

October 11, 2025

Hilario G. Paguaitan
Chairman
East Coast Vulcan

Dear Mr. Hilario G. Paguaitan,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the human rights dimensions of the climate crisis. For the past several months, we have been carrying out research for a report that we plan to publish on the human, environmental, and climate impacts associated with nickel mining in the Philippines' Caraga Region.

Based on roughly sixty interviews with community members, our research finds that nickel mining in Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Sur is threatening the rights of local people, harming the local environment, and exacerbating the impacts of the climate crisis. People told Climate Rights International that nickel mining and related pollution is destroying fishing and farming livelihoods, contributing to food insecurity, polluting water and air, and increasing health problems. Perversely, mining for nickel, needed for the renewable energy transition, is making local communities – who bear extremely little responsibility for the climate crisis – more vulnerable to climate impacts, including extreme weather events. The Philippines is the most dangerous country in Asia in which to be a land and environmental defender, and Climate Rights International has also documented how those who oppose mining can face threats, criminalization, and attacks.

We want to ensure that our report accurately reflects the views, policies, and practices of relevant authorities and companies, and we hope that you or your representatives will respond to the following questions, outlined below. Any responses will be reflected in our reporting as appropriate, and we may publish your responses at our discretion and when appropriate, either in full or in part.

The following questions are related to the Libjo Mining Corporation (LMC) mining operations on Dinagat Island under MPSA No. 233-2007-XIII SMR.

1. Please clarify the relationship between East Coast Vulcan Corp. (formerly East Coast Mineral Resources Co. Inc.), the project contractor, and LMC, the project operator, as it relates to the Dinagat Islands nickel mining concession under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR. How does East Coast Vulcan Corp. Work with LMC on project governance?
2. Individuals from Dinagat Island interviewed by Climate Rights International, particularly those living downstream from the mine, expressed concern about the impacts of the mining operations on fresh and saltwater resources, as well as increased siltation of rice and agricultural fields. What steps is East Coast Vulcan taking to ensure that the operations under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR are not causing serious environmental pollution?

3. Does East Coast Vulcan monitor air, water and soil quality related to the operations under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR?
 - a. Please provide information about East Coast Vulcan's water quality testing, if any, including how frequently water samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
 - b. Please provide information about East Coast Vulcan's air quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
 - c. Please provide information about East Coast Vulcan's soil quality monitoring, if any, including how frequently air samples are taken, where those samples are collected, and what pollutants it tests for.
4. Does East Coast Vulcan make the results of any pollution monitoring public? If so, please explain how community members are able to access that information.
5. Please provide information about how East Coast Vulcan manages tailings and other mining waste under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR, including what steps East Coast Vulcan takes to ensure that tailings ponds are able to withstand extreme weather events.
6. What steps does East Coast Vulcan take when it receives an allegation of environmental pollution or negative impacts of the operations under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR on local communities? Does East Coast Vulcan have a grievance mechanism through which community members can file a complaint? If so, please provide information regarding that mechanism, including how often it is used, how community members can access it, and how East Coast Vulcan responds to complaints.
7. Does East Coast Vulcan have climate adaptation plans, including plans to adapt to extreme weather events? If so, please elaborate.
8. It is our understanding that the nickel ore mined at this concession is exported to China and Indonesia. Is all nickel ore mined under MPSA No. 242-2007-XIII SMR exported? Please provide a list of companies that purchase nickel ore from East Coast Vulcan and/or companies involved in the export of nickel ore mined by LMC.
9. Did East Coast Vulcan hold public meetings with local communities about the proposed mining project before the commencement of mining? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.
10. Has East Coast Vulcan held any public meetings with local communities about the mine and its impacts since mining operations began? If so, please provide information about the dates, locations, and attendance of those meetings, including information about how community members were made aware of the meetings. In addition, please detail the information provided to communities at those meetings.

11. Please provide a list of all subcontracting companies that work with East Coast Vulcan and LMC at its Dinagat Islands nickel mining operations. What steps does East Coast Vulcan take to ensure that individuals hired by subcontractors are properly compensated and have access to occupational health and safety protections?

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in our report if we receive them by October 22, 2025. Please reply in English. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

We would also welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting or video conference.

Sincerely,

Brad Adams
Executive Director,
Climate Rights International