

Case Summary

Chana Waste-to-Energy Project

Thailand

ADB approved the Southern Thailand Waste-to-Energy Project, providing a USD 33.6 million loan to Gulf Chana Green Company Ltd., a subsidiary of Gulf Energy Development, to build a 25-megawatts biomass WTE plant in Chana district, Songkhla, Thailand. In 2018, [the impacted communities filed a case](#) against the company and relevant government institutions. The communities argued that the project was unlawful due to the lack of information disclosure regarding public consultations, trespassing on public lands, the inappropriate project location – which would pollute agricultural lands and a school – and the absence of due process. This WTE project is part of the government’s plan to transform Chana into an [industrial zone](#). Communities affected by the Chana Industrial Project have been [excluded](#) from decision-making processes, as they have not been consulted, their demands are not being heard, and they have failed to benefit from these so-called “development” projects. In response, communities have mobilized by filing legal cases, conducting their own assessments, and protesting outside government buildings.

Reprisals

- While there were no reported cases of reprisals specifically linked to the WTE component, community members involved in the broader resistance to the Chana industrial project were targeted with attacks. This created a climate of fear and a chilling effect that deterred other community members from raising their concerns.
- In July 2020, before public hearings around the Chana industrial project, community members known to oppose the broader industrial project were [visited and intimidated](#) by security forces.
- In 2021, residents of Chana assembled outside Thai government buildings in Bangkok to peacefully protest the Chana Industrial Project (of which the WTE plant is a part of). This led to the [arrest and intimidation](#) of 36 community members.