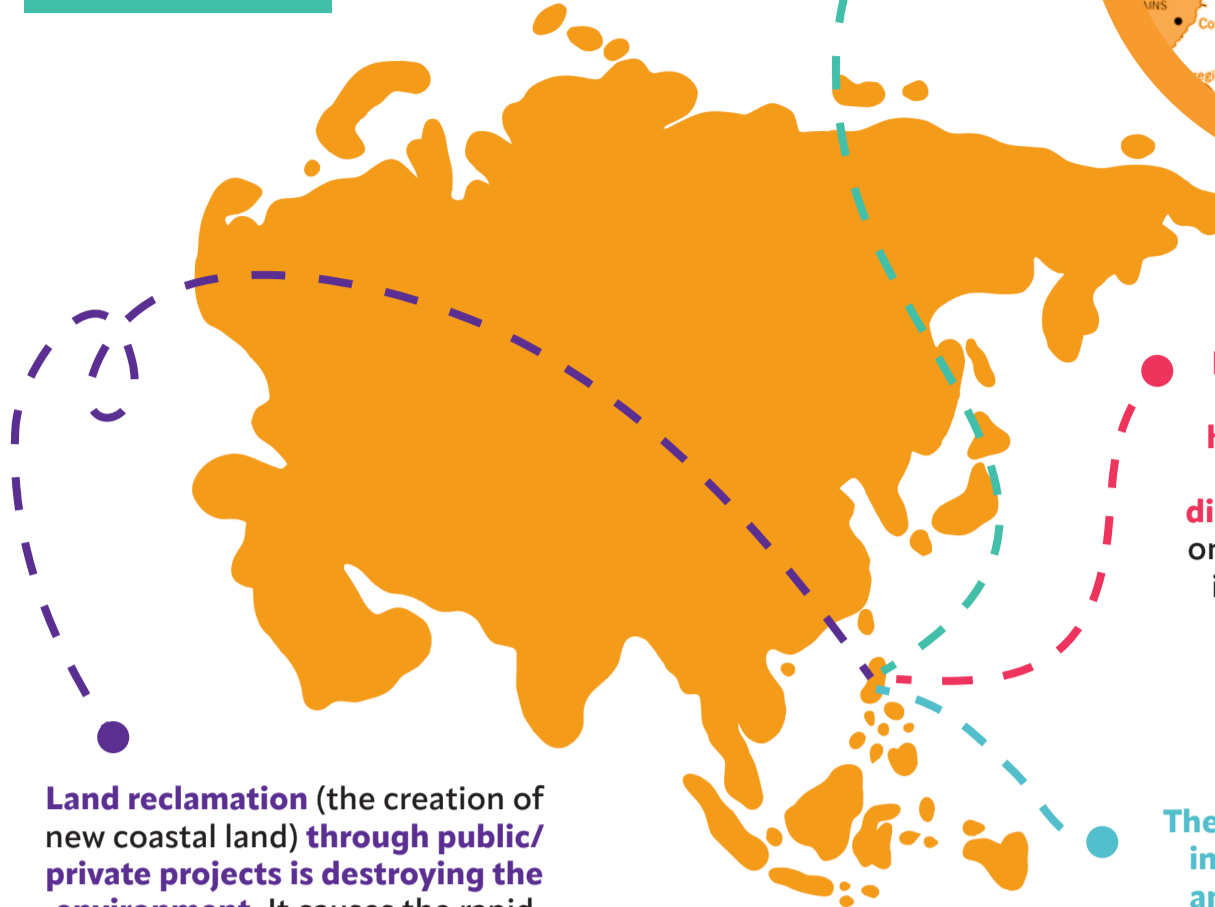
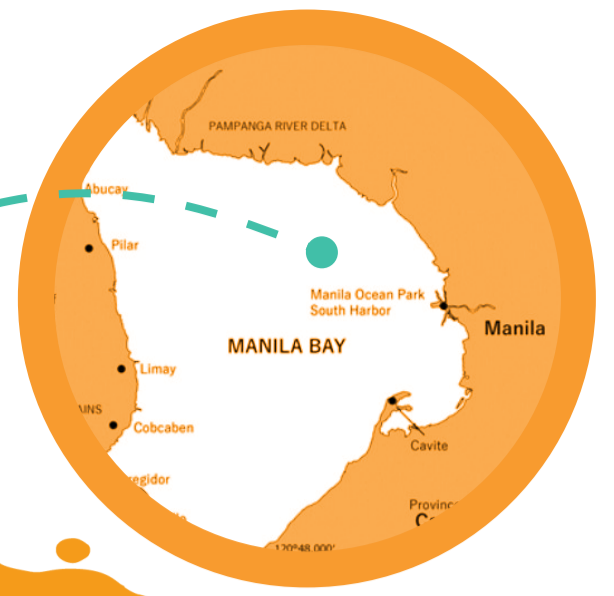


MANILA BAY



The information in this brief has been provided by **PAMALAKAYA-Pilipinas**, the largest federation of small fisherfolk organizations in the Philippines. WIMN values their voice and notes that all the inputs come from this organization and its constituencies.

Land reclamation (the creation of new coastal land) through public/private projects is **destroying the environment**. It causes the rapid overflow of water and prolonged flooding; the intensification of storm surges; the decline of fish stock and the loss of marine biodiversity.

Entire communities of fisherfolk on the Manila Bay coast have lost their livelihoods and over 2,700 people have been displaced. Women fisherfolk take on extra burdens to secure family income and to avoid having to leave their homes.

They have become leaders in the anti-reclamation and pro-climate justice movements – asserting their roles in the protection of their communities, livelihoods and the environment. In return, the police and military forces are attacking and harassing them.

LOSS OF LIVELIHOODS DUE TO "DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" PROVOKES DISPLACEMENT

BACKGROUND ON THE RESISTANCE OF FILIPINO FISHERFOLK



1 Navotas is the fishing capital of the Philippines and mussel farming is one of the biggest industries. The region used to have wooden structures in the sea where mussels were breeding. **Thousands of families relied on them for their livelihoods.**

2 On March 16, 2024 the local government illegally demolished these structures to make way for a 650-hectare reclamation project by the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) that will serve as a gateway for the New Manila International Airport.

3 Thousands of mussel farmers were left jobless within a week and without proper compensation. **Women face double exploitation—both as members of a marginalized sector and as women, dealing with economic insecurity and gendered labor inequalities.**

4 Women fisherfolk are rallying and petitioning the courts to demand that their livelihood be restored. They are organising, building alliances with other movements and spreading the news about these projects.

"The reclamation projects took our livelihood away."



"The resources that benefit thousands of people are captured and converted into profit for just a few."

ORGANISED FISHERFOLK COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

INVITE OUR SOLIDARITY TO:

- Demand** President Marcos Jr. issue a moratorium on all reclamation and dredging projects and review the environmental compliance certificates of all 22-reclamation projects in the area.
- Demand** companies be held accountable for human rights violations and ecological destruction and compensate communities for lost and affected livelihood.
- Urge** the Philippine government to conduct a transparent and inclusive Manila Bay-wide human rights audit alongside its ongoing cumulative impact assessment.
- Demand** the end of harassment, illegal arrest and abduction of environmental and human rights defenders and justice and accountability for the perpetrators.
- Strengthen** alliances to expose and challenge the dangers of reclamation, dredging, and conversion projects to the environment and to the people.

Produced by **Women in Migration Network** with **PAMALAKAYA-Pilipinas**, drawing from the resistance of the fisherfolk around Manila bay.

