



Deep Sea Mining is Not Needed, Not Wanted, Not Consented!

The Pacific Draws the BLUE LINE against Deep Sea Mining

The Ocean is the living blue heart of our planet. It is our common heritage, but also our common responsibility. We are its guardians. We recognize its significance and its essence as the basis of our Pacific identity and wellbeing. We Are the Ocean. In its preservation, we are preserved.

For millennia, our ancestors have held this mantle of stewardship, embedding the wisdom of their resource management and conservation practices into their culture and traditions. Their vision was always beyond their temporal needs; the survival and wellbeing of future generations was central to their view of the world.

As custodians of the responsibility to protect the Ocean against its exploitation and destruction in our time, we have a moral obligation and longstanding legacy to uphold. Our forebears have, on this frontier, stood firm against the ruinous incursions of nuclear testing, driftnet fishing and bottom trawling, and marine pollution. Against impossible odds, they united to move a world to adopt a nuclear test ban treaty, a ban on driftnet fishing and the London Dumping Convention. Awareness of the connection between climate change and the health of our Oceans gathers momentum globally.

Deepsea mining is the latest in a long list of destructive industries to be thrust into our sacred ocean. It is a new, perilous frontier extractive industry being falsely promoted as a proven answer to our economic needs. While its promised benefits remain speculative, its pursuit is insidious. Even at an experimental stage, deep sea mining (DSM) is already proving harmful to Pacific communities, their livelihoods, cultural practices, and their wellbeing.

We call for a total ban on DSM within our territorial waters and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Mindful of the nuclear legacy in the Pacific, and determined to not see it repeated, our Ocean must never again be used as the 'testing grounds' for dangerous pursuits that serve the interests of powerful states, institutions and industry. Rich states, promoting their multinational companies, facilitated by powerful institutions have been working with our own Pacific Island governments enticing them with the promise of wealth, despite technologies for extracting minerals on the ocean floor remaining untested in terms of environmental safety.

Land-based mining also came with the promise of economic, social and environmental benefits for our people. Pacific peoples have carried the environmental and social costs of phosphate, copper, gold and bauxite mining in the region and continue to feel the impacts of its devastation. Our lived experience in the Pacific shows clearly, however, that powerful corporations benefit the most while our people bear the costs of the destruction of our natural environment. Across the resource frontiers of our region, history records this deception time and again.

The corporations, institutions and their government backers advocating DSM promise great wealth from the unexplored depths of our oceans. Their claim that DSM's environmental impacts will be minimal is audacious given the fact that very little is known, let alone understood, about the ecologies of our oceans.

We will not be fooled by predatory actors who frame the discussion and set the rules to advance their interests. We call on our Pacific Governments and the international community to stand, once again, on the right side of history.

What is actually known about our ocean depths runs contrary to the push for DSM. Scientists increasingly warn of:

1. the devastating and irreversible damage to ecosystems and habitats,
2. the resulting biodiversity loss including of many known endemic species, and others yet to be identified that will be affected and that most likely will never recover,
3. the risk of giant sediment plumes traveling beyond the mining sites, smothering and potentially destroying all lifeforms on the seafloor,
4. the danger of wastewater plumes, including potential toxins lethal to marine life, discharged from the mothership, impacting ocean ecosystems at various depths with attendant risk to our already threatened fisheries,
5. the risk of toxins entering our food chain via contaminated fisheries,
6. potentially devastating oil spills from vessels occurring.

Pacific governments keen to pursue DSM have to ask themselves, to what extent are they willing to destroy the ocean's life support system during a time of climate, and planetary emergency and in what is commonly known as the age of extinction. Our governments must ask themselves who stands to gain the most from the destruction of our ocean.

Furthermore, scientists acknowledge the critical carbon sequestration functions of deep-sea hydrothermal vents and methane seeps, and are cautioning that the release of sequestered methane (a greenhouse gas thought to be 25 – 50 times more potent than carbon dioxide) could be a 'doomsday climatic event'.

The health of oceans is already under unprecedented threats including from a multitude of human induced stressors such as overfishing, pollution, plastics, nuclear waste and radioactive material, and climate emergency along with related impacts such as ocean acidification and warming of oceans.

To mask their profit seeking motivation, proponents are attempting to 'greenwash' DSM, arguing that seabed minerals are necessary for so-called green technology and to enable the global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This is a spurious argument as the minerals needed can come from better recycling efforts, ethical consumption and production, and prioritizing the reuse of minerals in circulation.

It would be beyond ironic if leaders of Pacific Island countries, which are already at the forefront of the impacts of climate change and facing existential threats to territorial integrity, allow themselves to be persuaded to mine the ocean floor, thereby pushing the world into the doomsday scenario.

Although our own governments and industry actors have argued that the mining of resources on the deep seabed are entirely the provenance of the state, governments are still required to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the people, particularly indigenous peoples, over any development activities which would adversely impact their lands, territories and resources. The fact is our governments

do not have the free, prior and informed consent of our people to proceed with DSM in the Pacific Ocean nor in areas beyond national jurisdictions.

There is no scenario in which DSM is permissible. If it's not safe in our EEZs, it's not safe in the Pacific as a whole, and therefore not safe for the world. A total ban on DSM is the only way to ensure the integrity of the ocean, the heart of our planet.

We therefore:

- call for recognition that, as our common heritage, the ocean demands our common responsibility for its protection;
- call on all Pacific leaders to join the growing ranks of governments, scientific authorities, CSOs, global leaders and indigenous groups the world over opposing the rush to mine the ocean floor and, in doing so, destroy our common heritage; and
- welcome the stand taken by some Pacific governments of a moratorium on DSM within their EEZs but strongly urge all of our governments to move beyond their EEZs and support a global ban on DSM.

This statement has been endorsed by:

Pacific Endorsements

NAME/ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	CONTACT
Deep Sea Mining Campaign	Australia	Dr Helen Rosenbaum helen.rosenbaum1@gmail.com
Kiwis Against Seabed Mining committee (KASMC)	New Zealand	Phil McCabe philmccabe101@gmail.com
Alliance Of Solwara Warriors	PNG	Mesulam Jonathan mesulamjonathan@gmail.com
Oceans For Generations	New Zealand	Phil Mccabe philmccabe101@gmail.com
Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand	New Zealand	Martin de Jong martin@caritas.org.nz
DIVA for Equality Fiji	Fiji	Noelene Nabulivou noelenen@gmail.com
FCOSS	Fiji	fcosscoordination@gmail.com
TUCAN	Tuvalu	Richard Gorkrun richard.gorkrun@gmail.com

Caritas PNG	PNG	Mavis Tito director_caritaspng@catholic.org.pg
Fiji Council of Churches (FCC)	Fiji	Wessley Vatanitawake wessley.vatanitawake@gmail.com
Alliance for Future Generations	Fiji	Seru Lavetanalagi alliance4futuregenerations@gmail.com
GPPAC Pacific	Fiji	Sharon Bhagwan Rolls shiftingthepower.hub@gmail.com
Soqosoqo Vaka Marama	Fiji	Adi Finau Tabakaucoro ftabakaucoro@gmail.com
Founders of Tonga Foundation 4 Humanity	Tonga	Tita Kara karatita1870@gmail.com
WWF Pacific	Fiji	Jackie Thomas jthomas@wwfpacific.org
Civil Society Forum of Tonga	Tonga	Tita Kara karatita1870@gmail.com
Ocean Solwara Warriors from PNG	PNG	Marie Mondu cbcdevsec@catholic.org.pg
Pacificwin Pacific	Tonga	Malie lava Pefi 2020pefikingi@gmail.com
Eden Empowerment	PNG	Helen Mangula helenamangula@gmail.com
OLSSI	Samoa	Fiu Mataese Elisara fiuelisara51@yahoo.com
Te Ngaru Roa aa Maui (TNRM)	New Zealand	Phil McCabe philmccabe101@gmail.com
Pacific Center for Peacebuilding	Fiji	Larry Thomas lariotomasi@gmail.com
Conservation Forum of PNG	PNG	John Ericho umifopa@gmail.com
The Council for World Mission	Fiji	Nikotemo sopepa nikotemo.sopepa@cwmission.org
Peace Movement Aotearoa	New Zealand	Edwina Hughes icanz@xtra.co.nz
MISA	Fiji	Wayne waynekijiner@gmail.com
Geoffrey Gee and Partners	Vanuatu	Stephanie Mahuk stephaniemahuk@ggp.com.vu

The Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane	Australia	Peter arndtp@bne.catholic.net.au
The Council of Pacific Education	Fiji	Govind Singh cope@connect.com.fj
Green Wave Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Georges Cumbo georges.cumbo@gmail.com
Development Services Exchange	Solomon Islands	Jennifer Wate generalsecretary@dse.org.sb
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Vanuatu	Christina S christina@vanuatuconservation.org
Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition	Vanuatu	Anne Pakoa vywcsecretariat@gmail.com
Nabanga Pikinini Association	Vanuatu	Pauline Grindley paugrindley@gmail.com
Further Arts Vanuatu	Vanuatu	Vivian Obed gm@furtherarts.org
VANGO	Vanuatu	Shirley Abraham shirleya.koble@gmail.com
TANGO	Tuvalu	Alisa Taukave alisataukave@gmail.com
Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW)	Fiji	Susana Tuisawau stuisawau@yahoo.com
The Council of Pacific Education (COPE)	Fiji	Govind Singh cope@connect.com.fj
Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNCY)	Vanuatu	Joe Higgs Kalo joekalo@gmail.com
KŌRERO O TE 'ŌRAU	Cook Islands	Jackie Rongo korerooteorau@gmail.com

International Endorsements

NAME/ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	CONTACT
Mining Watch Canada	Canada	Catherine Coumans catherine@miningwatch.ca
London Mining Network	London	Andy Whitmore whit@gn.apc.org
Ozeanien Dialog	Germany	Jan Pingel Jan.Pingel@ozeanien-dialog.de
Earth Law Center	USA	Michelle Bender mbender@earthlaw.org
Partnership Mission for People's Initiatives (PMPI)	Philippines	Michelle Bender mbender@earthlaw.org
Columban Missionaries, Missionary Society of St. Columban	USA	Amy Echeverria (International Coordinator for Justice Peace and Ecology) amywe@columban.org
Seas At Risk	Brussels, Belgium	Ann Dom adom@seas-at-risk.org
Pazifik-Informationsstelle	Germany	Jan Jan.Pingel@ozeanien-dialog.de
Friends of the Earth	Australia	Cam Walker cam.walker@foe.org.au
Deep Sea Conservation Coalition	Netherlands	Sian Owen sian@savethehighseas.org
TBA21	London, UK	Markus Reymann markus@tba21-academy.org
TBA21 Academy	London, UK	Markus Reymann markus@tba21-academy.org
Ocean Space	Venice, Italy	Markus Reymann markus@tba21-academy.org
Alliance to Stop Mining-Philippines ATM	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Whose Knowledge?	USA	Adele Godoy Vrana adele@whoseknowledge.org

Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC)	Philippines	Lia Mai D. Torres lia@cecphils.org
Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders (APNED)	Philippines	Lia Mai D. Torres lia@cecphils.org
Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE)	Philippines	Jessica Labaja j.labaja@lamave.org
Walhi Kalimantan Tengah	Indonesia	Ayu walhi.kalteng@gmail.com
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment	Philippines	Leon secretariat@kalikasan.net
Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Program (NTFP-EP Phils)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Franciscan Apostolic Sisters	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Cagayan Advocates for Integrity of Creation (CAIC)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Sta. Ana Alliance for Social and Environmental Concerns	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
St. Anthony's College Sta. Ana Cagayan	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Green Thumb Coalition (GTC)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
KOALISYON NG MGA MAMAMAYAN AT SAMAHAN SA CENTRAL AT NORTHERN LUZON (KUMASA NA)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
SAMAHAN NG MANGNGISDANG KABABAIHAN SA MINANGA ESTE (SAMAKA)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
MAPORAC AETAS ORGANIZATION (MAO)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
NORTH VILLAGE 9 HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION (NV9 HOA)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net

STA. BARBARA PANGASINAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
Didipio Earth Savers Multi-purpose Association, Inc. (DESAMA)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
BILEG DAGITI BABBAE (BILEG)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
ALYANSA NG MAGSASAKA PARA SA KALIKASAN NG KAISIBU (AMKKAS)	Philippines	Jaybee Garganera nc@alyansatigilmina.net
IRUTHU	Brazil	Angela Collet acgcollet@gmail.com
Moana Nui Action Alliance		Arnie ohnies@gmail.com
MISEREOR	Germany	Dr. Klaus Schilder Klaus.Schilder@misereor.de

Individual Endorsements

NAME	POSTION/ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	EMAIL
Hon. Ralph Regenvanu	Leader of the Opposition	Vanuatu	rregenvanu@vanuatu.gov.vu
Rt. Hon Bikenibeu Paenia	Former PM of Tuvalu	Tuvalu	bikenibeu@gmail.com
Mackenzie Kiritome	Politician	Tuvalu	mackenzie_trading@yahoo.com
Mr Enele Saufatu Sopoaga	Leader of Opposition	Tuvalu	-
Mr Taukelina Finikaso	Retired MP	Tuvalu	-
Barry Lalley	Bismark	PNG	barry.lalley@gmail.com
Ungatea Kata	Tupou Tertiary Institute	Tonga	taonganui@gmail.com
Dr. Felix Mallin	Postdoctoral Research Fellow (university of Singapore)	Singapore	post.felixm@gmail.com

Dr. Daniela Zyman	TBA-21 (Artistic Director)	Austria	daniela@tba21.org
Priscilla Kare	CIMC	PNG	priscillakare18@gmail.com
Happy Mwendu Kinyili	-	Kenya	hkinyili@yahoo.com
Lester Seri	Wildlife Conservation Society PNG	PNG	lester.seri@gmail.com
Dr. Christina Shaw	Vanuatu Environmental Science Society	Vanuatu	seashawconservation@gmail.com
Kulala	PNG Science and Technology Council Secretariat (Deputy Director)	PNG	kulala.mulung@gmail.com
Margaret Mary Eshun	Centre for Social Impact Studies	Ghana	margareteshun29@gmail.com
Tammy Tabe	USP	Fiji	tammy.tabe@usp.ac.fj
Claire Kouro	-	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	c.kouro@vest-pacific.org
Joseph Ani	-	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	-
Mickaella Kouro	-	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	-
B Martin	Spain	-	belindam.martin@gmail.com
Delphyne Kouro	-	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	-
Gorethy Kouro	-	Autonomous Region of Bougainville	-
Aida Ndiaye	Senegal	ACADAF/A FRIQUE aida.ndiaye@acadaf-afrique.org	-
Junior Liganisulu	Department of Waste Management	Tuvalu	mkronisha@gmail.com

Ms Filiga T Nelu	Private Lawyer	Tuvalu	filigataukiei@gmail.com
Mr Itaia Lausaveve	TNSPO NGO	Tuvalu	itaialausaveve@gmail.com
Mr Iulai Eti	AOG Pastor	Tuvalu	jioane@gmail.com
Mr Kitiona Tausi	KMT News	Tuvalu	kitionatausi@gmail.com
Mr Tupulaga Poulasi	Fisheries Department (GOT)	Tuvalu	tupulagap@tuvalufisheries.tv
Mr Alamoana Tofuola	Tuvalu MET (GOT)	Tuvalu	alamoanat@gmail.com
Ms Teuleala M Morris	Live & Learn (NGO)	Tuvalu	sdatmm@gmail.com
Ms Meitema Lusama	Live & Learn (NGO)	Tuvalu	Kitanei66@gmail.com
Ms Fonoalii. Tehulu	Church minister's wife	Tuvalu	-
Mr Salemona Tefana	Police (GOT)	Tuvalu	temmysalemona@gmail.com
Mr Shalom Asaia Teem	Tuvalu MET (GOT)	Tuvalu	asaiateem@gmail.com
Mr Amosa Sanaila	Police (GOT)	Tuvalu	Amosasanaila86@gmail.com
Mr Seleganiu Peni	PNA Observer (GOT)	Tuvalu	Semilota92@gmail.com
Ms Trish Lifuka	TUFHA (NGO)	Tuvalu	keoinlifuka@gmail.com
Mr Pesega Lifuka	GOT	Tuvalu	tagatafoupe@gmail.com
Mr Melton Tauetia	NGO	Tuvalu	tauetia@gmail.com
Mr Alee Niu	Police	Tuvalu	alefaioniu@gmail.com
Mr Irata Pulusi	Health Department (GOT)	Tuvalu	rat.bruce@yahoo.com
Mr Palefa Palota	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	tale.katalake@gmail.com
Mr Laua Tui	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	lp56272@gmail.com
Mr Mameso S	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-

Mr Lale Esau	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-
Mr Sipane Tanu	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-
Mr Uilama Kanae	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-
Mr Junior Ligaisulu	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-
Mr Fahea Scooper	Punuagogo (Grog Club)	Tuvalu	-