queue to collect free food from a community pantry set up along a street in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



Women sort and pack vegetables for donation to community pantries in Manila.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

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With what we're doing, we're helping people, not just asking for their help. In my perspective, with this food, all of us in this country are eating as one – we're not divided, we're not fighting, we're all dining at one table.”

**Renato Ibañez**  
Farmer and Leader  
Dumagat Remontado Group, SUKATAN-LN

Maria Clara Dullas, president of the Kababaihang Dumagat ng Sierra Madre, explained how farming is deeply ingrained in their way of life. “Even now, farming is still what we teach and pass on to the next generation, because our land can’t be left unutilized,” she said in Filipino. “We plant food so that we can make use of our land and reap our primary needs from it.”

But what was once viewed as a daily activity had become a means to save lives while preventing food waste.

**Bayanihan at its finest**

Filipinos are proud of their bayanihan tradition, which involves people working together to support their neighbours in need. For Pasig pantry organiser Lou Mercado, the Dumagat Remontado farmers were a perfect example of this spirit. “We thank the Dumagat Remontado because they are the real symbol of bayanihan; whatever they had, even if it was just enough, they still shared it with us,” said Mercado in Filipino.

Meanwhile, Renato Ibañez, leader of the Dumagat Remontado group SUKATAN-LN, sees their act as a form of gratitude. “We used to exchange goods with other communities, and received products that we did not have,” he explained in Filipino. “That is why we thought that if [people in Metro Manila] were able to help us with relief goods such as canned food and rice, we should be able to return the favour with goods that they don’t have.”

Additionally, Greenpeace Philippines created a short documentary titled "Isang Hapag-kainan," which explored the collaborative spirit between the Dumagat Remontado of Rizal and the community pantries in Metro Manila.

**#Tumindig for Food Sovereignty**

The rise of community pantries reflected the pressing need to improve food access by shortening the value chain of primary goods. By locally sourcing needs and adopting sustainable practices, communities have access to more

nutritious food systems. This also allows local farmers to gain better support and compensation.

Food sovereignty is one of the issues targeted by #Tumindig (Take a stand), an online movement that emerged during the pandemic’s peak. It was driven by the disparity between inadequate government response to the health crisis and the proactive efforts of individuals and groups assisting their communities.

It took only one individual to initially take a stand, but the community pantry movement quickly gained momentum, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing urgent needs. 🌱



A woman picks vegetables for repacking in Daraitan, Rizal. Greenpeace Philippines' documentary *Isang Hapag-kainan* highlights the collaboration between the Dumagat Remontado of Rizal and community pantries in Metro Manila.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



A Dumagat farmer weighs baskets of harvested gabi and ube in Daraitan. Pauig and other farmers donated their crops to help feed city-dwellers.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



Portrait of Lorkeebha Mhadlheng at Suan Kong Beach. Lorkeebha Mhadlheng is part of “Tao Kai,” a female fishers group in the coastal community in Chana, Songkhla, Thailand.

The group was formed with the aim to develop the community's product, especially seafood, and to help improve the local economy, as well as lead the community in using sustainable fishing practices.

© Songwut Jullanan / Greenpeace

# A SEA OF SUPPORTERS



For coastal communities, the sea is essential to both life and livelihood. It sustains their families and is fundamental to their way of life. The environment they live in is crucial, providing just enough resources to meet daily needs while representing their true wealth.

One such area is the Chana district in Thailand's Songkhla province, which provides seafood vital for local livelihoods. The sea not only feeds the residents but also supports people regionally and beyond, with seafood exported to Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

In 2020, the peaceful community faced a considerable foe: a government-endorsed industrial project that may transform the area into a deep-sea port.

The community pushed back, voicing their concerns about the potential impact

of the industrial zone on their hometown's marine biodiversity and way of life. In this struggle, a natural-born leader emerged: an 18-year-old, born and raised in the community, determined not to let their environment and heritage be destroyed.

## #SaveChana

Just fifty steps away from Khaireeyah Rahmanyah's home is Suan Kong Beach, described on the internet as a “Paradise for Crab Lovers”. Nearly all Suan Kong villagers, including Khaireeyah's parents, are fisherfolk. Those without boats use traditional nets or flashlights to catch fish at night, selling their haul at the local market the next day. Khaireeyah often helps her parents by removing crabs from the nets and selling the seafood at the market.

Khairiyah Rahmanyah, a young leader of the Chana Rak Thin Movement, leads the rally from the UN building in Bangkok to the Government House.

© Chankiang Kanthong / Greenpeace



The high-schooler is no stranger to fighting for her rights. Her father serves as the chairperson of the Thai Sea Watch Association in their district, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the preservation and restoration of marine and coastal resources.

Several months prior, she urged the Prime Minister to cancel a public hearing on the Chana development, which aimed to convert 26.8 square kilometres of her district's coastline into an industrial zone, including biomass power plants, petrochemical and biochemical facilities, and deep seaports. Khaireeyah and her mother camped outside city hall for 50 hours, and their persistence led to a two-month delay of the hearing. The media soon dubbed her the "Daughter of the Chana Sea."

A month later, Khaireeyah travelled to Bangkok to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister, urging him to revoke his cabinet's approval of the industrial project in her hometown. The event attracted significant media attention and trended on Thai Twitter as #SAVECHANA.

### Empowering the Seaside Community

Greenpeace Thailand spent over a year working to protect Chana district's coastal area and biodiversity from the harmful effects of the proposed industrial zone. They empowered the local community through citizen science, capacity-building activities and raising global awareness to safeguard the coastline.

A key moment was sending Khaireeyah to the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental

Conference (IGC 5) for the Ocean Treaty in New York. Her presence symbolised the entire community's voice, highlighting the global nature of the Chana issue and connecting it to broader ocean protection movements. This experience deeply inspired local youth, leading the team to engage with schools and young people, encouraging them to join the conversation on environmental protection and become advocates for their cause.

"I follow news about Greta, and I admire her. She is at the same age as me, and we share the same interest in protecting the environment. I decided to write a letter to her to share my story as a friend with a similar belief," said Khaireeyah, revealing her admiration for environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

As a leading opponent of the plan, Khaireeyah reported frequent visits from police and military to her home, causing fear among people that her situation might worsen. Despite this, she remained unafraid.

"The only thing I fear the most is that the industrial zone will be successfully constructed," said Khaireeyah. Despite concerns that the community might eventually succumb to the government's demands, the young activist remained steadfast in her resolve. "I have been raised and surrounded by a healthy environment," she explained. "I want to pass these fortunes to younger generations. This is what I always hold on to." [G](#)

Greenpeace USA activists illuminated the Guggenheim Museum with powerful ocean protection messages, featuring Khaireeyah Ramanyah of Thailand. As governments convened for IGC5 negotiations at the UN, the display urged swift action to finalise a robust Global Ocean Treaty to safeguard the oceans' future.

© Stephanie Keith / Greenpeace





At a fishing pier in Chana district, Thailand, villagers remove blue swimming crabs from their nets. Suan Kong Beach is hailed as a "Paradise for Crab Lovers".

© Sirachai Arunrugstichai / Greenpeace

Rungreong Rahmanyah, a local activist holds a campaign banner in the murky green water of Chana district, Songkhla, Thailand.

The industrial project backed by the government may turn this area into an industrial zone, and the community voices their concerns over the potential impact on marine biodiversity and their livelihood.

© Sirachai Arunrugstichai / Greenpeace



Local activists operate a longtail boat to survey the mangrove forest of Chana district. Greenpeace Thailand's Ocean Defenders campaign supports these coastal communities, empowering them to safeguard their environment.

© Sirachai Arunrugstichai / Greenpeace







Nelia Cruzada from Barangay Pansol sells refillable cleaning products, revitalising the Filipino "tingi" culture of sustainable, practical practices.

© Jilson Tiu / Greenpeace

The organising team then distributed starter packs containing primary products such as dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, fabric conditioner and multi-purpose cleaner. They also provided refills as well as materials for sales tracking. After promoting the campaign through public events in the respective cities, the program was officially launched.

### Championing a Refill Revolution

More than a year after Greenpeace Philippines introduced the refills, five out of the ten establishments in San Juan City are still participating in the *Kuha sa Tingi* project.

Quezon City also displayed an impressive performance with 24 out of 30 establishments continuing with the refilling practice six months after the program launch. Both cities reported a 100% refilling rate.

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora also praised the project, saying: "We believe that communities can lead the way to show that we can reduce, if not totally eliminate, single-use plastics. *Kuha sa Tingi* does just that by doing away with the sachets and other single-use plastics and promoting reuse and refill systems. Not only does this project protect the environment and reduce plastic waste, it also creates livelihood and supports a zero-waste circular economy."

The pilot stores effectively reduced single-use plastics, particularly sachets, and had proven that the model can be expanded to other cities. These encouraging results prompted the San Juan City Government to increase the rollout to 20 more stores. Meanwhile, the Quezon City Government expanded the refill station project to include 1,000 additional sari-sari stores.

Based on projections for 1,000 stores,<sup>12</sup> the campaign benefits everyone involved.

Quezon City stores alone could collectively eliminate 1,066,666 sachets of waste each month. Store owners stand to earn at least PHP 1,800 per month due to the lower cost of refillable containers compared to sachets. Consumers buying from refill hubs could save around PHP 400 each month.

Reuse and refill practices reduce plastic production, resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. However, governments should also hold multinational fast-moving consumer goods companies accountable for their contribution to plastic pollution.

In addition to these measures, Filipinos should now re-embrace their original *tingi* culture by adopting reuse and refill systems and reducing single-use plastics. This shift will improve health, support climate action and protect the well-being of both current and future generations.



San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, Greenpeace Philippines Country Director Lea Guerrero, and an Impact Hub Manila representative launch the #KuhaSaTingi project

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



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*Kuha sa Tingi* helped me a lot because it increased my store’s income, which has also helped cover our daily expenses at home. Whenever I would open my store before, I would see plastic waste everywhere, but ever since *Kuha sa Tingi* started, I noticed that the surroundings are cleaner.

**Menchie Paule**

*Kuha sa Tingi* store partner in Quezon City



Celia Ponesto, a store owner in Barangay Maytunas, San Juan City, refills a resident's plastic container with fabric softener as part of the "Kuha Sa Tingi" program.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



Following success in San Juan and Quezon City, the "Kuha sa Tingi" project expands across Metro Manila through a partnership between Greenpeace Philippines and the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation.

© Miguel de Guzman / Greenpeace



Leading the "Kuha sa Tingi" launch were Greenpeace Campaigner Marian Ledesma, Mayor Joy Belmonte, and Impact Hub CEO Ces Rondario, joined by city officials.

© Albert Lozada / Greenpeace



The school staff and students watch a demo of how solar panels work. The boarding school houses around 80 students, aged 11 to 15, who live and study on-site.

© Tria Hardiyanti / Greenpeace

# FAITH AND ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



How can we teach young children to value and care for the environment so they grow into responsible stewards?

One approach is to introduce them to eco-friendly practices, such as using renewable energy. This was exemplified when Greenpeace Indonesia, in collaboration with the Ummah for Earth alliance, installed solar panels at the Darul Afkar Islamic boarding school in Ujung Kulon, Banten. The 10 solar panels, with a capacity of 5.8 kWp, will power the student hall, water pump, and male dormitory. Darul Afkar is home to at least 80 students, aged 11 to 15, who live and study there.

To help the children truly grasp the significance of the energy shift, the students were given enrichment materials before the installation. These included explanations of the differences between dirty and clean energy, how energy is produced, the environmental benefits of solar power, and the functioning of solar panels.

Rodi, a student from the boarding school, expressed his enthusiasm for the energy classes, as he was eager to explore technology that was new to him. He found the concept of electricity from the sun intriguing, recognising it as clean energy,

in contrast to the electricity produced by coal-fired power plants, which he understood to be harmful.

Students were also taught about waste management, learning to identify different types of waste, how to sort it and how to create items from single-use plastics. Rifa, a student who chose the waste management class, observed that her boarding school's waste practices needed improvement. She found the experience both enjoyable and memorable, gaining insights into organic and food waste and discovering how single-use plastics could be creatively upcycled into useful items.

## Encouraging Faith-Based Alliances

To better engage with and support Muslim communities, the Ummah for Earth alliance was established in 2020. Since then, it has grown to include over 30 organisations, including Greenpeace Southeast Asia, and individual allies worldwide. The coalition focuses on empowering local environmental efforts, highlighting the link between Islamic faith and climate action and encouraging Muslims and others to advocate for a healthier planet.



The 5.8 kWp solar panels at the Darul Afkar Islamic boarding school in Ujung Kulon, Banten will power the student hall, water pump, and male dormitory. © Greenpeace

The solarisation of the Islamic boarding school aligns with its goal to promote green initiatives by encouraging sustainable practices in mosques, other worship spaces and community centres. This includes using renewable energy resources, implementing energy-efficient technologies, reducing waste, establishing community gardens and conserving water.

Other efforts involve advocating for bold climate policies, fostering interfaith collaboration and ensuring diverse representation in climate decisions. Key actions include promoting green spirituality, faith-based climate education and renewable energy investments. The goal is to advance climate justice, equity and community engagement in sustainable practices, with faith leaders and communities working together to address climate change and support vulnerable groups.

At the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in 2023, the alliance emphasised the heightened vulnerability of Muslim-majority countries to the climate crisis. They called for the global agreement to include a fair system for addressing losses and damages, ensuring that those responsible for pollution are held accountable, and prioritising the protection of the most at-risk populations.

The solarisation of the Darul Afkar Islamic boarding school illustrates how community climate solutions can combat climate change. By installing solar panels, the school reduces its carbon footprint and educates students about renewable energy. This effort not only supports the environment but also sets an example for how faith-driven actions can inspire future leaders and promote sustainable practices. ♻️



To help students understand the energy shift, they received enrichment materials before the installation.

© Tria Hardiyanti / Greenpeace



The solarisation of the boarding school supports the Ummah for Earth alliance, which promotes sustainability in mosques, worship spaces, and community centres globally.

© Tria Hardiyanti / Greenpeace



Biking advocates, supported by key government agencies, provided frontliners and other bikers with pop-up bike lanes along EDSA during the pandemic.

© Jilson Tiu / Greenpeace

# MOBILITY FOR ALL: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES



Bicycles surged in popularity during the pandemic, especially as those who needed to work onsite sought safer, more practical travel options amidst limited public transportation. Lockdowns and travel restrictions sparked a shift, prompting a greater emphasis on biking as a major transportation mode.

Building on this momentum, Greenpeace Philippines encouraged residents from the National Capital Region to urge their mayors to establish permanent bike lanes for a “greener” and “more liveable” city. On social media, the group emphasised that “protected bike lanes are only Step 1,” calling for broader solutions to create sustainable, people-centred urban spaces. They appealed directly to Metro Manila mayors: “Bike lanes are just the start — your citizens need safer streets, green spaces, and infrastructure that prioritises well-being.” The campaign, tagged #BetterNormal and #ProtectedBikeLanesNow, urged residents to share the message and voice their support for lasting change.

## Key Wins for Biking Advocacy

The call came in response to an earlier initiative led by Greenpeace Philippines, Bikers United Marshalls, and Living Laudato Si' Philippines, which set up pop-up bike lanes throughout Metro Manila,

including major thoroughfares. This initiative sought to highlight the wide-ranging benefits of protected bike lanes as a key element of a comprehensive, people-focused recovery strategy.

Several months later, the Department of Public Works and Highways issued an administrative order, mandating bike lanes on all new roads to improve urban mobility and promote climate-friendly transport options. With this directive, all new road and bridge construction projects were required to incorporate bicycle facilities into their design, where feasible.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) supported the initiative, urging local governments to create secured, interconnected bike lanes with green spaces to foster sustainable commuting. The CCC also emphasised the need to reduce vehicle emissions, which accounted for 65%<sup>13</sup> of the country’s air pollution, aligning with the goals of a cleaner, post-pandemic recovery.

More government initiatives followed suit, including the Department of Transportation’s budget request for its proposed bike lane network across Metro Manila under the Bayanihan 2 Act. Signed into law in September 2020, Bayanihan 2 would allocate PHP 814 million for the construction of 306 kilometres of protected bike lanes in the metro.



A drone image shows students and advocates carrying signs and mock-up "box cars" as they join a parade demanding alternative modes of transportation in Malabon City, Metro Manila.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

Students take a selfie with their mock-up "box car". Greenpeace Philippines joined the activity as part of a global campaign calling on governments to move away from car-centric policies.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



### Delays in Advancing Cycling Measures

But five months after the President signed the law, Greenpeace Philippines and several biking groups expressed frustration over the lack of progress in implementing safeguarded bike lanes in Metro Manila. Despite the national government's responsibility to construct the Metro Manila Bike Lane Network, no actual construction began. The latest President's Report, dated January 2021, stated that the project has been "awarded to winning bidders," yet the promised bike lanes remained non-existent.

Greenpeace Philippines emphasised that the delay was more than just an inconvenience; it was a disservice to the Filipino frontline and essential workers who had been using bicycles to commute due to the shortage of public transport during the pandemic. These workers, who had been at the forefront of battling COVID-19, deserved safe and reliable bike lanes to ensure their safety on the roads.

Greenpeace Philippines and other advocacy groups urged government agencies to prioritise the construction of these bike lanes. This issue was expected to be a key topic in the 2022 elections, with voters looking for leaders who would act to address these pressing needs.

### People Power in Sustained Advocacy

When bike lanes on Ayala Avenue and in San Juan faced removal, Greenpeace Philippines rallied alongside cyclists

Malabon City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval gestures as she speaks to the press during the judging of mock-up "box car" entries.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

and advocates to oppose the plan. The #MakeItSaferMakati campaign united mobility, environmental, and commuter safety groups, successfully preserving the Ayala Avenue bike lanes. This victory showcased the power of collective action and reinforced the enduring spirit of People Power.

Greenpeace Philippines continued its advocacy by collaborating with citizens and mobility advocates in Malabon City, celebrating a new resolution promoting alternative transportation. Mayor Jeannie Sandoval highlighted the urgency of reducing air pollution caused by excessive car use. She encouraged adopting sustainable options like buses, bicycles, walking, and carpooling to cut traffic and carbon emissions.

Councilor Nadja Vicencio, a resolution co-author, aligned the initiative with the city's sustainable development goals, aiming to enhance residents' quality of life. Greenpeace lauded the resolution as a step toward inclusive



urban policies, emphasising that reducing car dependency benefits public health, the environment, and climate change mitigation.

### A Push for Inclusive Urban Infrastructure

Greenpeace Philippines remains steadfast in advocating for safer, more inclusive urban spaces. By championing mobility solutions that prioritise people over cars, the organisation continues to urge local and national governments to invest in infrastructure that safeguards both citizens and the environment.

The campaign underscores that sustainable urban mobility is not just about bike lanes — it's about transforming cities into equitable, people-friendly spaces that contribute to a healthier planet.



Cyclist passing by Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City were given reflective vest by Volunteer organizations, such as Bikers United Marshalls, Greenpeace Philippines and Living Laudato Si' Philippines, to be visible on the road.

Greenpeace Philippines joins the call for the government to establish not just protected bike lanes, but also healthy bike lanes in cities wherein air pollution can be minimized. The road sharing activity ran from June 27 to June 29, 2020.

© Jilson Tiu / Greenpeace



# 03

# SHAPING A GREENER FUTURE

One Action  
at a Time

Activists and youth organizations hold a protest against the illegal gold mining activity and display a banner with a message "Our Seas, Our Rights" in commemoration of the World Fisheries Day in Kampung Bulo, Sangihe Islands.

Fishermen representatives, accompanied by Save Sangihe Island and the Youth Organization Meşembay Mendiaga Nusa and Greenpeace Indonesia, visit the Regent's Office of the Sangihe Islands to deliver a fishermen's demand for the establishment of a marine protected area in the islands.

© Stenly Pontolawokang / Greenpeace

Greenpeace Thailand organised the Reuse Revolution event at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center to announce the Top 5 Corporate Plastic Polluters based on Brand Audits conducted in several Thai provinces from 2018 to 2022.

© Wason Wanichakorn / Greenpeace



# DEMANDING CORPORATIONS TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT



The Charoen Pokphand Group Company, Ltd. (C.P. Group) holds the title of being one of the largest private companies in Thailand, operating in multiple industries. However, it also achieved a less enviable distinction in Greenpeace Thailand's five-year brand audit: C.P. Group was identified as the 'Top Thai Brand' with the highest levels of plastic waste found in the environment.

From 2018 to 2022, Greenpeace Thailand and its partners collected plastic waste across several provinces, totaling 46,929 pieces from 766 corporations and 2,005 brands, both domestic and international. The most common single-use items included food packaging, bottles, caps, labels and tubes.

Aside from C.P. Group, Greenpeace Thailand's list of local domestic plastic polluters included Dutch Mill, Osotspa, Sermasuk and Singha Corporation. In 2019, C.P. Group's plastic waste was the most frequently encountered, and over the entire five-year period, it was the top source of plastic waste among domestic brands.

## Pushing for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Plastic waste is more than a waste management problem; it has become a

significant financial and administrative burden for local governments, municipalities, and communities. In Thailand, the lack of an enforced EPR policy means manufacturers and brand owners aren't held accountable for the waste from their single-use packaging.

Thailand has developed a plastic management roadmap for 2018 to 2030 and measures under the ASEAN framework. Additionally, companies have begun adopting circular economy policies. However, these efforts remain voluntary and lack legal enforcement.

As a result, Greenpeace urged the Thai government to clarify its climate policy ahead of the COP28 in Dubai at the end of 2023. Despite Thailand's high vulnerability to climate risks, the current policy focused mainly on mitigation, neglecting essential aspects like adaptation and addressing loss and damage from climate disasters.

Furthermore, the policy permitted corporate greenwashing, particularly in forest carbon offset projects. To meet the Paris Agreement's greenhouse gas reduction targets, Thailand must implement systemic changes that went beyond surface-level programs.

### Spreading the Awareness on Corporate Plastic Responsibility

To rally public support, Greenpeace Thailand held a series of events. One such event encouraged Thai citizens to sign a petition urging C.P. Group to reduce single-use plastic in their products. Another initiative invited volunteers to participate in garbage collection and plastic brand audit events.

In 2022, the team launched the Reuse Revolution, featuring an interactive exhibition where visitors could explore plastic waste collected during Greenpeace's brand audits over the past five years. The event also showcased art installations highlighting the issue of plastic pollution. Attendees participated in various activities, including waste

separation workshops, green shops, talks and documentaries, all aimed at promoting a less waste-intensive lifestyle.

The top five corporate plastic polluters were spotlighted during a mock awards ceremony, where volunteers dressed as company representatives accepted the "awards" on their behalf.

### Calling out C.P. Group's Greenwashing

Due to Greenpeace's ongoing public campaign, C.P. Group's packaging policy has shown some progress by implementing one of the organisation's key demands. C.P. ALL, a subsidiary of the group, allowed customers to use personal cups at 7-Eleven stores to reduce plastic waste and get THB 2 in return; however,

this initiative was actively promoted for only six months.

According to the conglomerate's 2022 Sustainability Report, the company produced 125,066 tonnes of plastic packaging, accounting for 10.4% of the nation's total.

While the company touts small, short-lived initiatives, the reality is that it continues to be a major contributor to plastic pollution. Greenpeace remains committed to pushing the conglomerate to take genuine, long-term action in reducing single-use plastics across its entire supply chain, challenging C.P. Group to move beyond symbolic gestures and make a real impact in the fight against plastic waste.



Students from Koh Si Chang School, Trash Hero, and Greenpeace Thailand staff and volunteers carry out a plastic brand audit at Sai Kaew Beach in Chonburi province.

© Songwut Jullanan / Greenpeace



An art created by plastic bottle caps showing a picture of fish eating plastic waste.  
© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace

Students from Burapha University's Faculty of Marine Technology and Greenpeace Thailand staff celebrate a day's work at Chaolao Beach in Chanthaburi.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace



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Plastic pollution, particularly single-use plastic from food and beverage packaging, has become more problematic as more get produced and used in large quantities every day. Most end up in the environment, where they harm ecosystems and the wildlife they host, including communities living nearby.

**Pichmol Rugrod**

*Plastic-Free Future Project Leader, Greenpeace Thailand*

Greenpeace Thailand conducts a plastic brand audit to gather data on corporate plastic pollution in local communities.

© Baramée Temboonkiat / Greenpeace





Rhea Jane Mallari of Greenpeace Philippines speaks as residents and activists protest outside the DENR headquarters in Quezon City.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

# PASIG RIVER EXPRESSWAY: A JOURNEY TO CALAMITY



The Pasig River has long been an important part of Philippine identity. During the Spanish colonial period, the Pasig River was a crucial route, connecting Manila to the old trade centres and settlements.

Aside from providing transportation, water, food and livelihood to Manila residents, the river has also been a source of inspiration in Philippine art, literature and music.

The river has shaped the urban development of Manila and surrounding areas, with many landmarks and historic sites located along its banks. In fact, Malacañang Palace, the official residence of the Philippine president, sits adjacent to the river.

But rapid urbanisation, industrial pollution and domestic waste from the informal settlers along its banks led to the Pasig River's deterioration. The river became so polluted that piles of garbage floated alongside boats, and many tributaries were completely filled with trash, leaving no water visible.

Efforts to rehabilitate the river began in the late 1990s with the establishment of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC). The journey was long and fraught with difficulties, with the river's rehabilitation spanning multiple presidencies. In 2018, the PRRC received the first Asia River prize for its efforts to restore the Pasig River, which had seen the return of aquatic life.

Greenpeace Philippines, along with communities and advocacy groups, called on the DENR to halt the PAREX project.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace





Members of Greenpeace Philippines carry a Christmas lantern with a sign during the turnover of petition signatories against the the PAREX project in front of the Pasig City Hall in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. The group urged cities to shift to building green and open spaces and at the same time supporting local products and services for reviving life in the city, instead of making infrastructures such as highways, malls and building in the name of development.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



Greenpeace Philippines advocates carry signs as they join a protest outside the DENR headquarters in Quezon City.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

### A New Threat to the River

Fast forward to 2021, and the iconic river was once again in danger. This time, it came in the guise of transport efficiency that would come via the Pasig River Expressway (PAREX). Spearheaded by one of the country's largest conglomerates, San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the project involved constructing an approximately 12-mile elevated expressway that will run along the river, connecting three cities.

Greenpeace Philippines, along with mobility advocates, youth groups, heritage preservationists and concerned citizens united to oppose the proposed PAREX. Many arguments were put forward,

including how the project breached the Philippine National Transport Policy, which directs agencies to focus on maximising people movement rather than private vehicles. Moreover, PAREX conflicted with global initiatives to restore waterways and advance blue-green infrastructure as essential climate adaptation measures.

Greenpeace Philippines warned that completing the multi-billion highway would obstruct the river's ability to act as a catch basin, leading to increased flooding. Meanwhile, emissions from vehicles would raise ozone temperatures, thereby exacerbating global warming.

In an article<sup>14</sup>, Greenpeace highlighted the term "eco amnesia," which refers to the loss of connection to nature and awareness of environmental issues due to insufficient exposure to natural environments. PAREX could potentially confine future generations to environments with limited exposure to clean and sustainable spaces, fostering environmental ignorance.

However, SMC President Ramon Ang dismissed the protesters' concerns, arguing that suspending PAREX would be more harmful than beneficial. He emphasised that the project's broad design and thoughtful placement would make commutes easier and more cost-efficient.

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What sort of normal will the younger generation perceive if all they see is San Miguel Corporation’s looming bridge snaking through the river bank? Will they look at the waterway now as a source of life, our cradle of civilization, or will they see it as a mere ornament in a bustling city?

From the article “PAREX and the case of ‘eco-amnesia”  
written by Greenpeace Philippines Campaigner Jefferson Chua

A youth representative from IlogPasiglahin (Revive the River) movement shows his drawing that describe the importance of reviving the Pasig River and how poor urban design can exacerbate the impacts of climate change in our cities.

© Jan Cabanos / Greenpeace



Despite strong opposition, the Toll Regulatory Board and SMC finalised the Supplemental Toll Operations Agreement for the project.

**A Triumphant Turn of Events**

Advocacy groups intensified their efforts, refusing to accept the dismissal of their concerns. They circulated petitions to gather public support and formally express their resistance to the project.

Forums, discussions, and public meetings were held to educate the community about

the issues and mobilise support. Media campaigns were launched to rally public opinion against it.

Greenpeace Philippines held a protest outside the DENR headquarters in Quezon City to highlight the project’s possible impacts.

Several months later, SMC announced the project’s cancellation due to significant public backlash. The Pasig River was safe – for now, anyway.

As of this writing, SMC’s latest statement outlined its plan to revise the project

based on public feedback. This indicated that the struggle was far from over. Still, advocacy groups would not rest, resolutely working to protect the river and the communities that depend on it. 

Greenpeace Philippines warned that PAREX would block the river’s catch basin, worsening flooding.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



CATS team traversed Timbulsloko village, once an agricultural hub, now submerged by rising sea levels.

© Veri Sanovri / Greenpeace



# CYCLING THROUGH CRISIS: AN EXPEDITION TO CLIMATE TRUTH



To grasp the full scope of a climate situation, data is collected from various sources, including satellite images, environmental reports, research studies and public monitoring systems. While these methods provide a broad overview, nothing compares to on-the-ground observations. Witnessing the devastation firsthand and engaging with those directly affected offers invaluable insights.

This was the goal of Greenpeace Indonesia with their Chasing the Shadow (CATS) team, launched in 2022. The bicycle tour, spanning from Jakarta to Bandung, Semarang and Surabaya, would conclude in Bali, where the Group of 20 (G20) Summit was being held. The cycling journey aimed to spotlight the urgent need for climate action and the impact of climate change on key aspects of Indonesian life, including food security and cultural heritage.

## On the Road to Truth

Coal ashes polluting the neighbourhood at the Marunda government housing project. Timbulsloko submerged in seawater due to land conversion and rising sea levels. Limestone mining threatening agricultural land and water sources in the Kendeng Mountains. These were just a few of the issues uncovered by the CATS team during their cycling journey.

But the biggest discovery of all was the government's refusal to accept Greenpeace Indonesia's peaceful protest. Beginning in Semarang and intensifying through their journey to Probolinggo, the team encountered significant pressure, including being forced to sign a stamped letter prohibiting them from continuing their journey or campaigning during the G20 Summit.

Throughout their journey, the cycling team faced increasing surveillance and intimidation. In Pati, a car in their convoy was damaged by a hit-and-run. In Surabaya, both authorities and local groups escalated their monitoring, leading to coercion and intimidation. During their ride to Probolinggo, a cyclist experienced harassment when a police car deliberately drove closely beside him. These actions highlighted a troubling decline in democratic freedom in Indonesia, with state-sanctioned suppression becoming more evident.

Despite the challenges, the CATS team successfully spread their climate messages and observed the impacts of the coal industry. In Bandung, they hosted an art event and film screening. In Semarang, they conducted a radio interview, although the session was observed by uniformed officers who documented and questioned several cyclists.

The CATS team arrived in Semarang, Central Java, on the second leg of their bicycle tour from Bandung. Greenpeace Indonesia organised the tour from Jakarta to Bali to highlight the impacts of the climate crisis in Indonesia.

© Veri Sanovri / Greenpeace



Gunarti from The JMPPK, whose land and water sources are threatened by a cement factory, hugs and supports the CATS cycling team before they continue their tour.

© Aji Styawan / Greenpeace

Chasing the Shadow cyclist Kania Yuthika reads poetry at Vin Autism Gallery in Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia on the third leg on bicycle tour from Semarang to Surabaya. Greenpeace Indonesia holds a CATS bicycle tour from Jakarta to Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya and finish in Bali to bearing witness the climate crisis impacts in Indonesia.

© Fully Syafi / Greenpeace



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We must accelerate the transition to prevent the impact of the climate crisis which is already too big for the environment, humans, and welfare. The G20 has a responsibility for that.

**Tata Mustasya**  
Head of Climate Campaign, Greenpeace Indonesia



CATS members spread a banner in front of houses inundated by a tidal flood.

© Veri Sanovri / Greenpeace

CATS team member Eko Satrio Purnomo observes the piles of coal near the Marunda area in North Jakarta.

© Veri Sanovri / Greenpeace



### Accelerating Energy Transition and Climate Action

Before the G20 summit, Greenpeace staged a powerful visual protest by projecting the message "Time for a Just Energy Transition" onto a hill at Melasti Beach, Bali. This display aimed to urge global leaders gathering at the summit to make genuine and ambitious commitments to tackle the climate crisis.

The G20 Summit addressed the energy transition, likely agreeing on a financing partnership to support Indonesia's shift away from coal-fired power plants. Although Indonesia, as G20 president, was involved in the shift to renewable energy, its General Plan for Electricity Procurement still projected coal use well into 2056<sup>15</sup>, reflecting a cautious approach to phasing out fossil fuels.

Additionally, the Indonesian government's plan to build new coal-fired power plants with a total capacity of 13.8 GW – about 42% of the current coal power capacity – would still move forward. This went against the need to speed up the energy transition and prevent global temperatures from rising above the limits set by the Paris Agreement.

It's important to remember that during COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, the Indonesian government committed to retiring 9.2 GW of coal-fired power plants by 2029 with international support, while replacing 3.7 GW with renewable energy. This pledge aligned with the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement, which seeks to phase out coal by 2040.

However, the restrictions and intimidation against public participation at the G20

Summit revealed the government's mixed signals. These actions not only undermined democratic values and their implementation in Indonesia but also contradicted the commitment to a fair energy transition.

"The process and mechanism of this transition must also involve public participation [to] uphold the principles of democracy and be fair. The G20 must be the solution to accelerate the energy transition, for example, through a financing platform," said Tata Mustasya, Head of the Greenpeace Indonesia Climate Campaign. "There is no just and sustainable energy transition without democracy." [G](#)

FOR  
PEOPLE  
PEOPLE  
PLANET  
PLANET

Greenpeace Indonesia projecting a message to a hill, before G20 Summit at Melasti beach in Bali, on 14 November 2022. The message is addressed to G20 leaders who are in a conference discussing 3 main pillars, one of which is about energy transition and partnership. It is known that the G20 Summit will agree on one of the energy transition projects in Indonesia, and most of it is to retire coal-fired power plants early.

© Greenpeace



The Solar Generation Project crowdfunded the installation of solar panels on college rooftops.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace

# A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THAILAND



Sometimes, the best solutions are the most obvious ones.

Thailand's tropical climate, with an average of 11 hours of sunlight a day, makes it perfect for widespread solar energy adoption. However, only a small percentage of the country's electricity came from solar panels. Even more disappointing was that over 90%<sup>16</sup> of Thailand's solar power installations were large-scale solar farms rather than residential rooftops.

To illuminate the solution, Greenpeace Thailand joined forces with the Thailand Solar Fund — a coalition of 16 Thai civil society organisations. Their initiative sought to promote and support renewable energy in Thailand by urging the government to invest in solar panel installations to power to power homes, schools and hospitals.

## From Consumers to Prosumers

Given the right tools and knowledge, solar energy is an accessible power source for Thais. With solar rooftops incorporated into households, homeowners can not only reduce their electricity bills but also potentially earn income through the sale of excess energy. This turns them into "prosumers" — individuals who both produce and consume electricity, benefiting from advancements in technology that make such dual roles possible.

The best policy to support solar panel installations is the "net metering" system, which eliminates the need for extra metres, reflux prevention equipment, or batteries. Net metering allows excess solar energy produced during the day to be sent back to the grid. At night, when the solar panels aren't generating power, electricity from the grid flows back into the home. Monthly billing is based on the net amount of electricity used.

The project was launched by students and staff from Khok Samrong Technical College in Lopburi.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace



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With the success of 2019’s solar roof programs in seven hospitals across Thailand under Thailand Solar Fund, I firmly believe that we can make ‘rooftop revolution’ a part of a green and just recovery for Thailand.

**Supat Hasuwannakit**

*Medical Doctor and Director (1999-2022), Chana Hospital*

Greenpeace Thailand, along with volunteers, donors, and local communities, hosted a solar installation workshop at Jak Deang Temple in Samut Prakan to promote renewable energy and the energy transition.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace



Students and staff from Khok Samrong Technical College in Lopburi kicked off the project. Overall, the solar panels are expected to save THB 60,000 annually over their 25-year lifespan.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace



Students and staff from Sakon Nakhon Technical College display a banner during the Solar Generation event. The initiative promotes the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

© Greenpeace

However, Thailand has not yet developed a supportive policy environment for solar energy. Despite over a decade of promotion for household solar power, installation challenges have slowed progress.

To address this, Greenpeace Thailand and its partners have released a report highlighting the need for a net metering system. Their goal is to install a 3,000-MW solar rooftop system within a three-year timeframe, along with analysing its wide-ranging economic, social, and environmental benefits.

### Shedding Light on Public Spaces

The initiative aims to do more than electrify a million households. It also seeks to power government hospitals and public schools across the nation.

In 2019, the program funded the installation of 30 kW of solar panels at seven hospitals across Thailand. This project highlighted the potential of solar energy to medical staff who have long worked under budget constraints to help underserved patients.

Through donations from crowdfunding platforms, schools also received solar panels to reduce their energy costs and promote sustainable practices.

In 2022, Greenpeace Thailand partnered with seven schools and colleges to address the solar energy knowledge gap by setting up learning centres across the country. Some of these were Khok Samrong Technical College, Sakon Nakhon Technical College and Hatyai Technical College.

The sixth educational partner, Kraburi Industrial and Community Education College, is the first solar school in western Thailand. Although it hosts about 412 vocational students — fewer than other solar schools — the college benefits from strong local networks. This support has

led to significant involvement from local figures, including the Ranong governor, Ranong MP and major party politicians.

The college plans to use the new solar panels in its electrician courses and wants to become a solar learning centre, offering training and workshops for the local community.

### Harnessing the Benefits of Solar Energy

The installation of 10 kW solar panels funded by donations is expected to save at least THB 60,000 in electricity costs per year, totaling THB 1,500,000 over the panels' 25-year lifespan.

Currently, 12% of the country's renewable energy, excluding hydro and waste plants, is connected to the national grid, totaling over 6,200 MW. Of this, solar energy accounts for 2,717 MW.

“The implementation of this plan comes with social and environmental benefits. We can help millions of households and institutions with their energy costs, with savings of about THB 17,139 million per year. At the same time, renewable energy systems will help mitigate climate impacts by reducing 4.52 million tons per year of greenhouse gases emission as well as 10,098 tons per year of toxic Nitrogen Oxide.”, said Decharut Sukkamneod, an Economics and Energy Policy Expert.

Clearly, this initiative, grounded in a solution that is as natural and straightforward as the sun, can generate green jobs, reduce energy inequality and enhance quality of life in Thailand. Expanding solar energy use ensures more equitable access to power, supports environmental sustainability and results in lower energy costs, contributing to a healthier and more secure future. 🌱

*Haze-zilla* is a satirical film that critiques corporate greed's environmental impact, highlighting the urgent need to address local and international haze.

© Studio Birthplace



# SHIFTING THE WINDS ON TRANSBOUNDARY HAZE



In Malaysia, the transboundary haze has become an all-too-familiar part of daily life. This recurring phenomenon since the 1990s is now seen as an inevitable norm, with little effort directed toward preventing or resolving the issue.

But this chronic concern is not to be taken lightly. The haze poses significant health risks, causing respiratory problems and increasing hospital admissions. It also disrupts daily activities, leading to school closures. Reduced visibility affects transportation and tourism. Additionally, the environmental impact is profound, damaging ecosystems and contributing to long-term climate change.

## Art and Activism Confront Haze

In May 2021, Greenpeace Malaysia concluded the impactful “Haze: Coming Soon” activist art exhibition, which attracted over 6,000 visitors, including

policymakers, just before the ASEAN transboundary haze meeting.

The event offered visitors an intimate experience with *artivism*, shedding light on haze pollution. By merging visual art, cinematic works, and activism, visitors were treated to a compelling visual experience with an urgent message: Malaysians must champion their right to clean air.

A screening room showcased Studio Birthplace's short film *Haze-zilla*, adjacent to a large installation of cardboard buildings recycled from the film set. In this satirical film, a self-serving corporation spreads haze all over Kuala Lumpur, prompting strikers to take a stand. Director Abhilash Chandra commented, “As Malaysians, our voices are often drowned out by the rich and powerful. So, why not poke fun at them, while highlighting a very important message: that this environmental crisis will continue to recur if we do not take action now.”

*Haze-zilla* is available on Greenpeace Malaysia's YouTube channel. It garnered over 400,000 views across multiple platforms within a week of its release.

© Studio Birthplace



*Haze-zilla* is available on Greenpeace Malaysia's YouTube channel, where it has already amassed over 180,000 views. Within a week, the film reached over 400,000 viewers across various platforms.

To foster a more sustainable film industry, the film crew constructed sets from salvaged materials, used only refillable cups and bottles, provided vegetarian food, and circulated digital scripts and production notes. Additionally, carbon emissions from transportation during the shoot were measured and offset by 150% through tree planting programs.

The event also simulated the haze via the "Haze Corridor", allowing attendees to experience the intensity and impact of air pollution from 1991 to 2019. Meanwhile, a variety of artworks were showcased in the main exhibition area. Expansive murals, eye-catching posters, paintings and poetry contributed to a powerful narrative on the environmental and social effects of haze.

### Exhibition's Impacts and Insights

Boosting engagement were interactive polls and displays, inspiring attendees to take action and join the movement. The event also drew notable personalities, including Seputeh MP Teresa Kok, Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Liew Chin Tong, and esteemed politician Lim Kit Siang, who participated in the discussions.

Panellists from various fields, including environmental politics and sustainable development, also took part in the forum. They addressed the intricate challenges of combating the haze issue within their areas of expertise, emphasising the need for more robust domestic policies.

A unique event at REXKL, organised by Greenpeace Malaysia, Studio Birthplace, and Splash & Burn, blended art, film, and activism to deliver a powerful message: it's time for Malaysians to demand clean, haze-free air.

© Annice Lyn



The event featured a “Haze Corridor” simulating air pollution and allowing attendees to feel its impact. The main exhibition displayed murals, posters, paintings, and poetry, conveying the environmental and social effects of haze.

© Annice Lyn



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Haze is not one party fanning the flames, it’s a collective responsibility of all parties’ inaction towards these companies.

**Kiu Jia Yaw**

*Sustainable Development Lawyer  
Kui and Co.*

Greenpeace Malaysia and other concerned groups pushed for the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act (THPA) to ensure that Malaysian companies operating internationally are not fueling forest and peat fires.

The discussion also emphasised the importance of keeping the conversation about air pollution going year-round, even with the absence of haze.

**Haze – a Persistent Cloud on the Horizon**

Haze in Malaysia is primarily caused by smoke from forest and peatland fires, which can originate both domestically and

from neighbouring countries. These fires are often caused by agricultural practices like slash and burn, peatland clearing and other unsustainable methods, with wind patterns spreading the haze. Farmers often use fire to clear land for cultivation, which can lead to significant smoke that drifts across borders.

Though these methods lead to haze, the bigger cause is inaction from responsible countries. This is why Greenpeace urges ASEAN countries to implement national laws addressing transboundary haze within their borders. Heng Kiah Chun, Greenpeace Malaysia Campaigner, emphasised, “It’s time for our government to enact a THPA to ensure Malaysian

companies operating abroad are not contributing to forest and peat fires.”

With initiatives like “Haze: Coming Soon”, Greenpeace hopes to create public awareness of such issues, sparking discussion and meaningful action. Studio Birthplace campaign producer Sean Lin stated, “The root of change is awareness. Awareness ignites engagement and builds momentum towards social change, making policy change more likely. This creative campaign aims to bring people together to talk about haze and to support Greenpeace’s campaign to protect the air we breathe for future generations.”

Meet Cloakwork, one of the artists who joined in the **Haze: Coming Soon** art exhibition, and art interventions carried out around Kuala Lumpur and Penang as part of the campaign to raise awareness on the issue of local and transboundary haze. Pictured is his art intervention along Jalan Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, that coincides its depiction with the release of a short film, *Haze-Zilla* that premiered at the *Haze: Coming Soon* event.

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Cloakwork’s art blends elements of traditional painting with street art, his creations are characterised by bright colours, bold lines, and illustrative characters paired with story-tellings, which made him a perfect fit for this campaign.

© Annice Lyn



In Mae Chaem district, Chiang Mai, early burning is used as a fuel management practice to reduce wildfire intensity. However, uncontrolled government-authorised burns lead to severe health impacts and forest damage.

(c) Visarut Sankham / Greenpeace

# THE MEAT OF THE MATTER: UNEARTHING THE MEAT INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN AIR POLLUTION



Industrial meat production is a significant driver of climate change. Agricultural production causes about 80% of global deforestation<sup>17</sup> and is the main driver of habitat destruction. Animal agriculture, including livestock and feed, contributes approximately 60% of direct global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>18</sup>

## When Air Turns Hazardous

From late January to early May 2023, northern Thailand experienced its worst air pollution crisis in 20 years, impacting over two million people. With the Air Quality Index exceeding 100 for weeks, those residing in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son reported severe health issues like shortness of breath, eye irritation, sore throats, nosebleeds and coughing up blood.

Greenpeace Thailand campaigner holds a banner reading 'Don't ignore air pollution problem', calling on the Thai government to urgently tackle the air pollution problem.

© Panumas Sanguanwong / Greenpeace

A Greenpeace Thailand study found that PM2.5 transboundary haze pollution in the Greater Mekong Subregion was partly due to Thailand's big meat industry investing in animal feed maize.<sup>19</sup> Burning land for these maize fields contributed to almost half of the region's air pollution. Satellite imagery analysis revealed that in 2023, 41% of hotspots in the Greater Mekong Subregion were located in maize fields, and 1.9 million hectares of forest were lost to maize monoculture expansion for feed grains over the past nine years, from 2015 to 2023.

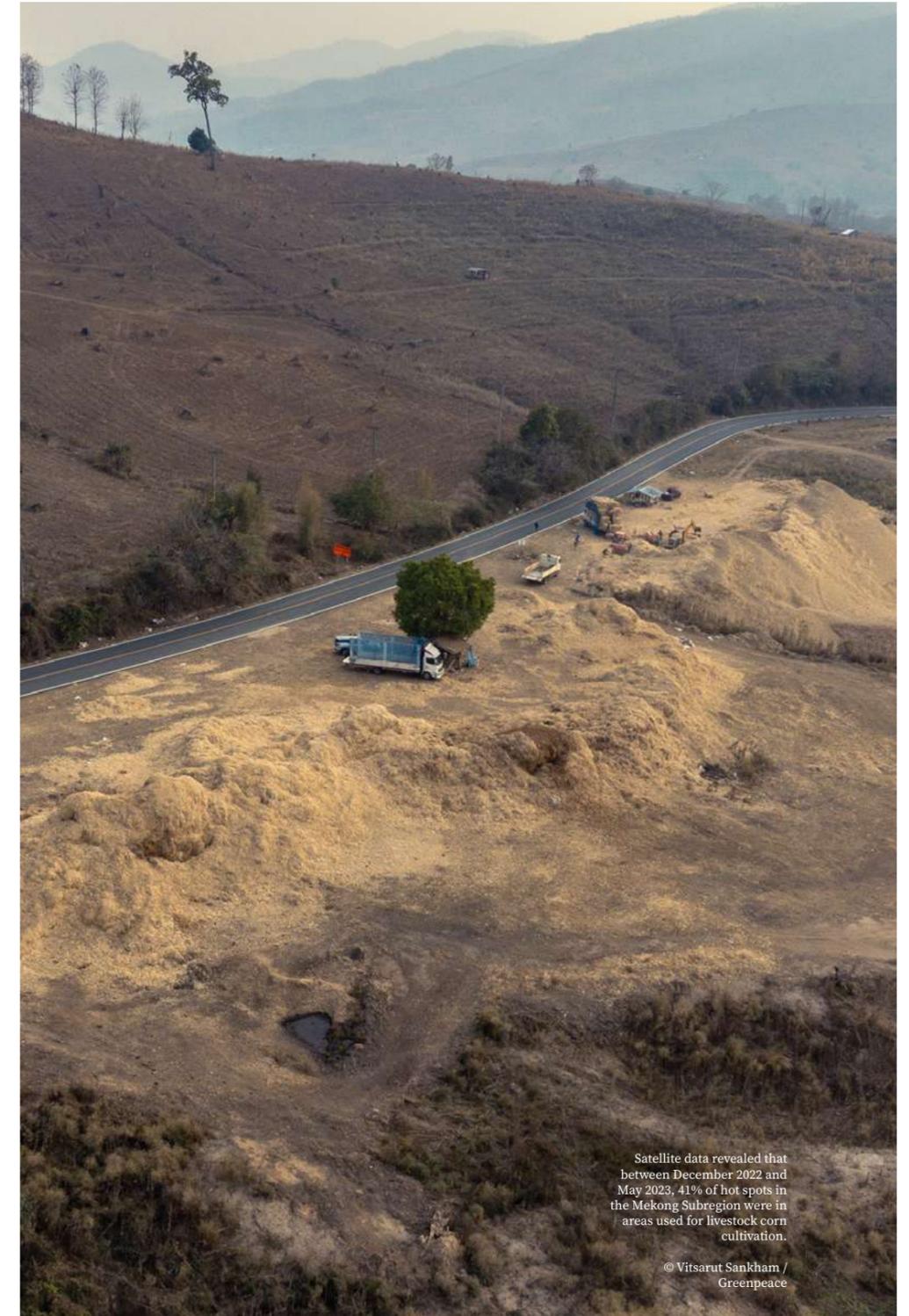
The rise in maize cultivation for feed worsened cross-border air pollution, intensifying environmental problems not just in Thailand but also in neighbouring areas like Myanmar's Shan State and parts of Laos.





Abandoned corn cobs have piled up as corn cultivation surged in northern Thailand over the past decade. Often burned as waste, these cobs contribute to toxic smog that blankets the region.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace



Satellite data revealed that between December 2022 and May 2023, 41% of hot spots in the Mekong Subregion were in areas used for livestock corn cultivation.

© Vitsarut Sankham / Greenpeace

**Who's to Blame?**

Farmers and indigenous people often faced unfair blame, while policies supported monoculture crops like animal feed maize, overlooking the meat industry's responsibility in health and environmental issues. Greenpeace Thailand called for accountability for the meat industry and urged strong political will and legal frameworks to ensure polluting companies were held responsible.

In 2023, the Northern People's Network, Chiang Mai University academics, and other groups sued Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and several agencies for failing to address the air pollution crisis. Over 1,700 people supported the lawsuit, both in person and online.

The lawsuit had three main claims: First, it sought to compel the Prime Minister

to use his powers under the National Environmental Quality Promotion and Conservation Act to address the air pollution crisis, which had been delayed due to his inaction. Second, it demanded that the NEB enforce the long-standing "Solving the Air Pollution Problem" plan, which had seen little progress. Third, it called on the SEC and the Capital Market Supervisory Board to mandate comprehensive disclosure reports on supply chains linked to PM2.5 dust sources affecting Thailand.

Greenpeace Thailand also organised the exhibition "Hazibition: Exhibition Under the Haze", which highlighted the causes of the recurring transboundary haze pollution in the region.

**Call for Transport Traceability System**

While the government remains unclear

about its environmental stance, Thailand's persistent dust pollution crisis is bound to continue.

Greenpeace Thailand made several demands to the Prime Minister and caretaker government, calling for legal and economic measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the agricultural industry, particularly regarding deforestation linked to animal feed maize. They also urged for regulations to establish traceability requirements at every step of the agribusiness and food industry supply chain, enabling the identification of commodity origins and mitigating the risks of deforestation, crop residue burning and transboundary haze at the source. [G](#)

Citizens sued the Prime Minister and NEB, demanding immediate action to address the severe dust pollution crisis in Northern Thailand.

@Visarut Sankham / Greenpeace



Aerial view of Chiang Mai on 1st march with air quality index levels over 150.

© Roengchai Kongmuang / Greenpeace

# MALAYSIA'S QUEST TO BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC



Plastic is like a deceptive monster with two faces – posing as a friend while secretly wreaking havoc on our planet. We trust it, rely on it, but in the end, it betrays us, becoming an enemy to humanity. It creeps into every aspect of our lives, worsening the climate crisis and threatening our future. Now is the time to break free, stop the cycle, and defeat this global menace.

On October 30, 2023, Greenpeace Malaysia dispatched a letter to several ministries, presenting its strategy for effective plastic management.

The pressing issue: urging the Malaysian government to take decisive action in cutting plastic production by at least 75% by 2040.

Greenpeace Malaysia pushed for comprehensive, large-scale change, transforming the country's plastic industry to truly make a difference in reducing environmental impact and combating climate change. As the organisation pointed out, plastic isn't just a waste management issue – it's also a climate crisis, driven by the demand for fossil fuels in its production.

## Malaysia's Plastic Journey

In 2015, Malaysia was ranked eighth globally for mismanaged plastic waste.<sup>20</sup> Despite mandatory trash separation at the source, public awareness was still low. Inefficiencies in the waste management

system and the persistent nature of plastics caused local pollution of air, water and land. Additionally, the rise in virgin plastic production, primarily derived from fossil fuels, worsened the climate crisis.

Malaysia was advancing towards more stringent environmental management and lower pollution levels before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as the country implemented movement control orders and lockdowns from 2020 to 2021, Malaysians ended up consuming and discarding more plastic than ever while confined at home.

By August 2020, the Ministry of Defense had mandated mask-wearing, with fines up to RM1,000 or jail time for non-compliance. Throughout 2020 to 2021, masks were worn even for simple tasks like receiving deliveries. By September 2020, Malaysia had discarded an estimated 7.04 million<sup>21</sup> face masks daily. These disposable masks, made from polymers like polyethylene and polyester, contributed to plastic pollution and microplastics in the environment.

In March 2020, Seberang Jaya Hospital generated up to 1,000 kilograms of medical waste daily. Many Malaysians also relied on deliveries and takeout due to limiting public dining. Reef Check Malaysia found that takeaway containers, food wrappers, straws and plastic bottles made up 47.4%<sup>22</sup> of the 11 tonnes of trash collected during a beach cleanup in September 2020.

Greenpeace Malaysia advocated for sweeping reforms to reshape the plastic industry, aiming to significantly reduce environmental impact and fight climate change.

© Linus Chung / Greenpeace



Greenpeace Malaysia urges the government to commit to a 75% reduction in plastic production by 2040.

© Linus Chung / Greenpeace



### Confronting the Plastic Monster

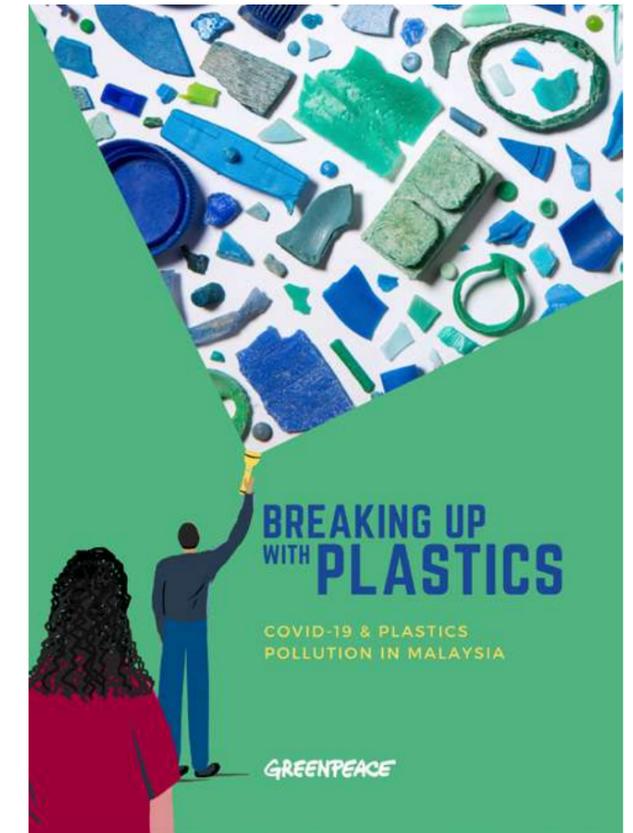
If all the plastic ever discarded were to come together, it would form a monstrous entity posing a grave threat to our very existence.

This was what Greenpeace Malaysia created – a symbolic plastic monster made entirely from waste collected by staff and volunteers. Two non-violent actions were held in Kuala Lumpur, showing the striking monster, along with its sorrowful bride. It stood as a powerful symbol of the urgency to sever humanity's toxic bond with plastics.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace Malaysia's letter to political leaders yielded results: the Ministry of Health reached out to discuss public awareness and innovation efforts. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security also acknowledged the concerns and highlighted plans to connect after reviewing the letter. Additionally, Greenpeace met with YB Tuan Anuar bin Abd Manap, the state assemblyman of Johor, to discuss the Global Plastics Treaty. YB Anuar showed interest in future

collaborations and potentially addressing these issues at the Johor legislative assembly sitting.

While efforts are focused on raising awareness within the Malaysian government about the plastic crisis, Greenpeace is also pushing for the Global Plastics Treaty. This treaty, which governments have officially endorsed, aims to establish a global, legally binding framework to address the entire lifecycle of plastics. The future treaty holds significant potential to guide the world towards breaking free from the plastic monster, ensuring it no longer destroys us and our environment. [G](#)



Greenpeace's "Breaking Free from Plastics" report calls for urgent action to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives.

© Linus Chung / Greenpeace



**CUT PLASTIC PRODUCTION BY > 75%  
TO KEEP THE PLANET ALIVE** GREENPEACE

Greenpeace Malaysia created a plastic monster from waste to symbolise humanity's toxic relationship with plastics.

© Linus Chung / Greenpeace



Filipino youth renewed their call for presidential aspirants to ensure climate justice and climate action is the next administration's top agenda. The call came in the aftermath of Typhoon Agaton and ahead of Earth Day, as Greenpeace and youth partners delivered 'love letters' from Filipinos across the country to 2022 presidential candidates' headquarters in Metro Manila.

04

**ELECT TO  
PROTECT**



Greenpeace supporters and campaigners call on electoral candidates to focus on climate issues, following the viral #LetTheEarthBreathe movement.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



# LOVE LETTERS TO THE FUTURE PRESIDENT



The youth are often regarded as our nation's hope, future leaders who will shape our country's progress and values. But how can they effectively lead if they inherit a devastated planet and a worsening climate that brings sickness and death?

Driven by concern for the climate, young people in the Philippines participated in Greenpeace Philippines' *Love, 52* youth and elections campaign. In March 2022, two months before the country's presidential elections, Filipino youth climate activists joined thousands of young people worldwide in the global climate strikes. With "Show your love for climate justice!" as their rallying cry, youth groups urged presidential candidates to safeguard communities and ensure that future generations do not suffer the severe impacts of the climate crisis. This initiative followed Tropical Storm Agaton (international name Megi), which brought heavy rains and strong winds that sank two ships and caused mudslides, burying over 200 houses<sup>23</sup> in Leyte province. The storm resulted in over 200 deaths<sup>24</sup> and 132 people<sup>25</sup> reported missing.

The youth strikers reiterated their demand for presidential candidates to prioritise climate justice and climate action in the next administration's agenda.

## Making the Message Clear

Composing over half of the total voting population, the youth played a crucial role in choosing the right leaders and shaping a future that is sustainable, equitable and thriving.

To ensure their voices were heard, the youth participants in the *Love, 52* campaign wrote letters to all the presidential aspirants. In their letters, they asked the candidates to support climate justice by recognising that the people who suffer the most from climate impacts are often those who did the least to cause the problem. They also urged candidates to hold major polluters, such as fossil fuel companies and wealthy countries, accountable for their part in the crisis and to ensure they meet their responsibilities to those who are affected.

“Our generation and future ones have the most to lose if our next leaders still

choose to sit idly by,” stated Carmela Adelantar from the National Society of Parliamentarians, Inc. “They need to hold the world’s biggest polluters accountable for the crisis we’re facing, and come up with coherent plans that will at least help us stay alive beyond the next decade.”

“As a member of the large population of youth, I will live in a future that has been shaped by others. I get to harvest what they sow, and I have no control whether it is good or terrible. I get to live in that future,” lamented Angat GenC member Victoria Emmanuel Angeles. “Development and sustainability do not happen overnight; unless we act today,

it will be difficult to hope for a bright future.”

The young people’s letters were sent to the candidates to gauge their responses and see how they would address these crucial issues. The youth, as the next generation of leaders, hoped that climate justice would be prioritised in a rapidly deteriorating world. 

Greenpeace Philippines and climate change victims hold a banner along the Marikina River in Quezon City, urging future leaders to champion climate justice ahead of the 2022 elections.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



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All we ask is that [politicians] actually listen, recognize what they’ve heard, and take action. Knowing something is a breakthrough, but acting on that knowledge is a solution.

**Victoria Emmanuel Angeles**  
Member, Angat GenC



Filipino youth renewed their call for presidential aspirants to ensure climate justice and climate action is the next administration’s top agenda. The call came in the aftermath of Typhoon Agaton and ahead of Earth Day, as Greenpeace and youth partners delivered ‘love letters’ from Filipinos across the country to 2022 presidential candidates’ headquarters in Metro Manila.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace



# A CALL FOR CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS CANDIDATES



The #UndiIklim (#Vote4Climate) campaign in July 2023 represented a pivotal moment in Malaysia's environmental advocacy. This initiative called on political parties across six state legislative assemblies to nominate candidates dedicated to environmental and climate justice.

The focus on unchecked economic growth, without proper regulations, had led to environmental and climate injustices, threatening communities and biodiversity. In Malaysia, state governments played a crucial role in land-use and environmental planning, making it essential to address these issues locally. The state elections provided a key opportunity for voters to support candidates committed to environmental justice.

## Turning the Tide on Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution posed a severe threat to Malaysia's environment, contaminating rivers and harming marine life. Plastics could leach up to 13,000 hazardous chemicals<sup>26</sup>, with at least 3,200<sup>27</sup> identified as chemicals of concern. Microplastics also posed serious health risks, with estimates suggesting individuals consumed between 78,000 and 211,000 particles<sup>28</sup> annually. The entire plastic production process, from extraction to disposal, further impacted the climate.

Campaigners at the Penang State Legislative Assembly in George Town display a Greenpeace Malaysia #Vote4Climate banner, encouraging voter participation across six states.

© Rohit Shaun Kirby / Greenpeace





Campaigners at the Negeri Sembilan State Legislative Assembly in Seremban highlighted the dangers of environmental and climate injustices threatening communities and biodiversity.

© Rohit Shaun Kirby / Greenpeace

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Malaysians have a right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment championed by environmentally and climate-conscious elected representatives who prioritise the well-being of people and our planet above singularly profit-driven goals.

**Thing Siew Shuen**

Senior Programme Manager, Greenpeace Malaysia

Recycling is less effective for plastics due to inherent issues. Instead, state governments should focus on reducing plastic production and adopting sustainable practices to combat pollution.

### The Case for Clean Air Rights

Forest fires and haze are worsening air quality in Malaysia, intensified by climate change and heatwaves. In early July 2023, the world recorded its hottest day for the third time in a week, and Global Forest Watch reported 373 fire alerts<sup>29</sup> on April 10, with peat fires in Kelantan. Between July 2020 and July 2023, there were 6,634 fire alerts<sup>30</sup>, increasing climate risks and air pollution.

In 2019, air pollution cost Malaysia RM 303 billion<sup>31</sup> annually, or 20% of GDP. Greenpeace emphasised the need for state governments to recognise clean air as a human right and to factor air quality into decision-making.

### Addressing Biodiversity Loss

The loss of biodiversity in Malaysia, driven by extensive development and agricultural projects, threatened ecosystems. Issues like monoculture farming, mega hydropower projects and logging caused severe damage.

Global Forest Watch reported 606,927 deforestation alerts from June 13 to 20, 2023, affecting 7,450 hectares.<sup>32</sup> This deforestation increased human-wildlife conflicts and disrupted habitats.

Marine biodiversity also suffered from land reclamation projects like the Penang South Islands reclamation, impacting marine life and fisherfolk livelihoods.

### Solutions for Climate and Energy

Greenpeace Malaysia called for a stronger commitment to renewable energy, particularly solar power. Despite Malaysia's status as a leading exporter of solar PV, domestic adoption remained low.

The country had pledged to reduce carbon intensity against GDP by 45% by 2030, as reaffirmed at COP26. While the Renewable Energy installed capacity represented 25%<sup>33</sup> of the total power mix, recent data from SEDA's Malaysia Renewable Energy Roadmap showed solar energy accounted for just 4.27%<sup>34</sup> of this mix.

By championing climate-conscious leaders, Greenpeace Malaysia sought to address the urgent environmental issues facing the country. The aim was to ensure these leaders would implement policies to fill the gaps left by previous administrations. The campaigns underscored the importance of integrated governance, public accountability, and community engagement in tackling Malaysia's environmental challenges. [G](#)

Campaigners at the Kelantan State Legislative Assembly in Kota Bharu reminded electoral candidates about the country's pressing environmental issues.

© Rohit Shaun Kirby / Greenpeace





# VOTING FOR CLIMATE



Though the Thailand government has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065, Greenpeace Thailand argues that these commitments fall short in practice and mainly serve the interests of large corporations.

The outgoing government lacked focus and specific programmes. According to a Greenpeace Thailand report,<sup>35</sup> none of the 20 environmental policies promised by political parties during the 2019 election have been implemented.

As the 2023 elections approached, Greenpeace urged political parties to formulate policies addressing six critical climate issues. These included climate justice, which focused on equitably distributing the impacts of climate change; a justified transition to clean energy; tackling air pollution; combating plastic pollution; addressing transboundary pollution, particularly in the Mekong Basin; and ensuring communities' rights to local marine and coastal resources.

## Civil Society's Election Demands

To clarify what should be included in policy agendas, civil society organisations hosted a public discussion at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. They presented their recommendations to political party representatives and the public, covering a broad spectrum of issues including civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as environmental rights and more. These proposals aimed to encourage the development of comprehensive and inclusive policies through public consultation, emphasising the importance of human rights.

#VoteForClimate participants vote on which environmental issues are most urgent to address.

© Roengchai Kongmuang/Greenpeace



Greenpeace Thailand reported that none of the 20 environmental policies promised in the 2019 election were implemented.

© Roengchai Kongmuang/Greenpeace

Meanwhile, Greenpeace Thailand also met with several political parties to discuss their demands and exchange views on environmental policies. These conversations underscored the urgent need for effective and comprehensive environmental strategies.

However, Tara Buakamsri, Greenpeace Thailand Country Director, expressed concern that environmental policies might not be a key focus for political parties in

the elections. He warned that without acknowledging the right to a healthy environment, their policies could become mere greenwashing tools, intensifying social inequality and worsening conflicts over natural resource management.

Still, Buakamsri maintained hope, believing that positive change was possible if the new government remained open to collaboration and feedback. “Greenpeace believes that the kind of politics that

contributes to a healthy environment must be built on social justice and an open democracy which embraces diverse ideas and offers the public a space in which they can actively and meaningfully participate in the decision making and determination of policies.”

Greenpeace Thailand engaged with young voters and political parties to address urgent environmental policy needs.

© Roengchai Kongmuang/Greenpeace





# ENGAGING THE GEN Z VOTE



In Indonesia, the young generation held the deciding vote, with Gen Z and Millennials making up 56% of the country's voting population.

Political groups leveraged this by actively engaging on platforms like TikTok in the lead-up to the 2024 presidential and legislative elections. This strategy underscored the importance of social media in shaping perceptions and mobilising young voters.

## Redirecting Gen Z's Focus to the Facts

In response, Greenpeace Indonesia focused on creating TikTok content that highlighted the link between politics and environmental issues. Launched during the fourth public debate, their TikTok account actively shared reactions to the debate, a catchy jingle, educational content on key concepts and reminders for voters to evaluate candidates' environmental plans and track records.

But Greenpeace Indonesia's efforts had been underway well before this debate. They met with the General Election Commission to push for environmental and climate issues to be central topics in the presidential election discussion. As a result, the fourth debate focused on critical themes including environmental issues, sustainable development, natural resources, carbon tax and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, among others.

The team also capitalised on the debate's momentum by launching a fact-checking video on YouTube, which attracted 3.9 million views. Their live reactions to the debate on X gained around three million new followers. They were also featured on various TV stations, and their detailed response to the debate was widely covered by the media.



Greenpeace Indonesia installed the "Oligarchy Monster" octopus at the HI Roundabout pool in Jakarta. Its tentacles grabbed three mannequins resembling political figures vying for the 2024 presidential election.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



In Indonesia, Gen Z and Millennials make up 56% of voters, holding the key to the election outcome.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

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Greenpeace believes that the power of the people who will use their political rights in the 2024 Election will be able to weaken the power of the oligarchy and save the Earth.

Iqbal Damanik  
Campaigner, Greenpeace Indonesia



A giant marionette, symbolising a Pinocchio figure, represented the influence of oligarchic interests that tightly control governance in Indonesia, distorting the policy-making process.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace



Greenpeace Indonesia activist Sekar Banjar Aji holds a sign reading "People vs Oligarchy" in front of a giant "oligarchy monster" during an action at the parliament building in Jakarta. Signs and symbols around the octopus shaped monster show how it latches onto numerous dimensions and aspects of citizens' lives: energy, agriculture, freedom of speech, the lives of indigenous peoples, as well as the weakening of the KPK. The activity, part of a peaceful protest by Greenpeace, marks the first year since the problematic Omnibus Law on Job Creation (UU Cipta Kerja) was ratified.

© Jurnasyanto Sukarno / Greenpeace

### Down with Oligarchy

Oligarchic interests tightly controlled governance in Indonesia, skewing the policy-making process. Controversial laws such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) Law, Minerba Law, Constitutional Court Law and Job Creation Law were ratified as a result. Additionally, policies like sea sand export permits, including coal and palm oil in green taxonomies, and projects such as food estates, luxury tourism on Komodo Island and Rempang Eco City, all seemed to benefit powerful business interests.

To highlight these issues, Greenpeace Indonesia reintroduced its "Oligarchy Monster", a giant octopus with tentacles ensnaring mannequins representing

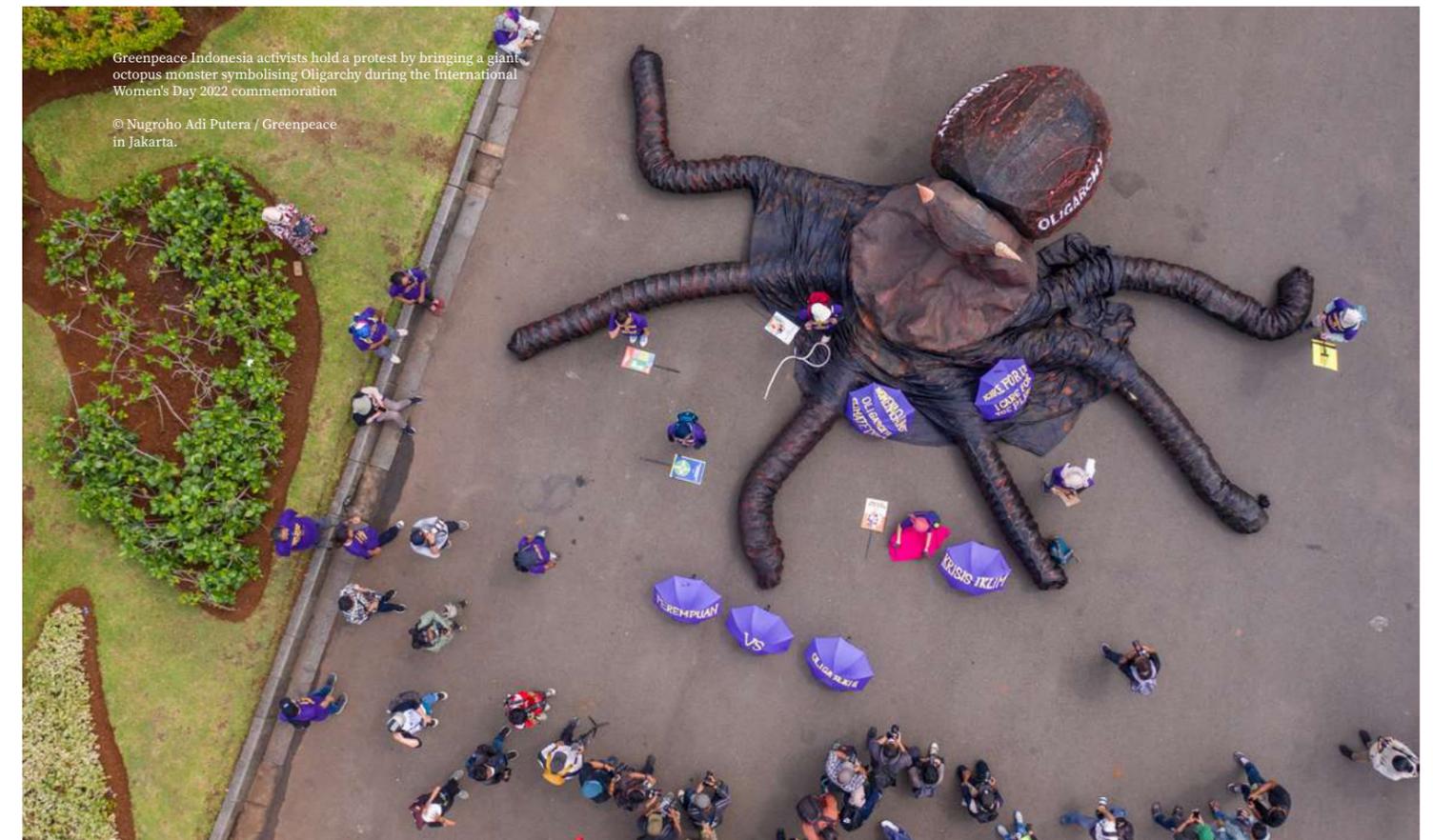
presidential candidates. The aim was to urge the public to remain vigilant against oligarchic influences and to support the call for an election free from such interference.

### More Election Awareness Efforts

Greenpeace Indonesia also partnered with Tempo on the Bocor Alus Politik programme, a prominent political show managed by one of Indonesia's leading media outlets. The Environmental Vision Review of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates, featuring the top teams for each candidate, was aired on the Bocor Alus Politik YouTube channel. The episode garnered 352,000 views and 1,662 comments, with the majority being positive.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace Indonesia aired the launch of a policy brief on the Green Economy, created with CELIOS, on its YouTube channel. The event, featuring the winning teams from each candidate, drew significant media attention and the brief's data was used by a vice-presidential candidate in a debate.

Through these efforts, Greenpeace Indonesia aimed to mobilise not only the general public but also the youth as crucial voters, encouraging them to select candidates who demonstrated responsibility and integrity — qualities that Gen Z should embody as the country's future leaders. [G](#)



Greenpeace Indonesia activists hold a protest by bringing a giant octopus monster symbolising Oligarchy during the International Women's Day 2022 commemoration

© Nugroho Adi Putera / Greenpeace in Jakarta.



The Rainbow Warrior basks in the sunset at Port Klang.

© Joshua Paul / Greenpeace

# 05

# STEERING TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE



Temuan artist and activist, Shaq Koyok, in front of the "wishes" banner made by Greenpeace volunteers during the Greenpeace ship tour stop at Pulau Ketam Jetty, Port Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.

© TAN CHIA WAY / Greenpeace

# SINK OR SAIL: THE URGENT CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION



At a time when climate disasters are becoming increasingly frequent, Malaysia finds itself battling the wave of climate crisis.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, Malaysia is on the brink of hitting its first climate tipping point by 2025.<sup>36</sup> Despite the looming deadline, the Climate Change Act has been delayed for years, bringing Malaysia to a critical juncture. Immediate and decisive action is needed to steer towards climate justice, or millions will face the severe consequences of an environmental emergency.

## Charting the Course of Action

In March 2023, the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior returned to Malaysia at a pivotal time, with the ship's international crew

and Greenpeace Malaysia calling for stronger environmental protection. They advocated for the most vulnerable communities impacted by climate-related issues, including floods and landslides from unsustainable logging. As Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Yeb Saño noted, "Nine out of ten people around the world breathe unclean air, most of them, I would have to underscore, in low and middle income countries, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups." Meanwhile, the ongoing haze and plastic pollution are affecting public health.

While the Rainbow Warrior's 2018 visit focused on the imported plastic waste trade, this time it aimed to address a broader spectrum of environmental issues. Through a series of forums, the goal was to navigate various aspects of the climate crisis.

Greenpeace volunteers share information about the Rainbow Warrior with visitors on the ship's helideck in Port Klang.

© TAN CHIA WAY / Greenpeace



*Forum 1: Clean Air Forum*

This discussion highlighted the critical issue of air pollution. The SUHAKAM and CERAH Malaysia discussed alarming statistics from the 2022 World Air Quality Report by IQAir, which revealed that poor air quality causes over six million deaths worldwide each year. In Malaysia, air pollution contributes to around 32,000 avoidable deaths<sup>37</sup> annually.

*Forum 2: Climate Justice Forum on Deforestation*

This event brought together Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change Minister YB Nik Nazmi bin

Nik Ahmad, among other experts, to discuss the devastating effects of deforestation. The gathering highlighted the urgent need for stronger legislation and enforcement to protect Malaysia's forests and the communities that depend on them.

*Forum 3: Plastics in a Circular Economy Forum*

Addressing the persistent issue of plastic pollution, this discussion emphasised the need to redesign the current system to significantly reduce plastic waste. Experts explored the challenges and opportunities in shifting towards a circular economy that prioritises sustainability.

A group of Greenpeace volunteers and ship crew members call for stronger environmental protection on the Rainbow Warrior's helideck with a 'Keadilan Iklim' or Climate Justice banner at Port Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.

© TAN CHIA WAY / Greenpeace

**Ending on a positive note**

Despite the challenges, there were moments of optimism during the forums. Environmental lawyer Kiu Jia Yaw announced that the Malaysian Bar had passed a motion to adopt the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, marking a commitment to sustainable development and a reconciliation of diverse views within Malaysian society.

The presence of notable figures such as the Regent of Pahang Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah and Rainbow Warrior Captain Pep Barbal Badia highlighted the significance of the ship's mission. Their support for Greenpeace's initiatives underscored the growing recognition of the urgent need for climate action.

The Climate Justice Ship Tour in Malaysia focused on environmental protection and climate justice. It brought together experts, policymakers and activists to tackle the pressing environmental issues facing the country.

Malaysia nears a climate tipping point, the call for immediate and coordinated action is more critical than ever. The Rainbow Warrior's visit served as a beacon of hope, inspiring collective efforts towards a sustainable and equitable future for Malaysia and the world. [G](#)

Rainbow Warrior Captain Pep Barbal Badia (3rd from right) and Chief Mate Maria Martinez takes the Pahang Crown Prince, Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah (seated at the bridge) and SUHAKAM Commissioner Tengku Mohamed Fauzi bin Tengku Abdul Hamid on a tour of the ship at Port Klang, Selangor, Malaysia.

© Felix Lam Yip Fong / Greenpeace





The closing ceremony of the Rainbow Warrior emphasised human rights, with Malaysian Youth and Sports Deputy Minister Adam Adli Abdul Halim participating in the event.  
© TAN CHIA WAY / Greenpeace



The Mah Meri indigenous group performs a dance to kick off Greenpeace's Ship Tour in Malaysia at the Pulau Ketam Jetty.  
© Felix Lam Yip Fong / Greenpeace

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The right to life and personal liberty does not mean mere existence. As human beings, life means more to us than just simple existence. ‘Life’ encompasses all its various aspects, including the right to a clean environment.

**Tengku Mohamed Fauzi bin Tengku Abdul Hamid**  
Commissioner  
SUHAKAM



The iconic Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior anchors near Bohol to surface the stories of communities in islands struggling with sea-level rise, a symptom of the climate crisis largely fueled by oil and gas companies.

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# ANCHORING MEMORIES FOR AN EQUITABLE FUTURE



Greenpeace's nautical flagship, the Rainbow Warrior, docked in Tacloban, Leyte, in the Philippines in November 2023 to mark the 10th anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan's devastation. Locally known as Super Typhoon Yolanda, this extreme weather event may have been the most intense tropical cyclone ever to make landfall.

In 2013, Typhoon Yolanda unleashed ferocious winds reaching 315 kilometres per hour, demolishing homes and uprooting trees. The massive storm surges overwhelmed coastal regions, with Tacloban — a city in Eastern Visayas — suffering severe damage. Over 5,900 of the 6,300 fatalities<sup>38</sup> occurred in Tacloban.

Some of the four million people<sup>39</sup> displaced by Yolanda faced permanent relocation and continue to struggle to rebuild their lives. The Rainbow Warrior not only honoured the survivors in Tacloban City but also recognised the communities and local government unit

in Salcedo, Eastern Samar, for adopting a resolution aimed at holding fossil fuel companies accountable.

## Advocating Climate Justice for All

After four years, the Rainbow Warrior returned to the Philippines to rally support for reparations from major global corporations responsible for worsening the climate crisis. At its first stop in Tacloban City, crewmembers unfurled a banner reading "Climate Justice for All."

According to Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Jefferson Chua, extreme weather had become more frequent after Yolanda. "Experts have confirmed that fossil fuel companies are historically responsible for the climate crisis — raking in billions in profit while local municipalities and communities lose lives, homes and livelihoods. Unfortunately, governments are not holding these big polluters to account."

The Story of Argus is read to children onboard the Rainbow Warrior in Manila.

© Chris J Ratcliffe / Greenpeace





Greenpeace flagship The Rainbow Warrior sails around Bilangbilangban island at sunset as it visits sinking Islands in the Philippines, ten years on from the devastating typhoon Haiyan in Bilangbilangban, Bohol, Philippines. The small island communities in the Philippines are on the front line of climate change due to their extremely vulnerable nature. Greenpeace is engaging with communities in the area to make big polluters pay reparations.

© Chris J Ratcliffe / Greenpeace



A drone image shows climate advocates and residents raising their hands painted in black and displaying signs against fossil fuel operations during a climate protest in Batangas City, Batangas province south of Manila, Philippines.

Communities and climate advocates are demanding that oil and gas companies 1) acknowledge their disproportionate role in historical carbon emissions and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels, 2) stop all fossil fuel expansion, and 3) pay up for the economic and non-economic losses and damages caused by climate impacts.

© Basilio Sepe / Greenpeace

The People's Museum of Climate Justice exhibition opens in Manila City as part of the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior ship's visit to the capital region.

The People's Museum of Climate Justice pays homage to the stories of climate survivors through a poignant collection of objects of memory and art pieces that encapsulate their enduring memories of the climate crisis.

© Alecs Ongcal / Greenpeace



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We firmly hope that the screams and wails of losses and damages reach the hearts and minds of those who are responsible for the climate crisis. We have seen the community of nations extend the much-needed assistance ten years ago but we Filipinos cannot afford to always be recipients of disaster response. We need long-term climate solutions to help communities be prepared and ready to cope and face the challenges of this crisis. But above all, polluters must pay and be held accountable. Climate crimes must be litigated and climate debt must be settled.

**Rodne Galicha**

*Executive Director, Living Laudato Si Philippines*



Filipino climate-impacted activists on kayaks and the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior vessel blocked access to the Shell import terminal. They are calling on the Philippine's President Marcos Jr. and world governments to make Shell and other fossil fuel companies pay for losses and damages experienced by impacted communities.

© Noel Celis / Greenpeace



Greenpeace Philippines, with local government support, installed solar panels on Inanuran Island, Bohol, to aid the community in addressing the climate crisis.

© Geric Cruz / Greenpeace

The ship's next stop was Bohol Province, where island and coastal communities grapple with land sinking and rising sea levels. Residents face the need to constantly adapt and the possibility of losing their homes and livelihoods, while fossil fuel companies continue to harm the climate. These areas highlight the long-term challenges that island communities face, stressing the urgent need for climate action.

The final stop was in Manila, where Greenpeace and local communities brought together over 700 people to discuss how to make polluting companies pay for climate damage. This followed a 2022 landmark inquiry that found these companies responsible for their impact on the climate and the introduction of the world's first climate accountability bill in Congress.

Apart from demanding climate justice, the Rainbow Warrior also sought to connect with communities. Throughout its journey, the ship opened its doors for

informative tours, displays and other activities, allowing guests to learn about the need for climate justice in countries like the Philippines.

**People's Museum of Climate Justice**

The Rainbow Warrior's voyage also coincided with the inauguration of the People's Museum of Climate Justice in Manila and Tacloban City. The museum is a living display that shows the bravery, dreams and struggles of communities hit by climate change, and their demand for governments to make polluters pay for the damage they face every day.

“We co-created the People's Museum of Climate Justice together with communities as a means to reclaim our histories, livelihoods, nature and culture, which are being lost due to the climate crisis,” said Virginia Benosa-Llorin, Greenpeace Philippines Senior Campaigner.

The museum used visuals, videos and personal stories to link severe weather events, global warming and the fossil fuel industry. It highlighted the global impacts of typhoons in the Philippines, heatwaves and other climate effects, with participants sharing memories connected to significant objects. The museum's online version showcased keepsakes and stories from Canada, China, Vanuatu, Indonesia, the UAE, Nigeria and various other locations around the world, capturing and preserving their experiences, challenges and hopes amid the escalating climate crisis.

The launch of the digital museum as a side event during COP28 in Dubai marked the conclusion of the Rainbow Warrior's Philippine tour. However, the stories of survival from the museum and the communities will continue to resonate globally, demanding climate justice. 🌱



## GREENPEACE SOUTHEAST ASIA BOARD

### 1 WAHYU DHYATMIKA

Wahyu is the editor-in-chief of Tempo Magazine, the flagship publication of Tempo Media Group, an independent news organisation in Indonesia, well-known for its investigative reporting. He is also a board member of the Alliance of Independent Journalists and the secretary-general of the Association of Indonesian Cyber Media, where he works to help strengthen Indonesia's press freedom. In 2015, he completed his Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

### 2 MELIZEL ASUNCION

Atty. Melizel is the senior director for operations at Verité Southeast Asia (VSEA). Her background in human rights, including working with labour and migrant workers, indigenous peoples and women brings a wealth of experience to the board. Concurrently, she remains part of the VSEA Research and Stakeholder Engagement Programs, leading the Policy Advocacy Unit.

### 3 ALEXANDRA LAFORIE-YATES

Alexandra brings to the Board extensive experience in auditing, finance, project management, crisis management, strategic development and the governance of large-scale international corporations, as well as Greenpeace International. She joined the Board in 2015 and has completed the International Organisations MBA program at the University of Geneva.

### 4 JERALD JOSEPH

Jerald has been a defender and trainer at local and international levels on human rights issues, especially on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the elimination of racial discrimination. He has served as a member of various organisations including the Commonwealth Foundation Advisory Body, the Asian South Pacific Bureau for Adult Education and the international steering committee of the UN World Conference Against Racism. He is presently the commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and advisor of Pusat KOMAS, a popular human rights communications centre.

### 5 ANGELA CHEN

Angela has taken leading roles in education reform-related programmes for organisations including the World Bank and was the Asia regional director for the Educational Development Center for 10 years. Angela brings to the Board years of experience in strategic planning, fundraising, programme management and business development for non-profit and for-profit organisations in Asia and Africa. Angela is a graduate of International Affairs, Economic Policy Management from Columbia University.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR THE POWER OF RENEWAL: NAVIGATING CHANGE

The years 2021 to 2023 have been pivotal for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, offering a snapshot of the achievements that have marked our journey since our establishment over two decades ago. With a newfound assurance and confidence, we possess a deeper understanding of the critical actions needed in the region, amplifying our impact on global environmental outcomes. This period has not only tested our resilience but has also illuminated our capacity to adapt and innovate in the face of complex challenges.

As we close this chapter of Greenpeace Southeast Asia's ongoing journey, we reflect on the myriad challenges we've encountered and the resilience that has defined our collective efforts. The stories contained in this book serve as a testament to the power of perseverance – a continuous process of reinvention that brings us closer to the world we envision. Through adversity, we have learned valuable lessons, each shaping our strategies and reinforcing our commitment to environmental justice.

In 2023, the Rainbow Warrior embarked on a vital tour across Malaysia and the Philippines, spotlighting critical issues and reinvigorating our mission. This iconic ship embodies resilience in every sense. From its inception, the Rainbow Warrior has weathered storms – both literal and metaphorical – emerging as a powerful symbol of unwavering commitment to environmental justice. Each journey undertaken by the Rainbow

Warrior not only raises awareness but also reminds us of the enduring spirit of those who champion the planet, proving that even in the face of adversity, hope can thrive.

During this recent voyage, the Rainbow Warrior bolstered our collective commitment to climate justice, revitalising community action and inspiring resilience among the people. The ship's presence serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for our planet is continually evolving, requiring renewed energy and unwavering dedication from all of us at every turn. This journey is about more than just activism; it is about cultivating a sense of shared responsibility and mobilising communities to take action.

The path forward remains uncertain, but even amid daunting challenges, we've discovered new ways to persist. We have harnessed the power of digital platforms to expand our reach and engage with a broader audience, nurturing the next generation of environmental advocates. Social media has become a vital tool in our arsenal, enabling us to connect with individuals and communities who share our passion for sustainability and justice.

Through the years, we have forged new partnerships, collaborating with like-minded organisations, local communities, and activists to amplify our impact. These alliances are essential as we work towards a sustainable future, uniting our voices to advocate for the planet and its inhabitants.

However, this narrative is not solely our own; it includes everyone who has stood beside us. Whether you have marched with us, amplified our calls for action, or lent your support in other ways, you have contributed to the story we are crafting together.

Together, we are writing the next chapters of this journey—one defined by renewed hope, solidarity, and the unwavering power of community. As we continue to navigate the complexities of environmental advocacy, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive movement that empowers individuals to make a difference. The collective strength of our community drives us forward, reminding us that every action counts, and that together, we can create lasting change.

The power of renewal lies not just in our successes but in our ability to learn, adapt and remain steadfast in our mission. As we look ahead, we invite you to join us in this ongoing journey, as we strive for a world where justice and sustainability reign, and where the voice of every individual contributes to the chorus of change.

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