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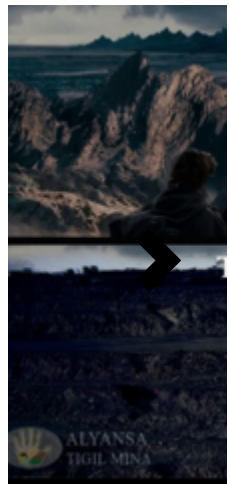
Last update:

2022-03-29

Nickel mining in Manicani Island, The Philippines



(<https://file.ejatlas.org/img/Conflict/5858/manicani.png>)



After more than 15 years of mining ban, residents' claims for rehabilitation and permanent closure of operations, Hinatuan Mining Corporation (subsidiary of Nickel Asia) gains in 2022 permits for mining and transport.

AR (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=ar>) CN (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=cn>) EN (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=en>) ES (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=es>) FR (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=fr>) IT (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=it>) TR (</conflict/nickel-mining-in-manicani-island/?translate=tr>)

▼ Description:

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The Manicani Islas is a part of the Guiuan Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape under Presidential Proclamation No. 469, series of 1994. [3] Hinatuan Mining Corporation (HMC), an affiliate of Nickel Asia Corp., the country's largest producer of lateritic nickel and one of the largest in the world, had a license by The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to mine nickel in Manicani Island. In May 1, 2001, HMC's operation and Ore Transport Permit (OPT) was cancelled by the DENR due to the protest of the residents. More than 300 people barricaded in to block the entry of HMC personnel to avoid the transport of the stockpile of nickel out of the island [5]. Protest actions ended in one local protester killed and 3 seriously wounded by the security forces of HMC [5].

Nevertheless, the disposal of the nickel ore stockpile continued thanks to an Ore Transport Permit (OTP) to the HMC, allowing the shipment of 62,000 metric tons of nickel ore to China [1]. Residents organized several marches and rallies under the movement Protect Manicani Island

Inc. (PROMISI), joined by some local church leaders. They called for the permanent closure of any mining operation in the island claiming that mining does not bring economic progress to the area but has damaged farms, sources of water, and marine life [2]. Concretely, mining operations have aggravated the heavy siltation of their coastal areas, the destruction of coral reefs and decline of fish catch [5]. But on October 2017, the Eastern Samar Provincial Board issued a resolution supporting the renewal of the HMC's mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) and the lifting of the suspension of mining operations on the island [2]. The company stated that four barangays on the island, the municipality of Guiuan and provincial government endorsed the project and that the detractors of the project were "very much a minority" [6]

In 2021, PROMISI and other activists that camped out in DENR in 2017, urged that the discussion in PAMB to focus on the rehabilitation of Manicani Island as part of the Guiuan Protected Area. They staged a silent

protest outside the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in Barangay Lactason, Guiuan. Immediately, the Bishop of Borongan, issued a Pastoral letter expressing his disappointment with the removal of the moratorium on new mining projects in the Philippines in the face of the pandemic. [7]

Nevertheless, on 12 March 2022, Environment Secretary gave the green light to Hinatuan three months after it lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining.[4]

Hinatuan currently operates the Tagana-an mine in Tagana-an, Surigao Del Norte. NIKL's three other operating mines are Rio Tuba Nickel Mining in Bataraza, Palawan; Taganito Mining in Claver, also in Surigao Del Norte; and Cagdianao Mining in the neighbouring Dinagat Island[4]. Manicani island lies slightly to the north of the Dinagat island.

(See less)

▼ Basic Data

Name of conflict:

Nickel mining in Manicani Island, The Philippines

Country:

Philippines (/country/philippines)
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State or province:

Samar Oriental

Location of conflict:

Manicani Island, Guiuan

Accuracy of location

MEDIUM (Regional level)

▼ Source of Conflict

Type of conflict. 1st level:

Mineral Ores and Building Materials Extraction

Type of conflict. 2nd level:

Mineral ore exploration

Transport infrastructure networks (roads, railways, hydroways, canals and pipelines)

Pollution related to transport (spills, dust, emissions)

Specific commodities:

Nickel

▼ Project Details and Actors

Project details

On May 17, 2016, Nonita Caguioa, (OTP) to the HMC, allowing the from the existing stockpile.[1]
MGB's Regional Director for Region shipment of 62,000 metric tons of
VIII, gave an Ore Transport Permit nickel ore to China, also sourced *See more*

Project area:

1,165[4]

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4,009,900 [5]
Rural
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Start of the conflict:

1991

Company names or state enterprises:

Hinatuan Mining Corporation ((HMC)) (/company/hinatuan-mining-corporation) from Philippines (/country-of-company/philippines)

Nickel Asia (/company/nickel-asia) from Philippines (/country-of-company/philippines)

Relevant government actors:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)

Environmental justice organizations (and other supporters) and their websites, if available:

Alyansa Tigil Mina.

Protect Manicani Island Inc. (PROMISI) formerly Save Manicani Movement (SAMAMO).

United Manicani Community in Metro Manila, Inc.,

SANLAKAS,

ATM,

PMCJ,

SENTRO,

CEED,

LRC,

and the Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI).

Katutubong Lilak.

Sites-of-Struggle Yamang Bayan

▼ Conflict & Mobilization

Intensity

MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)

Reaction stage

Mobilization for reparations once impacts have been felt

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Groups mobilizing:

Local ejos
Neighbours/citizens/communities
Social movements
Women
Religious groups
Indigenous women group Katutubong Lilak

Forms of mobilization:

Artistic and creative actions (eg guerilla theatre, murals)
Blockades
Creation of alternative reports/knowledge
Development of a network/collective action
Involvement of national and international NGOs
Official complaint letters and petitions
Public campaigns
Street protest/marches
Arguments for the rights of mother nature
In 2017, An art installation entitled "IMAHEGRASYON" was displayed at the National Science Complex lobby in UP, Diliman featuring the plight of Manicani residents as they protested in front of the DENR Central office against open-pit mining. (See [9])

▼ Impacts

Environmental Impacts

Visible: Floods (river, coastal, mudflow), Surface water pollution / Decreasing water (physico-chemical, biological) quality, Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity), Food insecurity (crop damage), Loss of landscape/aesthetic degradation, Soil erosion, Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover, Groundwater pollution or depletion, Large-scale disturbance of hydro and geological systems, Reduced ecological / hydrological connectivity
Potential: Soil contamination, Mine tailing spills

Health Impacts

Potential: Exposure to unknown or uncertain complex risks (radiation, etc...), Malnutrition

Socio-economical Impacts

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Outcome
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Project Status

In operation

Conflict outcome / response:

Court decision (failure for environmental justice)

Proposal and development of alternatives:

Residents of Manicani island in Guiuan town, led by the women and children of Protect Manicani Island Society, Inc. (PROMISI) planted native trees to rehabilitate denuded areas by y mining operations of Hinatuan Mining Corporation (HMC). [8]

Do you consider this an environmental justice success? Was environmental justice served?:

No

Briefly explain:

Environment Secretary gave the green light to Hinatuan three months after it lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining[4]

▼ Sources & Materials

References to published books, academic articles, movies or published documentaries

Olga G. Corales-Ultra, Reynaldo P. Peja, Eulito V. Casas, 2019 . Baseline study on the levels of heavy metals in seawater and macroalgae near an abandoned mine in Manicani, Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines. Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 149,

[click to view] (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2019.110549>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X19306939>))

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[1]Rappler, 2016. Eastern Samar residents protest nickel hauling in Manicani Island (Date accessed: March28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://www.rappler.com/nation/135804-protest-nickel-hauling-eastern-samar/>)

[2]CBCPNews, 2017. Protests erupt over Manicani mining permit renewal (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://cbcnews.net/cbcnews/protests-erupt-over-manicani-mining-permit-renewal/>)

[3]PMPI, 2017. PMPI Statement on Manicani Island Residents camp out in DENR against Mining (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://pmpi.org.ph/pmpi-statement-on-manicani-island-residents-camp-out-in-denr-against-mining/>)

[4]Bilyonaryo, 2022. MPSA in protected reserve extended for 15 years: DENR allows Manny Zamora's Nickel Asia to resume open pit mining in Manicani Island after 20-year suspension (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://www.bilyonaryo.com/2022/03/16/mpsa-extended-15-years-denr-allows-manny-zamoras-nickel-asia-to-resume-open-pit-mining-in-manicani-island-after-20-year-suspension1/>)

[6]Nickel Asia Corp., 2017. Manicani Island residents support Responsible Mining (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://nickelasia.com/bulletin/manicani-island-residents-support-responsible-mining>)

[8]Este News, 2018. Manicani residents initiate island rehab (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<http://esteneews.org/manicani-residents-initiate-island-rehab/>)

Related media links to videos, campaigns, social network

[5]Petition: No to Mining in Manicani Island! (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/no-to-mining-in-manicani-island/>)

[9]ESTE News, 2017. Art exhibit features plight of Manicani residents Vs mining. An art installation entitled "IMAHEGRASYON" was displayed at the National Science Complex lobby in UP, Diliman featuring the plight of Manicani residents as they continue their protest in front of the DENR Central office against open-pit mining. (Date accessed: march28, 2022)
[click to view] (<http://esteneews.org/art-exhibit-features-plight-of-manicani-residents-vs-mining/>)

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Conflict ID:

5858

▼ Related conflicts

Rio Tuba and Coral Bay nickel mining and processing in Palawan, Philippines (/conflict/rio-tuba-mining-corporation)

Taganito Mining Corporation's Nickel Operations, Surigao del Norte, Philippines (/conflict/taganito-mining-corporations-nickel-mine-surigao-del-nortephilippines)

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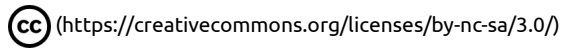
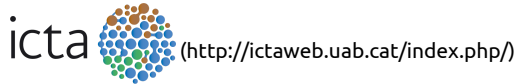
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