

WE MUST PUT A STOP TO DEEP SEA MINING

PREVENT THIS ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

It is a threat to biodiversity and the ocean's natural biological carbon pump

Seldom do we have the opportunity to stop an environmental disaster before it starts. Deep Sea Mining (DSM) is one of those rare opportunities. BUT, only if we move quickly – and in great numbers. DSM may be approved by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) as early as July 2023.

The extensive and irreversible harm caused by DSM is undeniable. Entire ecosystems - many of which we have not yet even discovered - will be destroyed,

while massive sediment plumes created on the ocean floor and at the ocean surface from mining tailings dumped overboard will wreak havoc throughout the water column. Indeed, DSM could impact planetary systems involved in carbon capture and sequestration and climate regulation.

The scientific evidence is undeniable - and has been backed by over 775 marine scientists and policy experts from 44 countries

who have called for a DSM moratorium. There's practically unanimous agreement among scientists that we need more studies and understanding before we begin this needless destruction of the unknown.

Now is the time for us all to work as if our hair is on fire - or else accept responsibility for allowing this entirely preventable environmental disaster to occur on our watch.

More than 775 marine experts have called for a pause to Deep Sea Mining.





SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Deep sea mining is in direct conflict with indigenous values and spiritual connection to the deep ocean

Indigenous people of the Pacific have lived in harmony with nature for centuries, treating the ocean with respect. Now, in actions reminiscent of earlier colonial exploitations, mining interests in remote countries are seeking to exploit the Pacific for corporate profit. Pacific indigenous voices are rising up against this affront to a part of the world they view as sacred. We would do well to listen.

There has been increasing international recognition of the importance of indigenous voices. In the 2022 COP Convention on Biodiversity, it was agreed that “before deep seabed mineral exploitation activities take place... appropriate rules, regulations and procedures [should be] put in place by the International Seabed Authority, in accordance with the best available science *and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples*

and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent...”

In 2023, indigenous leaders submitted a petition to the ISA calling for a DSM ban. This was a groundbreaking event, but it marks only the beginning of this effort as indigenous people become aware of this threat and come together to stop this affront. Please join your voice with theirs.

As of September 2023, Indigenous leaders from 49 countries and 71 indigenous groups have called for a ban on Deep Sea Mining.





DON'T BE FOOLED BY MINING COMPANIES' GREENWASHING

*Deep sea mining is based on a big lie - that it is necessary for a clean energy future.
It is not.*

New battery technologies that do not use metals found in the deep sea are fast reaching large-scale commercialisation. For example, lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries are increasingly popular for Tesla and other cars, jumping from under 10% of EV global market share in 2018 to 30% in 2022. Already hugely popular in China, the technology is fast expanding to the US, with major LFP factory investments announced in several states, and

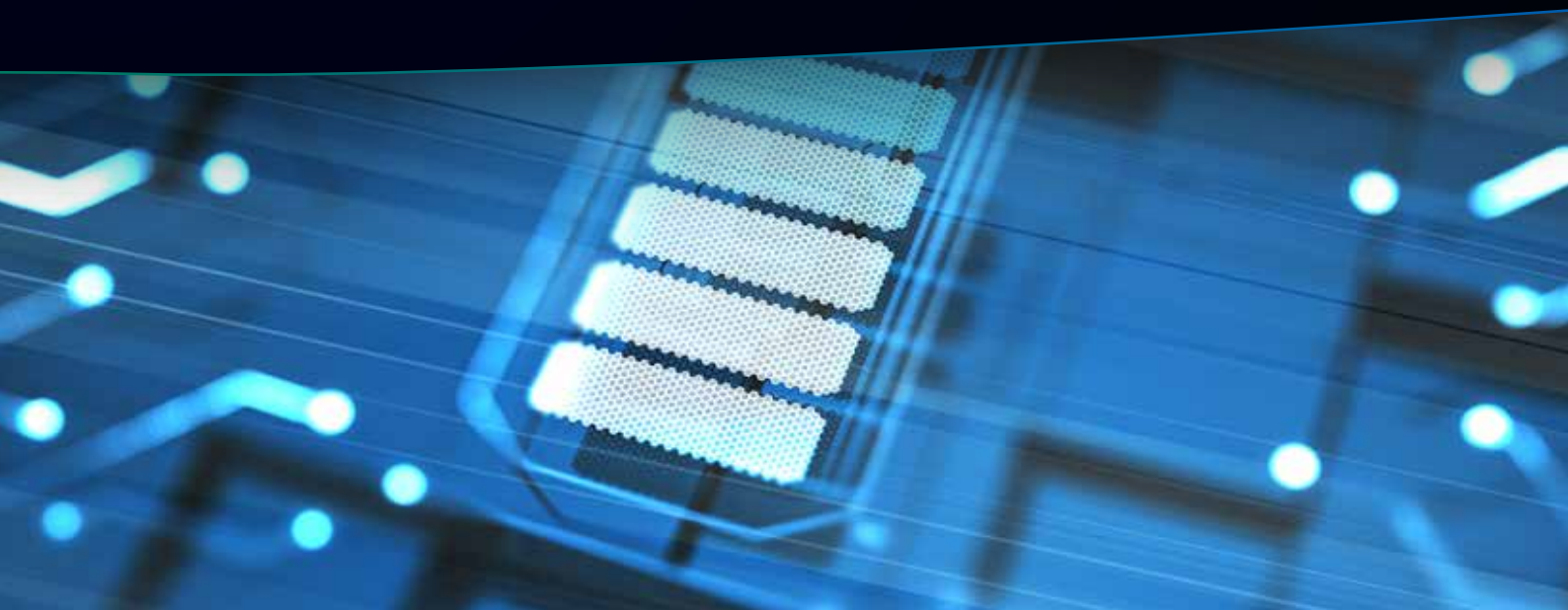
with innovations continuously happening to allow LFP to meet a wider chunk of the market. Other technologies are also developing such as sodium-ion, lithium-silicon and others. Car manufacturers recognize that they should not be reliant on scarce resources and accordingly are innovating to avoid potential future shortages.

Recycling of car batteries is also a rapidly growing industry, with recycled metals set to provide a major share of available mineral

supplies in coming years. New environmentally and socially responsible sources of minerals are also emerging, as evidenced by possibility of extraction of cobalt from seawater. Recent discoveries of new land sources for cobalt and changes in market trends have accelerated a collapse in the price of cobalt.

Let's not destroy our ocean based on misinformation.

A rapidly growing number of companies and major corporations recognize deep sea mining is unnecessary and have called for a moratorium.





THE ISA: NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE

Deep sea resources are currently governed by an organisation not fit for purpose

It is profoundly disturbing that the fate of the deep ocean is in the hands of a small group at the secretive International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Jamaica. This obscure organization, whose leadership is closely aligned with the mining industry, could potentially approve DSM in the high seas by 2025.

Much has been written about the secretive operations, conflicts of interest, absurd structure, and pro-mining bias of this autonomous agency which purports to act on behalf of all humankind:

- Key decisions are made in closed door sessions
- Mining applications are kept confidential (even from members of the ISA)
- The ISA is funded primarily by mining companies
- 14 of 41 members of the key body acting on mining applications, the LTC, are from countries sponsoring mining operations
- Recommendations on mining licenses can only be rejected by a two thirds vote
- The ISA lacks a truly independent science committee

to provide unbiased scientific advice

- The ISA acknowledges that mining contractors have breached their contracts, but keeps the names, nature and correction measures (if any) of violations confidential

Decisions with irrevocable and potentially disastrous consequences for our ocean should not be made by such a conflicted and dysfunctional organization. A DSM moratorium is critical at least until the ISA gets its house in order.

Don't let this cabal decide our future.

JOIN US!

We can provide information and help with outreach

 **Blue Climate Initiative**
Solutions for Ocean, People, Planet

Scan the QR code for more information or write to:

Stan Rowland - CEO
stan@blueclimateinitiative.org

Jeanne Everett - Director of Programs & Operations
jeanne@blueclimateinitiative.org

