

March 19, 2025

Mr. Rasio Ridho Sani
Deputy Minister for Environmental Pollution and Damage Control
Ministry of Environment
Jl. DI. Panjaitan No.Kav. 24, RT.15/RW.2,
Cipinang Besar Sel., Kecamatan Jatinegara, Kota Jakarta Timur,
Daerah Khusus Ibukota
Jakarta 13410

Dear Deputy Minister Mr. Rasio Ridho Sani,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the intersection between human rights, environmental degradation, and the climate crisis. We understand that the Ministry of Environment has been asked to investigate environmental pollution caused by the Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park (IWIP) by Commission XII of the Indonesian House of Representatives.

Climate Rights International urges the Ministry of Environment to:

- Conduct a full, independent, and transparent investigation into the impacts of IWIP on the environment and on the safety, health, and rights of communities near IWIP, including Lelilef, Gemaf, and Sagea, and make the results of the investigation publicly available and accessible, including in local languages;
- Make all air and water quality information, including information provided to the Ministry by mining and smelting companies, publicly available and accessible, including in local languages;
- Monitor the environmental and human rights impacts of nickel mining and processing on the natural environment, including impacts on forests and fresh and saltwater resources and fine those responsible for such impacts;
- Revoke the licenses of mining companies that fail to prevent serious impacts of mining-related deforestation on the environment, including fresh and groundwater pollution and erosion, in cases where companies fail to mitigate pollution and other serious impacts; and
- Work with regional authorities and all related government agencies to ensure that mining companies are fully compliant with environmental laws and regulations and respect the human rights of affected communities, as laid down in both Indonesian and international law.

For more than two years, Climate Rights International has monitored and reported on the human rights and environmental impacts of the Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park. In January 2024, we published a 124-page report, "Nickel Unearthed: The Human Rights and Climate Costs

of Indonesia's Nickel Industry," based on roughly 45 interviews with community members from Central and East Halmahera.

Our research finds that nickel mining in Central and East Halmahera, North Maluku and nickel smelting at IWIP are threatening the rights, lives, and livelihoods of local people, harming the environment, and contributing to the climate crisis due to deforestation and reliance of captive coal. Community members told Climate Rights International that their lands have been illegally taken by nickel companies, they were not able to fairly negotiate land sales, and Indigenous Peoples have been denied their legal right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). In addition, pollution from industrial activities is threatening critical freshwater resources and the ecosystems that people depend on for their traditional livelihoods. Despite claims that nickel from this project is needed to power the electric vehicle transition, massive deforestation for nickel mining and coal use at IWIP are directly contributing to the climate crisis. We shared advance notice of this report with the former Ministry of Environment and Forestry, as well as other relevant ministries, but the Ministry of Environment and Forestry did not respond to our inquiries.

Our report, "Nickel Unearthed," may be found online at: <https://cri.org/reports/nickel-unearthed/>

A Bahasa Indonesian version of the report summary may be found online at: <https://cri.org/reports/nickel-unearthed/ringkasan/>.

I hope that you will find the report useful as you consider undertaking an investigation into the environmental impacts of IWIP.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your representatives about our fact-finding research into the impacts of IWIP, and we also stand ready to meet with your embassies in both Washington DC and Brussels, to discuss further. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting or video conference.

Sincerely,

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Brad Adams
Executive Director
Climate Rights International

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