



**Human Rights Council**

**4<sup>th</sup> Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**The Human Rights Situation in Solomon Islands**

**52<sup>nd</sup> Session (May 2026)**

**Joint Stakeholders' Submission from:**

**Franciscans International (FI)**  
**Society of Saint Francis, Province of Solomon Islands (SSF)**  
**The Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC)**  
**Third Order of the Society of St Francis, Pacific Province, Solomon Islands Region (TSSF)**  
**Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)**  
**Dominican Network in the Solomon Islands**

**Geneva and Honiara, 10 October 2025**

## **1. Introduction**

1. This is a joint UPR submission by Franciscans International (FI), the Society of Saint Francis (SSF) of Solomon Islands, the Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC), Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis (TSSF), Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers), and the Dominican Network in the Solomon Islands. The data and information presented in this submission were gathered from multiple sources, including visits to local communities, which took place between March and May 2025 in several communities across Guadalcanal Island (Verahue, Paru, Maravovo, Tamboko, and Ando), building on earlier community visits conducted in 2021 and 2022. A field visit was also conducted to a community (Havihua) residing near the Kolosori Nickel mining project on Santa Isabel Island.
2. Overall, since the 3rd UPR Review in May 2021, the situation with regard to logging operations in Solomon Islands has not improved and remains deeply concerning. Solomon Islands received eight recommendations on this issue, seven of which were accepted by the Government.<sup>1</sup> Observations during our field visits have demonstrated that logging activities have long-term impacts on the environment and the human rights of local communities. These effects persist long after the operations have ceased. Civil society and local communities have also expressed growing concern over the rise in mining prospecting and commencement of operations, which pose similar risks to the environment and human rights.

## **2. Legal framework**

### **2.1 Legal Framework on Logging**

3. The current legal framework with regard to logging operations in Solomon Islands revolves around the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969<sup>ii</sup> and the Environmental Act of 1998<sup>iii</sup>. To first acquire a logging license in Solomon Islands, a company needs to:
  - a. Complete a Standard Logging Agreement with the customary landowners;
  - b. Conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
4. The Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 requires all companies to obtain a license before undertaking logging operations. Companies must first apply for permission to negotiate with landowners by submitting Form 1. A public notice is then issued, followed by a Timber Rights Meeting between the company and landowners, convened by the Provincial Government. If an agreement is reached, it is recorded in a Certificate of Determination or Form 2, and public notice of the decision is given. If there is no appeal, the company and landowners sign a Timber Rights Agreement (also known as a Standard Logging Agreement or Form 4), which must be approved by the Commissioner of Forest Resources within the Ministry of Forestry and Research through a Certificate of Approval or Form 3. The company must then submit a Logging (Felling) license application to the Ministry of Environment. This application must contain an Annual Logging Plan and an Environmental Impact Assessment, as regulated by the Environmental Act 1998. This EIA needs to be approved by the Director of the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment. The company can only apply for a logging license once all these steps have been completed and

validated by the designated authority. Companies then acquire a Logging (Felling) license, which transfers the right over the customary land from the landowner to the company.

### *Concerns and Loopholes*

5. These two Acts contain several loopholes. The Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 is a colonial-era law. It is outdated and no longer suitable for the social and environmental context of the Solomon Islands. It permits direct negotiations between the landowner and the company, with minimal government oversight or involvement in mediating agreements. Timber Rights Hearings are often not inclusive. In most cases, the company enters into an agreement with a single member of a specific community, who acts as the landowner on behalf of the entire community. Typically, only one or two members attend these meetings, excluding a significant portion of the affected population. According to the communities, these agreements are generally struck in meetings in hotels that are far away from the customary lands. Therefore, these dealings take place behind the backs of the communities.
6. Moreover, since landownership is predominantly male, women are rarely included in these consultations or decision-making processes. The affected community often does not get a copy of the agreement signed between the company and the landowner. This opens the door to instances of bribery by the company and has a negative impact on the immediate community. Communities downstream, who may be affected by logging practices, are also not consulted in this process.
7. The Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 also makes terminating the agreement very difficult. Form 2 lists the names of the community members who signed the agreement, and only they are authorised to terminate the agreement. Communities cannot afford to submit legal complaints due to the costs (approximately 10,000 SBD). The Government cannot take any tangible action against companies that violate the terms of their agreements or licenses. While Section 22 permits the state to act against infractions and seize equipment and resources on state land, it does not allow the government to act on customary land. These legal loopholes hinder communities from obtaining legal recourse against destructive logging practices.
8. The current EIA structure under the Environmental Act of 1998 is not comprehensive and fails to assess the environmental impact of logging operations adequately. While Sections 17 and 20 outline some of the topics that an EIA should address, they do not establish a formal structure for EIAs. Logging EIAs are ad hoc with no standard for how in-depth an assessment should go. In many cases, because the law does not prescribe it, no site visits occur. The visits that do occur are too brief and are conducted with inadequate environmental tools. There have been instances where the same EIA was submitted for multiple logging projects. The fact that the Ministry of Environment validated the same EIA twice demonstrates the lack of rigorous and consistent monitoring and oversight by the authorities. Moreover, EIAs do not always adequately account for the concerns of the local community. In fact, public consultations are absent from EIA processes. This also allows for instances of bribery by companies that want to push through projects that are not environmentally sustainable or would have a severe negative impact on the environment. The result is poor-quality EIAs, leading to

pernicious effects on the environment.<sup>iv</sup>

9. Monitoring and enforcing the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 and the Environmental Act of 1998 remain significant challenges for the government, not only due to legal loopholes but also because of limited financial and human resources. This leads to serious and regular non-compliance with the laws by companies and contributes to growing distrust among local populations in the government's ability to protect their rights and their environment.

### *Legal reforms*

10. The Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 was meant to be repealed by the Forests Act of 1999.<sup>v</sup> However, the Forests Act never passed in Parliament and was never published in the Gazette, making it unenforceable.<sup>vi</sup> Sections 5 and 7 of the Act establish a Solomon Islands Forestry Board to advise the Minister on conservation efforts and appoint a Commissioner to ensure these efforts are implemented. Section 14 prescribes that a National Forest Resource Management Strategy be developed, and that reforestation must be included in this strategy. Similarly, Section 32(3) mandates that every timber harvesting license include reforestation as a condition. Section 36(2) ensures that the Commissioner can only issue an agreement or contract if there is a reforestation clause. Section 91 permits the Minister to protect and conserve any water resource, forest, vegetation, or rainfall catchment area by declaring it a forest reserve.
11. The Forests bill was first introduced in 2004<sup>vii</sup>, and is intended to replace both the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969 and the Forests Act 1999. The bill is yet to be passed in Parliament. It has undergone five revisions since 2020, when the Attorney General's Office first reviewed it.<sup>viii</sup> The bill includes a benefit-sharing arrangement between logging companies and landowners, resulting in a 50/50 split. The current practice for benefit-sharing is 60% to the company and 40% to other parties (broken down as follows: 25% to the government, 10% to landowners, and 5% to licensees). The current meagre share received by landowners is a big part of the problem. It incentivises one or two members of the community, acting as landowners, to hoard the royalties from the logging operations and not distribute them to the whole community.<sup>ix</sup>

## **2.2 Legal Framework on Mining**

12. The current legislation governing mining activities in Solomon Islands is the Mines and Minerals Act 1990.<sup>x</sup> As with logging, mining projects are also required to obtain an EIA before commencing operations, as mandated by the Environment Act 1998. Consequently, the challenges described in the logging sector, such as weak enforcement and lack of oversight, also apply to mining projects.
13. The government had introduced the Mineral Resources Bill 2023,<sup>xi</sup> a proposed law intended to repeal the Mines and Minerals Act 1990 and address its shortcomings. The bill, which has already undergone consultations, forms part of the government's immediate legislative agenda. However, stakeholders such as the Solomon Islands Council of Trade Unions (SICTU) have called for a suspension of mining operations until the new legislation is enacted, to ensure stronger governance and fairer benefit-sharing. Despite these appeals, mining activities have continued.<sup>xii</sup>
14. An amended Mineral Resources Bill 2025<sup>xiii</sup> was officially tabled in Parliament on 14 July 2025. However, the bill was introduced with minimal consultation with local communities and civil society. Public submissions were welcomed only after the bill was fully drafted

in June 2025.<sup>xiv</sup> Civil society organisations are concerned that the Bill expands the powers of the Government by removing the requirement for landowner representation on the Minerals Board.<sup>xv</sup>

15. Concerns have been raised that the process has not been conducted inclusively and has not allowed sufficient time for local communities, particularly women and youth, who are often disproportionately affected by mining activities, to participate and provide input. The absence of inclusive consultation before the approval of mining licences undermines the right of affected communities to participate in the decision-making process.

### **3. Impacts of logging and mining on human rights**

16. Between 2001 and 2024, Solomon Islands lost 240,000 hectares of tree cover. Logging rates increased exponentially after 2010. Based on current logging rates, it is projected that the country will have no natural forests left by 2036. While logging is the leading cause of deforestation, mining operations have also contributed to forest loss.<sup>xvi</sup>

#### **3.1 The Principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

17. In a majority of cases, communities impacted by logging and mining are not consulted before the commencement of projects. As mentioned in Section 2.1, the current system of direct negotiations between the landowner and the company means that those discussions take place behind closed doors. In the best-case scenario, the chief and some village elders may be consulted on the project. The rest of the community may be informed later on in the process, but only once decisions have already been taken. Generally, the community does not hear about the project from the company but only from village elders such as the chief or local priest.
18. In Marovovo village (Guadalcanal Island), for example, the potential impacts of logging on the environment were never explained to the villagers. Villagers would also have liked to have been informed of the possible benefits to them, such as the construction of roads, employment opportunities, and the ability to sell food products to the loggers. Since these benefits created an income disparity in the village, the villagers would have liked to have known about them in advance so that they could better prepare for the project's ultimately impact on the village's social fabric and on cohesion within the community.
19. In Ando village (Guadalcanal Island), the community were never informed about the logging project, operated by Gallego Resource Limited. The project, which started in 2012, is still ongoing. The authorities never visited the village, and the community was never given a copy of the agreement signed between landowner and the company.
20. In July 2025, the CEDAW Committee<sup>xvii</sup> expressed concern that rural women in Solomon Islands have minimal participation in land and natural resources decision-making, despite being the primary users of these resources. While women bear the greatest burden of environmental degradation and the social impacts of extractive activities, such as gender-based violence, they are often excluded from negotiations related to logging and mining.

#### **3.2 Right to food**

### *Availability of, access to and quality of food*

21. Food sources that have been particularly impacted by logging and mining operations include fish, shellfish, crops, and mangroves. Communities report that they have not received any support from the Government. The Kolosori Nickel mine<sup>xviii</sup> has been operated by Pacific Nickel Mines Limited since 2021 in Havihua, Santa Isabel Island. The mine has led to the destruction of family gardens belonging to the neighbouring village. The community was never compensated for the loss of their crop gardens. Access to areas that were used for hunting and crop gardening has been lost. Trees that were once cut for wood to construct homes have been destroyed. Traditional food crops, such as taro, can no longer be grown due to soil contamination.
22. In Marovovo village, wild pigs have moved away from areas where logging took place, and can no longer be hunted on their previous hunting grounds. This has impacted food security for communities that rely on pig protein as a source of nutrition. Communities have observed a decline in the number of fish and shellfish in rivers downstream from logging and mining operations.
23. In Havihua village (Santa Isabel Island), shellfish could easily be found in rivers or close to the seashore before mining operations commenced. In rivers, they have now either died or moved upstream due to water contamination, and they are no longer found in the sea due to the destruction of mangroves. Mining operations have also destroyed the harbour where fish used to breed, making it very difficult to catch fish. The community has reported that fish caught have a different taste, due to the overflow of polluted waters from the mine into the harbour. The communities are eating more processed food as traditional foods like Taro and wild yams are no longer available due to soil contamination. Rice and noodles have become common foods. It has become difficult to eat balanced meals due to a lack of protein. When traditional foods are available, they do not taste as they used to.<sup>xix</sup>
24. In Sualakwe (Central Kwara'ae, Malaita Island), logging operations were conducted for one year. An oil leak from a logging vehicle damaged taro plantations in the swamp. The taro can no longer be eaten. To clear the way for vehicles to transport logs, mangroves were cut. Communities could no longer eat the fruits present in mangroves. The reduction in shade due to the felling of trees had a devastating impact on mud shells and mud crab, which could not survive the sun.
25. Women are primarily responsible for collecting food and water in many communities. However, the degradation of natural resources caused by logging operations has forced them to travel greater distances to meet their families' basic needs, exposing them to safety risks. In Sualakwe, for example, the complete destruction of the local mangrove has forced women to paddle long distances to reach different mangrove areas for food.

### *Invasive species*

26. The presence of the Rhinoceros beetle and giant African snails is a significant problem. These species have been brought in through the machinery used for logging and mining. They eat up garden food crops, posing a threat to food security. This problem remains long after operations have ended. The danger presented by these species was already mentioned by communities during field visits in 2021 and 2022 and continues to be mentioned during the 2025 field visits. For example, in Marovovo, as logging operations ceased, the villagers turned back towards coconut plantations for copra, a significant

cash crop used in the extraction of coconut oil. However, the Rhinoceros beetle has remained and continues to spoil crop production. Giant African snails have also eaten up crops such as cassava, sweet potatoes and greens. The Government has not sent pest controllers to deal with the situation or to advise communities on how to protect their crops from invasive species.

### **3.3 Rights of women and children**

#### *Impacts of logging-related flooding*

27. In Tamboko (Guadalcanal Island), flash floods, caused or worsened by past logging activities, continue to endanger children even years after the exploitation has ceased. Two children (aged 3 and 12) have died in recent years due to sudden floods while playing by the river. Flooding also disrupts access to education, as school infrastructure is often damaged and poorly maintained, while flooded roads frequently interrupt school transport services.

#### *Early marriage and stigmatisation of girls*

28. Girls as young as 13 years old have been coerced into relationships or “log marriages” with foreign workers in logging or mining operations. Girls suffer domestic violence and become financially dependent on their partners.<sup>xx</sup> When the partners leave, the girls are alienated from their communities. They are blamed for their choices, and although they remain in the village, they often struggle to marry local men afterwards. This persistent marginalisation has, in some cases, led to suicide.

29. Working as “house girls” or in informal employment for foreign mining workers is also a common practice, which has led to the commercial sexual exploitation of girls and young women.<sup>xxi</sup> In Havihua village (Santa Isabel Island), teenage pregnancies have been reported. Children in the village have borne the brunt of these unions, as they are left without a father and are not accepted by the village community. Girls see such arrangements as an employment opportunity, and do not realise their ramifications. They are often required to work long hours as domestic servants, which has also had an impact on their health. These relationships and the dynamics that accompany them have contributed to the erosion of community cohesion. The community also reported seeing underage girls from other islands in the mining area, who appear to have been coerced into moving. It is presumed that they are married to the miners and followed them to the mining site.

#### *Domestic violence*

30. In most communities, alcohol abuse was already a concern before the arrival of logging or mining operations, but local employment has intensified consumption. This has contributed to a rise in domestic violence, with women, girls, and children suffering abuse from husbands, fathers, uncles, grandfathers, other male relatives and foreign workers. While shelters for victims exist, reaching them remains difficult due to long distances and the risk of being intercepted by the abuser while reaching the shelter. Most shelters are run by Catholic congregations, and very few are government-owned. In Havihua village (Santa Isabel Island), for example, victims of sexual exploitation and domestic violence have sought support and counselling at a nearby refuge in Kolohavi village run by the Community of the Sisters of the Church.

### 3.4 Right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment

31. Community interviews reveal the consequences of logging and mining operations, which sometimes persist long after they have ended, alongside the severe and lasting consequences of mining activities.

#### *Pollution and contamination*

32. Logging operations have significant impacts on drinking water. Sources of freshwater are polluted by soil erosion and contamination, and oil spills. Leaks from logging vehicles seep into the ground, damaging crops and ecosystems. In Sualakwe Central Kwara'ae, Malaita Island), an oil spill wiped out swamp taro gardens, while similar contamination has damaged mangroves. Water pipes and wells are also damaged during road construction and felling activities.<sup>xxii</sup>
33. Air quality also deteriorates during logging operations. The heavy traffic of large logging trucks raises dust along unpaved roads. On Guadalcanal Island, a school run by Dominican sisters is exposed daily to this dust as trucks pass along the road beside its playground. This not only poses health concerns for the children but also raises safety risks given the school's proximity to the traffic. The increase in vehicle traffic and nighttime operations creates additional noise pollution, disturbing the daily lives of nearby communities.
34. Rivers suffer some of the most visible and long-lasting damage. In the Tamboko, Paru, Veranaáso, and Chapukake rivers on Guadalcanal Island, the water remains muddy, several years after logging ended. Two companies had logging operations in the area – Gallego Resource Limited and Green Forest. Local populations, particularly children, continue to report skin irritations after bathing. Many observed the beginning of these skin issues with the arrival of logging companies. Yet, there has been no government intervention to restore water quality.
35. Logging also causes toxic runoff when certain poisonous tree species are cut near riverbanks. Sawdust and plant toxins wash into streams, contaminating the water, killing fish, and posing health risks to people who rely on these rivers for their daily needs.
36. Mining activities, such as the Kolosori Nickel Project on Isabel Island, have similarly severe environmental impacts. Only nickel is removed, leaving behind large quantities of limonite, which are washed into rivers during rainfall. High concentrations of limonite kill plants and mangroves. An investigation by Isabel Provincila Health Services at the Kolosori mine found that the sediment buffer set up by the company was ineffective, leading to toxic discharge and oil spills from the mine into the ocean.<sup>xxiii</sup> The community in Havihua village reports skin rashes after bathing in rivers near the mining site. They say that despite these health concerns, neither the government nor the company have acted to address the issue. In some cases, water quality assessments have been conducted, but communities have not been informed of the results.
37. Air pollution is equally a concern with mining exploitation because of the smoke and dust that settles on vegetation, affecting air quality and plants. The constant noise from heavy machinery and mineral-loading ships disrupts the community in Havihua village, particularly affecting the sleep of children. Communities have also observed negative impacts on marine ecosystems, and the nickel stored near villages poses further environmental and health risks.

38. Communities report that medicinal plants and herbs have been destroyed in mining and logging areas, impacting traditional knowledge and the availability of local resources. In remote areas, where medical support is not readily available, this has had a significant impact on the right to access healthcare.

#### *Alteration of rivers and coastal areas*

39. Logging operations often bring lasting damage to natural systems, reshaping coastlines and river environments in ways that directly threaten the communities. Inland, logging disrupts the natural flow of rivers, often reducing water levels drastically both during and after operations. Deep pools are filled in, while riverbeds become shallower. This loss of habitat leads to a decrease in fish and prawn populations that communities rely on for food. In some cases, the course of the river is altered forever, and muddy waters can persist for years after logging has ended.

40. Along a coastal area in Malaita Island, a logging company has constructed a drainage channel from the sea to its logging camp. During high tides, seawater flows back through the channel, flooding nearby communities' crop gardens. This has permanently impacted soil fertility, making it impossible to grow crops.

#### *Lack of reforestation*

41. Logging companies rarely undertake reforestation, leaving vast areas without any natural cover. Mining exploitation also leaves the ground bare. Without trees to anchor the soil, even light rains can trigger flash floods and landslides, putting communities living near rivers at risk. Streams dry out more quickly, while the absence of shade raises water temperatures, presenting a risk to aquatic life. These changes disrupt entire ecosystems, leaving communities to face the long-term consequences of logging and mining activities, with the government taking no action to address these issues. Communities in Paru, Marovovo, and Verahue (Guadalcanal Island) have reported that workers in logging operations have observed that the drains dug by tractors towing logs are responsible for heavier flooding during intense rainfall in hilly, forested areas.

42. The government recognises the significant environmental damage caused by logging and mining activities. In its third Nationally Determined Contributions (2025–2035), it acknowledges that “Environmental degradation is evident in areas that have hosted or are currently hosting economic activities such as logging and mining”.<sup>xxiv</sup>

### **3.5 Impacts of climate change on human rights**

43. The Solomon Islands is a low-lying Pacific nation comprising more than 900 islands. Rural communities depend heavily on fisheries, agriculture, and other marine resources, making them highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Key threats include rising sea levels, more intense cyclones and storms, and ocean acidification. Sea-level rise is one of the most pressing challenges. Many low-lying islands stand only 1 to 2 metres above sea level, meaning even minor increases can trigger severe coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and flooding.<sup>xxv</sup> With around 90% of Solomon Islanders relying on fishing and subsistence farming, the consequences of rising seas are particularly devastating.

44. Women and girls are among the most affected by climate change. As primary caregivers and food providers, they heavily depend on natural resources, such as mangroves, for their daily needs and livelihoods. However, these ecosystems are increasingly being degraded by logging, mining, and the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, such as cyclones and rising sea levels. The latter alter mangrove habitat for shellfish and crabs, and these tend to decline in numbers and are more difficult to find. Mangroves also form a natural barrier that protects coastal communities from cyclones and rising sea levels. As these ecosystems are degraded, the impacts of climate change become even more severe. There are currently no formal policies addressing mangrove protection. However, the government and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) have collaboratively worked on a proposed policy framework, which is soon to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.<sup>xxvi</sup>
45. Climate change is also threatening the cultural rights of Solomon Islanders. Rising sea levels have already led to the loss of burial sites and cultural heritage areas, while relocations, such as the proposed relocation of the entire community of Taro Island to a neighbouring, larger Choiseul Island, risk disrupting community cohesion and identity. Traditional knowledge systems are also at risk. For example, the degradation of mangroves in the Marovo Lagoon undermines cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.<sup>xxvii</sup>

#### **4. Recommendations to the Government of the Solomon Islands**

1. Immediately pass into law the Forests Bill 2004, pending with the Attorney General's Office since 2020, to replace the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act of 1969.
2. Ensure that the current system of benefit-sharing between logging companies and other parties is replaced by a more equitable split as outlined in the Forests Bill 2004.
3. Hold inclusive consultations with local communities and civil society organisations on the Mineral Resources Bill 2025, with a view to removing controversial provisions such as the removal of the requirement of landowner representation on the Minerals Board.
4. Ensure businesses engaged in logging and mining operations respect human rights, including by instituting mandatory human rights due diligence to ensure that adverse human rights impacts, including abuses related to the right to food and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, are prevented. Where abuses do occur, ensure that effective remedies are available.
5. Provide sufficient human and financial resources to the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, the Ministry of Forestry and Research, and the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, and ensure that they collaborate effectively to guarantee that logging and mining activities are conducted in line with relevant national and international standards.
6. Build and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology so that it can conduct robust and effective environmental impact assessments, including through site visits by independent experts and consistent monitoring throughout the lifespan of logging and mining operations.
7. Ensure that the principle of Free, Prior and Informed consent (FPIC) is upheld throughout all stages of logging and mining operations, with an emphasis on

ensuring that communities, including women and youth, are consulted before the granting of logging or mining licenses and can exercise their 'Right to Say No' during any phase of operations.

8. Address gender-based violence, commercial child sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the logging and mining industries by amending the Islanders' Marriage and Divorce Act to raise the legal marriage age to 18, establishing a complaint mechanism accessible to victims at the provincial level, and providing adequate funding for support, counselling and rehabilitation services for victims.
9. Provide restitution for communities facing soil degradation due to logging and mining activities, as well as adequate training in new farming methods to ensure they can maintain a similar level of food harvest and standard of living.
10. Ensure that communities on the frontlines are provided with solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, including by improving infrastructure to reduce flooding, enhancing early warning systems and restoring coral reefs, mangroves and forests through reforestation programmes.

---

<sup>i</sup> 104.68 Take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure that the use of exploitation of natural resources, in particular logging, do not adversely affect the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of local communities (Slovenia) - *supported*; 104.69 Protect human rights against abuses and environmental degradation by logging companies and ensure effective remedies when abuses have occurred (Slovenia) - *supported*; 104.70 That all forest exploitation projects include prior and informed consultation with the concerned local and indigenous communities, as well as a report on the environmental and human rights impact, specifically in the area of the rights to water and sanitation (Spain) - *supported*; 104.71 Take further measures to prevent and mitigate the human rights violations caused by business activities (Timor-Leste) - *supported*; 104.73 Ensure the conservation and protection of fragile habitats against deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen sustainable forest management practices to protect human rights related to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Canada) - *supported*; 104.136 Take the necessary measures to ensure that no child under the age of 18 is engaged in hazardous labour, including in the agriculture, logging, tourism and fishing industries (Morocco) - *noted*; 104.141 Take additional steps to address the sexual exploitation of children, particularly within logging camps (Bahamas) - *supported*; 104.142 Investigate reported cases of child abuse, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, and reported cases of exploitation of girls in the logging and tourism industry, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana) *supported*.

<sup>ii</sup> Solomon Islands, Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act 1969 (Cap. 116), accessed August 5, 2025, <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sol65423.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Solomon Islands, Environment Act 1998 (No. 7 of 1998), accessed August 5, 2025, <https://parliament.gov.sb/sites/default/files/legislation/Acts/1998/The%20Environment%20Act%201998.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> United States Institute of Peace, The Unsustainable Exploitation of Solomon Islands' Natural Resources, November 30, 2023, accessed September 25, 2025, [The Unsustainable Exploitation of Solomon Islands' Natural Resources | United States Institute of Peace](#)

<sup>v</sup> Solomon Islands, *Forests Act 1999* (June 1999), accessed August 5, 2025, <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sol18884.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Solomon Business Magazine, Challenges in the Logging Industry in Solomon Islands, June 26, 2021, accessed September 25, 2025, [CHALLENGES IN THE LOGGING INDUSTRY IN SOLOMON ISLANDS — Solomon Business Magazine](#)

<sup>vii</sup> Solomon Islands, Forests Bill 2004, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://parliament.gov.sb/files/legislation/Bills/2004/The%20Forests%20Bill%202004.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> The Island Sun, Forestry bill in final drafting stage at attorney general chambers, November 13, 2023, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://theislandsun.com.sb/forestry-bill-in-final-drafting-stage->

---

[at-attorney-general-chambers/](#)

<sup>ix</sup> Information shared by Mr Rodrick Holness, Executive President, Solomon Islands Climate Action Network (SICAN). He specialises in representing communities affected by logging operations in litigation against companies.

<sup>x</sup> Solomon Islands, Mines and Minerals Act 1990 (No. 3 of 1990), accessed August 5, 2025, <https://parliament.gov.sb/sites/default/files/legislation/Acts/1990/The%20Mines%20and%20Minerals%20Act%201990.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> Solomon Islands, Mineral Resources Bill 2023, accessed September 25, 2025, [Mineral-Resources-Bill-2023-Explanatory-Memorandum-FINAL-280823-post-Cabinet-1.pdf](#)

<sup>xii</sup> Information shared by Mr Ben Bilua, Journalist, Solomon Islands Human Rights Measurement Initiative Ambassador and Pacific Islands Human Rights Defender Alumni. He is the founder of the Indigenous Human Rights Solomon Islands (IHRSI), with a specific focus on documenting the loss of biodiversity due to logging and mining.

<sup>xiii</sup> Solomon Islands, Mineral Resources Bill 2025 (no. 2), accessed September 25, 2025, [https://icaad.ngo/pdfviewer/mineral-resources-bill-2025-solomon-islands/?auto\\_viewer=true#page=&zoom=page-width&pagemode=none](https://icaad.ngo/pdfviewer/mineral-resources-bill-2025-solomon-islands/?auto_viewer=true#page=&zoom=page-width&pagemode=none)

<sup>xiv</sup> Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, Communities Urged to Engage in Consultations on Proposed Mining Law, June 17, 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://www.sibconline.com.sb/communities-urged-to-engage-in-consultations-on-proposed-mining-law/>

<sup>xv</sup> Solomon Star, Concerns over new Minerals Bill, May 29, 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://www.solomonstarnews.com/concerns-over-new-minerals-bill/>; ICAAD, What Happens When Communities Are Left Out, June 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://icaad.ngo/2025/06/17/what-happens-when-communities-are-left-out/>

<sup>xvi</sup> Global Forest Watch, Solomon Islands Dashboard, accessed September 25, 2025, [Solomon Islands Deforestation Rates & Statistics | GFW](#)

<sup>xvii</sup> CEDAW/C/SLB/CO/4-5, Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Solomon Islands, July 10, 2025, p. 6., accessed September 25, 2025, <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/SLB/CO/4-5>

<sup>xviii</sup> The Island Sun, Kolosori Nickel starts drilling, June 10, 2021, accessed September 25, 2025, [Kolosori Nickel starts drilling | TheIslandsun](#)

<sup>xix</sup> ICAAD, Mining and Community Power in the Solomon Islands, 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, [Toolkit: Mining and Community Power in the Solomon Islands : ICAAD](#)

<sup>xx</sup> ABC News Australia, Logging in Solomon Islands sees women 'sold' into relationships with foreign workers, October 18, 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-19/logging-in-solomon-islands-sees-women-sold-into-marriage/104488276>

<sup>xxi</sup> IOM, A situational analysis of the nexus between Gender-Based Violence, Trafficking in Persons and the logging industry in Solomon Islands, November 2023, accessed September 25, 2025, [https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1671/files/documents/2023-11/solomon-island-report\\_fa\\_pws\\_v2.pdf](https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1671/files/documents/2023-11/solomon-island-report_fa_pws_v2.pdf)

<sup>xxii</sup> International Forestry Review, Vol 25 (S1), 2023, 'Our happy hour became a hungry hour': logging, subsistence and social relations in Solomon Islands, accessed September 25, 2025, ['Our happy hour became a hungry hour': logging, subsistence and social relations in Solomon Islands](#)

<sup>xxiii</sup> The Island Sun, Mining's Silent Wave: The hidden impact on marine resources and coastal communities, October 19, 2025, accessed September 25, 2025, [Mining's Silent Wave: The hidden impact on marine resources and coastal communities | TheIslandsun](#)

<sup>xxiv</sup> Solomon Islands, Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0, 2025-2035, Government of the Solomon Islands, accessed September 25, 2025, [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-08/Solomon%20Islands%20NDC3.0\\_0.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-08/Solomon%20Islands%20NDC3.0_0.pdf), p. 6.

<sup>xxv</sup> Information provided by Dr. Mary Tahu, lecturer at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) during a meeting on 26.05.2025

<sup>xxvi</sup> Ibid

<sup>xxvii</sup> Ibid