

Case Summary

Assam Solar Project India

In October 2024, the ADB approved a USD 435 million loan and a USD 1 million technical assistance project to support the construction of a solar photovoltaic plant in Assam, India. The community [opposed the project](#) due to the threat of wide scale displacement – affecting more than 20,000 Indigenous Karbi, Naga and Adivasi communities – alongside the loss of livelihood, customary land, and biodiversity (with particular risks for bamboo forests and elephants). The project was approved without ensuring the communities' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Consultations were held in only nine out of 23 impacted villages and excluded thousands of people from the process. To resist it, the community established the Karbi Anglong Solar Power Project Affected People's Rights Committee, sent public petitions to local authorities, filed a complaint with the Compliance Review Panel of the ADB, engaged with the Bank's management, and organized protests and press conferences. Thanks to the communities' sustained resistance, in May 2025, the ADB [cancelled](#) its loan. However, other private sector actors have now signed an agreement to develop the [project](#).

Reprisals

- Police threatened community organizers, elders and traditional village leaders.
- Police officers coerced some community members into accepting compensation to stop them from opposing the project.
- Police prevented certain community meetings from taking place, visited activists' homes to intimidate them, and physically assaulted them during community meetings.
- Smear campaigns were carried out against the community.