

# The Adonara Declaration

That we, the Southeast Asia Women Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs), also referred to as *Perempuan Pembela Hak asasi manusia-Lingkungan hidup*, are a group of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Civil Society, defenders of the defenders, educators and legislative member, who are community enablers, wisdom keepers, resource protectors from six countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, gathered in a summit held in Pajinian Village, West Adonara Sub-District, East Flores District, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, on 20-26 May 2023.

We believe that the Indigenous Peoples and local communities living in Southeast Asia struggle to gain recognition and protection of their rights including the right to protect ecosystems, and to live by the principle that their territories and resources are intended for present and future generations. Many have lost control of large areas of their territories, are driven to resource poverty, marginalization, and cultural disintegration.

We are aware that gender-based discrimination has limited women from leadership and decision-making roles, as men dominate customary councils and political structures of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Even resource governance plans and systems are less favorable to women and their intersectional identities, including those of differently abled and the sexual and gender diverse communities.

We condemn threats, violence, mass killings including various forms of gender and sexuality-based violence among women environmental human rights defenders.

We recognize the urgency of the situation and strive for unity in diversity and harness each other's wisdom and strength through this regional solidarity to respond more meaningfully and safely to the impacts of ecological and human crises.

That we are committed to taking immediate and significant steps, hence, pledge to take the following initiatives:

- *CONTINUE to nurture and promote recognition of the vital role of Indigenous and local women, whose wisdom and ancestral knowledge, belief systems and practices, including weaving, farming, and other natural resources management practices have been kept by the present generation for the future.*

- 
- *ENDEAVOR* towards the governmental recognition of Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty over their land, seeds, waterbodies, and other natural resources in the respective countries.
  - *PURSUE* to address and resolve resource-related conflicts using non-violent ways, and to build safe spaces and various forms of support including legal, moral, and psycho-social assistance for women environmental defenders who face various forms of violence.
  - *RESTORE* and revive traditional food and health systems, protect tropical ecosystems, and support community-based agro-ecology or sustainable agriculture, sustainable marine and freshwater resources management, and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods that center around the wellbeing of women, their families, communities, and beyond.
  - *FACILITATE* for an effective intergenerational synergy or collaboration of women environmental human rights defenders across generations that is inspired by the power of ancestral women's knowledge and wisdom to strengthen the mobilization across different temporal and geographical scales.
  - *ADVOCATE* for the adoption of critical, context-specific, and socio-culture perspectives as well as for substantial involvement of indigenous women and local women in all processes of any development programming including budgeting to ensure that Indigenous communities and local communities have ownership and capacity to take decision in all processes of any development program.

We are committed to upholding the rights of women and their intersectionality with various dimensions and generating a gendered and inclusive lens in pursuing and building peaceful and meaningful synergies toward achieving a more ecologically sound, equitable system of resource governance and management, gender equality, social inclusion, and social transformation.

There is no better time than now.

Pajinian Village, West Adonara, East Flores District, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. 25 May 2023.

## Initiator/Declarator

1. Aleta Kornelia Baun, OAT, Indonesia
2. Ani Hanipah, Yayasan Tanah Air Semesta, Indonesia
3. Apriliska Titahena, Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara, Indonesia
4. Beyum Antonela Baru, Fenia Mroh, Papua
5. Dominika Dom Huvat, Nurani Perempuan, Indonesia
6. Gunarti, JMPPK, Indonesia
7. Ince Rambu Yaku, Lembaga Adat Desa Matalong, Pulau Sumba, Indonesia
8. Ita, Aliansi Perempuan Kalimantan, Indonesia
9. Lusia Langowuya, Komunitas Menoken Mamta, Papua
10. Nisa Sya'adah, Pesantren Ath-Thariq, Indonesia
11. Noberta Yati Lamtok, Aliansi Perempuan Kalimantan, Indonesia
12. Rosita Tecuari, Perempuan Adat Nomblong, Papua
13. Surti Handayani, Komunitas adat Osing, Indonesia
14. Megawati Amir, Yayasan PIKUL, Indonesia
15. Melani Abdul Kadir Sunito, Pengajar Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Indonesia
16. Failyn Flores Cabello, Calamian Tagbanwa, Phillipines
17. Irene Mae Lino-ay Sinhayan, BALAOD Mindanaw, Phillipines
18. Karen Paburada Puasan, DuYog, Phillipines
19. Marcela Balalo Octaviano, Komunitas Tboli Blaan, Phillipines
20. Rico Tejero pareja, Komunitas Manobo, Phillipines
21. Chompaphat Putthipophuwan, Komunitas Baan Pa Kluai, Thailand
22. Htay Htay Hlaing, Mae Nom Khane Institute, Myanmar
23. Khankam Sayalath, FAPPL Xkh, Laos
24. Phloek Phyrom, Jaringan Adat Punong, Kamboja
25. Roern Heng, Jaringan Adat Punong, Kamboja
26. Veo Dalavong, Kebun Raya Pha-Tad, Thailand,
27. Win Thidar Oo, Institut Mae Nam Khone, Myanmar
28. Atty. Christine Antoniette O. Ramos, Phillipines
29. Marrieane Itol, Phillipines
30. Meryl Bienan, Phillipines
31. Dayoon Kim, Stockholm Environment Institut
32. Elaine Clarisse Mascual Lim, The Samdhana Institute, Phillipines
33. Rochelle Ysip Mordeno, The Samdhana Institute, Phillipines
34. Sabrina Garcia Balais, The Samdhana Institute, Phillipines
35. Shellane Calub Naguit, The Samdhana Institute, Phillipines
36. Souphida Thippaphone, The Samdhana Institute, Mekong
37. Ita Natalia, The Samdhana Institute, Indonesia

- 38. Cristi Marie Nozawa, The Samdhana Institute, Indonesia
- 39. Siti Maimunah, Mama Aleta Fund, Indonesia
- 40. Mia Siscawati, Pengajar Universitas Indonesia,
- 41. Fransiskus Aleksander Weleng, Yashores, Indonesia
- 42. Maria Loretha, Yashores, Indonesia
- 43. Ben Kia Assan, Yapensel, Indonesia

