WWF

STOP DEEP SEABED MINING

BEFORE INDUSTRY WIPES OUT PARTS OF THE PLANET WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT.

ENOUGH GAMBLING WITH THE HEALTH OF THE OCEAN.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is working on global rules covering deep seabed mining, which might be finalised as soon as 2023. If the industry proceeds, the intensity and methods of deep seabed mining could remove entire habitats, species and the services they provide.

This is a risk that we simply can't afford to take. With our ocean already under major strain from overexploitation, the last thing we need is a new threat to ocean life. The consequences could very well be irreversible for the ocean and humanity.

The deep seabed mining industry would have you believe that its activities are paving the way towards a sustainable future. Read on to find out why that's not the case.

QUICK PROFITS, LONG TERM RISKS & INEQUITY

The deep seabed mining industry stands to reap profits that will disproportionately benefit a few states and a handful of large businesses. **If large-scale extraction goes ahead, it could disrupt a much wider ocean economy valued at US$1.5-2.4 trillion annually.** That would put poor coastal communities on the losing end of the deal, exposing coastal food sources to new risks. This just isn't fair.[1]

[1] Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Tanzer, J., Gamblin, P. & Burgener, V. 2015. Reviving the Ocean Economy: the case for action. WWF International, Gland, Switzerland; OECD. 2016. The Ocean Economy in 2030. OECD, Paris, France

ABYSMAL SCIENTIFIC GAPS

We know less about the deep seabed than we know about the moon. And yet, a new extractive industry is intent to scrape off millions of km^2 from this fragile ecosystem. The consequences could be dramatic. Many species living in the deep sea are found nowhere else; disturbances in just one mining site could wipe out entire species.

According to scientists, closing the scientific gaps related to deep seabed mining would be a "monumental task". **In fact, over 650 scientists have said no to the industry because there isn't enough rigorous scientific information available concerning deep sea species and ecosystems.[2]**

[2] Amon et al. (2022) Assessment of scientific gaps related to the effective environmental management of deep-seabed mining. Marine Policy

WRONG PATH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Using destructive and damaging extracting technologies far away in the deep sea to power the renewable energy revolution makes no sense. **We don't need minerals from the deep sea. In fact, the minerals we need are all around us.** We just need to be smarter about recovering/repurposing them to fuel the renewables sector.

1,000 SPECIES
discovered in a 30km^2 area of abyssal plain allocated for deep seabed mining

90%
of recently studied deep ocean animal species are new to science

1.2 MILLION KM^2
area of ocean floor already licensed for mining by the ISA

Governments have a shrinking window of time to push for a moratorium on deep seabed mining, and to let the science speak. Failing that, they'll be complicit to the accelerated demise of the ocean.

GROWING MOMENTUM AGAINST DEEP SEABED MINING

From some of the largest brands in the world, to civil society movements, from global leaders and parliamentarians to leading scientists.

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

650+
MARINE EXPERTS
have opposed deep seabed mining

SOURCE

> *The rush to mine this pristine and unexplored environment risks creating terrible impacts that cannot be reversed. We need to be guided by science when faced with decisions of such great environmental consequence.*
>
> – Sir David Attenborough

81
GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES

577+
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

voted for a moratorium at the IUCN world conservation congress

SOURCE

> *Deep-sea mining will have direct impacts that we can easily predict as well as possible indirect impacts that may be much harder to forecast. Overall, given the connected nature of the ocean, the footprint of deep-sea mining could extend way beyond the actual mining operation.*
>
> – Dr. Diva Amon
>
> *Deep sea biologist*

> *How can we in our right minds say 'let's go mining' without knowing what the risks are? We believe it is not worth the risk.*
>
> – Surangel Whipps
>
> *President of Palau*

PARLIAMENTARY OCEAN CHAMPIONS
are united in calling for a moratorium on deep seabed mining

SOURCE

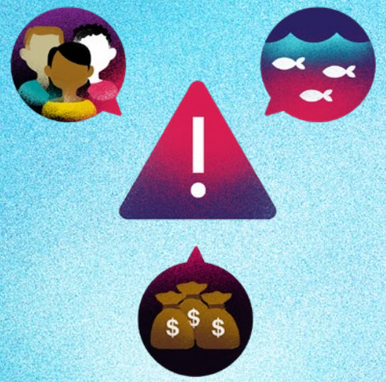
> *There are currently insufficient scientific findings to be able to assess the environmental risks of deep-sea mining. For this reason, raw materials from deep-sea mining are not an option for the BMW Group at the present time.*
>
> – Patrick Hudde
>
> *Head of Supply Chain Sustainability and Indirect Purchasing Raw Materials Management, BMW Group*

MAJOR COMPANIES AND BANKS
Renault, Volkswagen, Samsung, Philips, ABN Amro, Triodos Bank and others say no to deep seabed mining

SOURCE

> *The children and youth group recognize that we need to call for support from some member states on the need to put a moratorium on deep seabed mining [...]. It is not worth the risk, we firmly believe the cost outweighs the short-term benefits.*
>
> – Mario Galbert
>
> *Jamaican Youth delegate, co-chair of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration youth task force*

WWF WANTS A MORATORIUM ON DEEP SEABED MINING ACTIVITIES, UNLESS AND UNTIL...



1

The environmental, social and economic risks are comprehensively understood.

2

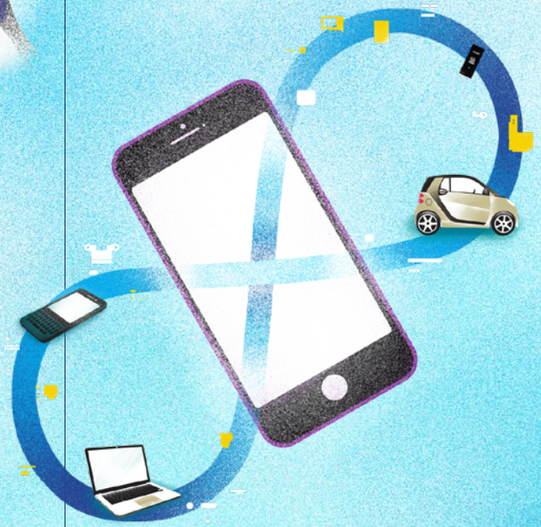
It is demonstrated that deep seabed mining does not harm the marine environment and prevents biodiversity loss.

3

Where relevant, the free, prior, informed consent of potentially affected Indigenous peoples and local communities is sought.

4

Alternative sources for the responsible production and use of the metals also found in the deep sea have been fully explored and applied.



5

Public consultation mechanisms are established and there is broad and informed public support for deep seabed mining.

6

Member States reform the International Seabed Authority to ensure a transparent, accountable, inclusive and environmentally responsible decision-making and regulatory process.

CLICK HERE TO READ WWF's FULL POSITION STATEMENT

JESSICA BATTLE
Lead No Deep Seabed Mining Initiative

THE GREEN TRANSITION DOES NOT NEED MINERALS FROM THE DEEP SEA.

Check out the smart way forward to protect people and the planet

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

For all products and materials, from extraction, use, and disposal:

- Reduce the demand for minerals
- Extend the lifetime of products and materials
- Recycle all basic materials

> *"Our target is to source 50% of metals for battery cell production from recycling by 2030*
>
> – Northvolt

RECYCLING — SUBSTITUTE FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION

- Increase collection rates
- Upscale best available techniques for mineral recovery from low-carbon technologies
- Capitalize on urban mining

TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES -30%

CIRCULAR ECONOMY -18%

WE CAN REDUCE THE MINERALS DEMAND BY

58%

RECYCLING -10%

Cumulative mineral demand: ***362Mt***

CLICK HERE TO READ
The Circular Economy and Critical Minerals for the Green Transition Report

Cumulative mineral demand: ***690Mt***

TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES

Shift to new technologies with less critical minerals:

- Electric vehicle batteries with different chemistries
- Stationary applications without lithium-ion batteries
- Electric traction motors and wind turbine generators with low or no rare earth elements

By 2050, most of the minerals needed for the green transition will be supplied by recycled minerals

RESIDUAL DEMAND

- Leverage confirmed mineral reserves, through responsible mining practices
- Invest in mineral supply from old mining sites and mining waste like tailings

SAY NO TO DEEP SEABED MINING

The risks of deep seabed mining are clear, and opposition to the industry is growing globally. The UN Environment Programme's Finance Initiative recommends that investors shun deep seabed mining.

Instead of perpetuating a linear and extractive model, it's time to be bold and innovative — and embrace the circular economy. How? By reducing demand for primary materials. Through product-life extension and materials recovery among others, governments can lead the way towards a "closed-loop" economy that works with nature, not against it.

The circular economy is not a distant vision. It's a US$4.5 trillion opportunity that is spurring more and more companies across industries to adopt circular principles to reduce costs, increase revenues, and manage risks.

The fate of millions of km^2 of deep seabed – and the countless amazing animals that live there – now lies in the hands of decision makers. These fragile ecosystems are out of sight, but no longer out of mind – and this provides our political leadership with a momentous opportunity to create a legacy that will impact generations to come.

#DEFENDTHEDEEP

wwf.panda.org/noDSM