



BOTTOM LINE!

TOWARDS A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

with an outlook on 2025



ALTO, Tompotika © Stephanie Broekarts/IUCN NL



BOTTOM LINE!

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INTRODUCTION

The global demand for minerals like nickel, copper, bauxite (aluminium), cobalt and manganese continues to rise at an unprecedented pace, driven by the energy transition. These critical materials are needed for our electric vehicle batteries, wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies. But how do we ensure that this transition is both just and sustainable, whilst minimising harm to people and nature? We need **systemic change** that prioritises responsible resource use and extraction practices that are truly future proof.

Throughout 2024 Bottom Line! remained committed to promoting a fair and responsible energy transition, ensuring that people and nature are at the heart of this shift. Building on the strong foundation laid in 2023, Bottom Line! continued to grow as a powerful coalition of partners, including IUCN NL, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), Natuur & Milieu, Stop Ecocide NL, Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo) Indonesia, A Rocha Ghana (ARG), Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) Philippines, the Vereniging van Beleggers voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling (VBDO), and new (network) partner Auriga Nusantara (Indonesia).

Looking ahead, 2025 will be the final year of the Bottom Line! project. A major highlight will be our participation in the IUCN World Conservation Congress, where we will present and represent Bottom Line! in discussions that bring together governments and conservationists to shape the future of responsible mineral extraction.

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Limiting the growth of the largest SUVs in the Netherlands could save 10% of car battery raw materials. If the potential of car sharing is maximised and grows to 500,000 cars, it could save 22% of raw materials.

Research CE Delft on behalf of Bottom Line!



Graphic © Stop Ecocide NL

In this report, we share key impacts achieved in 2024, highlight notable activities and results from the past year, and offer a glimpse into what lies ahead for Bottom Line! in 2025. We look forward to continuing our mission of ensuring a just, responsible and truly sustainable energy transition.

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

While each partner continues to pursue its mission under the Bottom Line! banner, we expanded our collaborative impact in 2024, working together on a range of impactful initiatives, both within the mining affected landscapes, as well as in the Netherlands and in Europe:



Results from 2024:

- 1** In Indonesia, in the heart of Tompotika forest, AIto built strong partnerships in Sampaka, empowering communities - especially women, youth and transmigrants - to resist nickel mining and champion forest protection through awareness, unity, and the powerful **"Forests Bring Life"** campaign (see [page 4](#)).
- 2** In Ghana, A Rocha Ghana managed to halt mining licensing in over 25 forest reserves, effectively **stopping planned mining operations in 12 of Ghana's most ecologically critical sites** (see [page 7](#)).
- 3** The global push for a deep-sea mining (DSM) moratorium gained unprecedented momentum. By December, **32 countries had called for a ban, pause, or moratorium**. A broad coalition of businesses, investors, fishers, and Indigenous peoples ramped up pressure on decision-makers worldwide (see [page 10](#)).
- 4** A seminar on responsible investing in transition minerals led to a **statement from 29 investors**, managing US\$1.2 trillion, urging stronger environmental and social safeguards in the nickel supply chain for EV batteries and calling for stricter mining standards in supply chain policies (see [page 17](#)).
- 5** A visit from Timer Manurung, Director of the Indonesian NGO Auriga, to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs **shared critical information to policy makers** about the severe negative impact of nickel mining in Indonesia on forests and local communities (see [page 13](#)).
- 6** A **panel discussion** on safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral supply chains was held at the **CBD COP16** in Cali in September. In the same month, we also presented Bottom Line! at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Bruges (see [page 14](#)).
- 7** A **breakfast session** in November 2024 for civil servants from **multiple Dutch ministries** focused on transition minerals and their governance (see [page 12](#)).
- 8** Bottom Line initiated work on **No-go zones for mining** - ecologically or culturally significant areas, where mining should not take place. These zones safeguard the Earth's ecological safety and integrity, such as tropical rainforest and other critical ecosystems, high-biodiversity areas, the deep sea, watersheds, areas important for food production, and other areas vital for biodiversity, carbon storage or IP&LC well-being.

THEORY OF CHANGE

BOTTOM LINE!



GOAL

A successful energy transition minimizes damage to nature and people

OUTCOME

Green energy minerals are sourced and used responsibly



OUTCOME

Governments, companies and financial institutions set and implement stringent rules for responsible sourcing and circularity

PATHWAY 1

In specific mineral-rich land- and seascapes, essential ecosystems, threatened species and the rights of local communities are protected

A

Governments set and implement strict policies for responsible mineral extraction, including no-go zones

B

Governments and companies are transparent about mining permits and locations

C

Mining companies comply with environmental and human rights protection laws

PATHWAY 2

Circularity strategies, reduced consumption and enhanced use of recycled metals lead to reduction in use of virgin minerals

D

Energy sectors only use responsibly sourced and recycled minerals and metals and implement strategies for circular economy activities

E

Governments set and enforce rules and incentives for responsible sourcing and circular economy activities

F

Financial institutions only invest in best-practice and ecocide-free mining and circular economy alternatives

STRATEGY 1



Strengthen the voice of local communities and organizations that stand up for nature and human rights in mineral-rich areas and encourage responsible mining at regional mines

STRATEGY 2



Advocate the need to reduce, recycle and use responsibly sourced minerals among consumers and in the public and private sectors

STRATEGY 3



Increase awareness and dialogue on the energy transition/mining footprint and wise energy use

PATHWAYS TO A SUCCESSFUL ENERGY TRANSITION

PATHWAY 1



In specific mineral rich land- and seascapes, essential ecosystems, threatened species and the rights of local communities are protected.

From January to December 2024, we worked on the following objectives to protect nature and people in mineral rich landscapes:

Empowering local communities



INDONESIA

An important step for AIto in 2024, was the establishment of solid partnerships with both leaders and residents of Sampaka village - situated between two large nickel mining concessions. While some leaders and residents support mining, the vast majority now strongly opposes it, armed with knowledge and a deep understanding of what's at stake for their forest, lives and livelihoods. They now emphasise forest protection as the better choice.



Forests must be protected! Look at Siuna - the sea water is red, fish are dead, and people must buy water just to bathe. How are we supposed to live?

Widiana (28 years old)

AIto is expanding awareness efforts to other villages facing new mining permits, strengthening community voices and resistance. A powerful tool in this fight has been the Hutan Bikin Hidup, Tambang Bikin Rusak ("Forests Bring Life, Mining Brings Ruin") t-shirts. More than just clothing, they have sparked conversations, given people the confidence to speak out, and united communities in the fight for their forests.

AIto has made a strong effort to involve women in its outreach, encouraging their participation. AIto also amplifies the voices of transmigrant communities, often overlooked as newcomers. In Sampaka, where the most at-risk neighbourhood is a transmigrant one, AIto prioritised uplifting these residents, who are often poorer and less influential.



Community members wearing "Forests Bring Life, Mining Brings Ruin" t-shirts © AIto

In addition, thanks to a swift land purchase through IUCN NL's Land Acquisition Fund, AIto was able to secure 27 ha of critical forest in February 2024 - just in time to prevent a mining project that threatened the habitat corridor of the Critically Endangered Maleo bird (*Macrocephalon maleo*). Outreach efforts under Bottom Line! were instrumental in educating landowners on mining risks, ultimately convincing them to sell for conservation instead.



THE PHILIPPINES

2024 was a crucial year to protect forests, watersheds, and coastal ecosystems in the Philippines from the ever-growing threat of destructive mining. Across different regions, communities, youth leaders, local governments and advocates convened to stand against mining threats.

During the first-ever Tubajon Youth Congress in June 2024, young leaders in the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation of Tubajon, Dinagat Island crafted a youth agenda focused on climate change and environmental protection. Their voices are now part of a growing movement ensuring that younger generations are actively involved in decision-making about their land and resources.

In October 2024 20 young Indigenous leaders took part in the Umalohokan: Indigenous Peoples Journalism Camp. This immersive training equipped them with essential storytelling and documentation skills, empowering them to share their communities' struggles and successes in protecting their ancestral lands and natural resources. By amplifying their voices through journalism, these young leaders are not only preserving their cultural heritage but also strengthening advocacy efforts to defend Indigenous rights and environmental justice. Their stories will serve as powerful tools to raise awareness, inspire action and challenge destructive industries threatening their territories.

Broader anti-mining networks are also growing stronger. This year saw the formation of three major provincial coalitions in Negros Occidental, Leyte, and Cavite. The Negros Anti-Mining Alliance (NAMA) and KALASAG in Cavite are particularly focused on stopping seabed mining, recognising the grave risks it poses to fisheries, marine ecosystems, and coastal livelihoods.

ATM published two key reports, one on [Transition Minerals in the Philippines](#) and another on Beneficial Ownership of Mining. These reports have already begun informing policy discussions and strengthening transparency efforts around extractive industries.



2024 proved the power of collective action. Whether through legal challenges, local government resolutions, grassroots coalitions, or youth leadership, communities stood up, resisted mining expansion and pushed for a future where forests, waters and livelihoods are protected. The movement is growing, and with continued determination, for a future that prioritises people and nature over profit.

Jaybee Garganera, national coordinator of ATM



THE DEEP SEA

In 2024, DSCC's collaboration with Indigenous leaders and marginalised communities grew. Beyond including Indigenous representatives in delegations to major international conferences, DSCC created powerful platforms for them to voice their resistance to deep-sea mining on the world stage. From the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to the Our Ocean Conference, the UN Ocean Decade Conference, SIDS4 and CBD COP16, Indigenous perspectives were placed centre stage.

Youth was also given ample attention during the campaign, with young Indigenous leaders—particularly from the Caribbean and South Pacific—playing key roles. The Sustainable Ocean Alliance, helped to amplify their voices and ensure that the next generation leads the movement against DSM.



DSCC at a protest © DSCC

Enhancing governance and policies



INDONESIA

In Indonesia, AITo made a great leap forward in engaging local and Regency-level officials, raising awareness about mining risks and their legal responsibilities for oversight. Previously, local governments often rubber-stamped central mining permits, but AITo has successfully alerted officials to their duty to review permits critically. AITo also equipped them with key data on biodiversity and local communities - essential for responsible decision-making.

AITo also strengthened ties with other NGOs that address harmful mining in Indonesia, particularly in Sulawesi. They are now part of a strong, supportive coalition working to protect forests and communities.

In 2024 a new Indonesian partner – Auriga - joined the Bottom Line! consortium. Bottom Line! supported their work on a [no go zones map for Sulawesi](#) that will be published in 2025. No-go zones for mining are ecologically or culturally significant areas, where mining should not take place.

These zones safeguard the Earth's ecological safety and integrity, such as tropical rainforest and other critical ecosystems, high-biodiversity areas, the deep sea, watersheds, areas important for food production, and other areas vital for biodiversity, carbon storage or IP&LC well-being.

After a thorough consultation process with local communities, local governments and companies in the nickel landscapes Sulawesi, Auriga prepared a draft no-go zones map and presented it in various national and international fora. The final map will be presented to the Indonesian government in 2025.



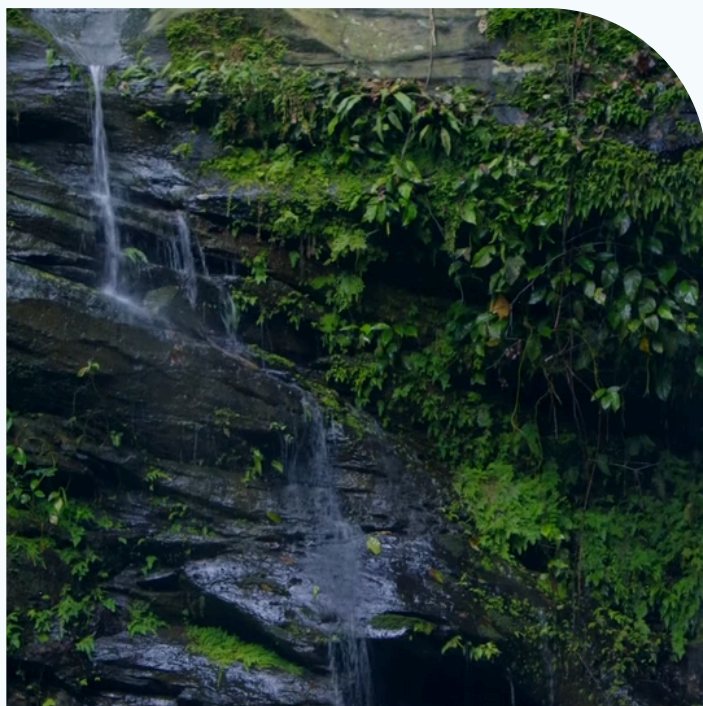
Deforestation by nickel mining next to Gunbuster smelter, North Morowali, Central Sulawesi © Auriga Nusantara



In Ghana, A Rocha Ghana (ARG)'s work made a significant difference in the fight to protect Ghana's forests from the growing pressures of mining. With the government aggressively pushing for accelerated extraction of transition minerals like lithium and manganese, over 35 forest reserves were suddenly at risk. Some of these areas are home to globally significant biodiversity.

Through advocacy, strategic engagement and legal interventions, ARG managed to halt the finalisation of licenses in over 25 forest reserves, effectively stopping planned mining operations in 12 of Ghana's most ecologically critical sites. This wasn't just a bureaucratic win; it was life-saving for these forests, the wildlife that depends on them, and the communities whose livelihoods are tied to these landscapes.

At the same time, ARG took its fight beyond boardrooms and courtrooms, standing up against the push to open more than ten forest reserves to logging and future mining. By engaging directly with government agencies, legal experts, and civil society, ARG built a strong case against deforestation and mining expansion - securing vital protections for these ecosystems.



Atewa forest © IUCN NL

One of ARG's most significant achievements was to ensure that Atewa Forest, a biodiversity hotspot, was excluded from bauxite mining interests. The battle was long and challenging, as the government actively sought to exploit its mineral wealth.

Yet, through unwavering advocacy, community mobilisation, and persistent pressure, ARG has succeeded in keeping Atewa free from bauxite mining. This success proves that determined action can shift political decisions, even in the face of powerful economic interests.

2024 saw elections in Ghana and ARG seized the moment to turn mining and environmental sustainability into a national conversation. Through expanded partnerships and strategic alliances, ARG successfully positioned the extractive sector's social and environmental impact as a key election issue. By rallying civil society and engaging political actors, ARG secured public commitments to tackle illegal and unsustainable mining. A major milestone was the Environment Manifesto, a guiding document that framed discussions around sustainability and responsible governance throughout the election season.

Beyond immediate policy wins, ARG deepened its long-term impact by completing a comprehensive assessment of Ghana’s transition mineral prospects and trade-offs. While election-related engagements delayed the validation process, ARG is set to finalise this report in 2025. This research will serve as a foundation for future advocacy, ensuring that Ghana’s mineral extraction policies prioritise environmental and social safeguards.

Despite these successes, 2024 also witnessed challenges. The legal battle to protect Atewa Forest has stretched on for over four years now, with no clear resolution in sight. The slow pace of justice presents financial and strategic difficulties, but ARG remains committed to seeing it through.

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Engaging with political actors has proven complex, requiring strong influence and leverage. This has reinforced the importance of expanding our alliances - ARG's partnerships with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and Oxfam Ghana have been invaluable in amplifying the organisation's voice at the national level. Together with its international partners, including IUCN NL and the Dutch Postcode Lottery, ARG is making sure that environmental protection, social justice, and economic development are not competing interests but interconnected priorities.

Daryl Bosu, Deputy National Director of A Rocha Ghana



THE PHILIPPINES

One of the most significant victories in the Philippines came in March 2024, when local governments from three provinces, 14 municipalities and three cities officially launched the Marbel-Buluan Watershed Management Alliance. By signing a binding Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), they effectively declared large portions of three watersheds as locally protected areas, shielding these critical ecosystems from mining and other harmful activities. In a region where mining pressure is high, this was a major step forward in safeguarding both biodiversity and water security.

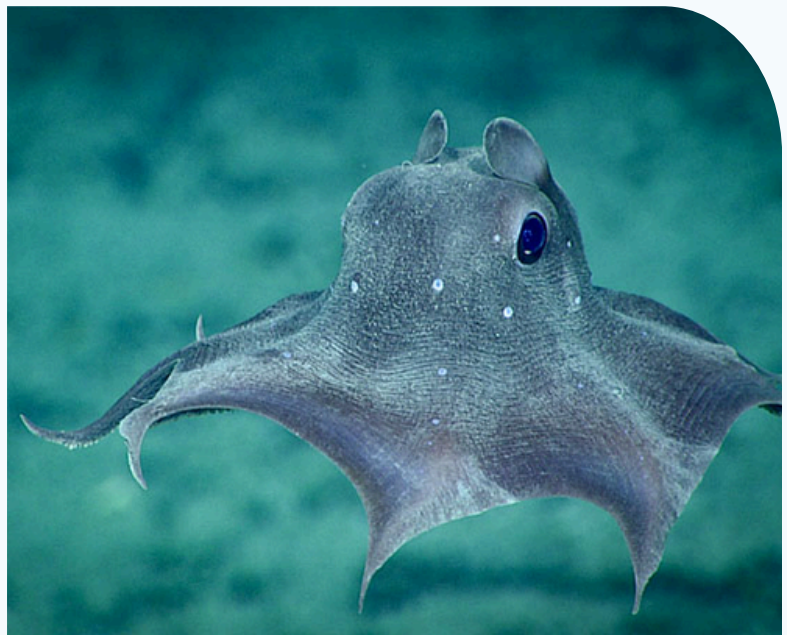


Tampakan, Philippines

At the same time, the struggle against destructive large-scale mining gained momentum in the legal arena. In November, Bishop Cerilo Casicas and local advocates made a bold stand by filing a case against the 12-year extension of the Tampakan Gold Copper Project at the Regional Trial Court in Koronadal City. This legal battle is a crucial step in challenging a mining project that threatens one of the most biodiverse and culturally significant regions in South Cotabato.

The resistance against destructive mining expansion does not just take place in court, it is spreading across local governments. At least eight municipalities took a clear stance by issuing official resolutions rejecting new mining permits and the expansion of existing operations. Their collective voice sends out a strong message that communities are unwilling to sacrifice their forests, water sources and way of life for short-term economic gains.

In 2024, there were worrying developments regarding deep sea mining (DSM) in the Philippines. Although there are no publicly disclosed plans for DSM - operations at depths greater than 200 meters - other than for black sand mining off Cagayan's coast areas such as the Philippine Rise, have been identified for potential DSM, targeting ferromanganese crusts, and/or hydrothermal sulphide deposits rich in minerals like copper, nickel, cobalt. The current Mining Act of 1995 does not address depths beyond 200 meters, leaving deep-sea mining of any variety unregulated.



The dumbo octopus will likely be threatened by DSM in the Philippines
© The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2019
Southeastern U.S. Deep-sea Exploration.

The absence of a comprehensive DSM policy, coupled with limited scientific data and monitoring in Western Pacific waters, magnifies the risk of environmental and socio-economic harm. Deep-sea resource exploitation by a few could create irreversible ecosystem damage and significant inequalities, undermining the sustainable livelihoods of marginalised coastal populations. The depletion of vital marine resources, including fisheries affected by (long distance) industrial fleets, exacerbates this vulnerability.

ATM has made the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems against the detrimental effects of seabed mining, including DSM part of their new strategy: empowering coastal communities and LGUs with the knowledge and skills to engage in decision-making, highlighting the risks of (deep) seabed mining on fisheries, marine biodiversity, climate resilience, and gender equality; and advocating for robust, gender-just environmental safeguards in seabed mining regulations, and a national moratorium on deep seabed mining.



THE DEEP SEA

2024 saw unprecedented momentum in the global push for a moratorium on deep-sea mining (DSM). By December, 32 countries had called for a ban, pause, or moratorium, with Denmark, Greece, Malta, and Austria joining the call. A diverse coalition - spanning businesses, financial groups, fishers, and Indigenous Peoples - intensified pressure on decision-makers.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution urging a global moratorium, a strong rebuke to Norway's pro-mining stance. By year's end, under political pressure, Norway scrapped its first DSM licensing round. Meanwhile, the UN Convention on Migratory Species adopted a resolution reinforcing the precautionary principle, and UN leaders, including Secretary-General António Guterres, highlighted DSM's threats to marine ecosystems and human rights.



Amid growing scientific uncertainty, a groundbreaking discovery revealed oxygen production in deep-sea environments - further underscoring the need to protect the ocean's unknown ecosystems. Yet, the pro-mining lobby persists. The Metals Company plans to submit a commercial mining application in mid-2025, while the International Seabed Authority (ISA) remains gridlocked, with its draft Mining Code far from adoption.

The campaign's strength lay in strategic advocacy and communications - leveraging media, social outreach and high-profile events like #DeepDay, alongside targeted engagement at key ISA negotiations.

Engaging mining companies

Engaging mining companies has been challenging. In Indonesia, AITo initially invested a substantial part of its organisational effort into trying to promote best practices amongst mining companies in the Tompotika landscape and made excellent headway in building relationships with mining company officials, who seemed to express great interest in IRMA and in protecting Maleo and other conservation concerns. However, this wasn't as effective as initially hoped.

At first, progress seemed promising - AITo built strong relationships with mining officials in the Tompotika landscape, who were keen on IRMA and conservation. But time and again, after months of effort, key officials would change roles, forcing AITo to start over. The lack of commitment from company management made the effort feel fruitless, so it was decided to shift focus to more successful strategies that brought better results.

In addition, obtaining copies of AMDAL documents (environmental impact statements) from mining companies and government regulators proved challenging. However, AITo successfully secured some for the nine most relevant mining companies in the region. Exposing flaws in AMDAL reports - which AITo will work on in 2025 - can help revoke unjust mining permits, protecting ecosystems, water sources, and local communities' rights, livelihoods, and cultural heritage from harm.

PATHWAY 2



Circularity strategies, reduced consumption and enhanced use of recycled metals lead to reduction in use of virgin minerals.

From January to December 2024, we worked on the following to make sourcing of minerals more responsible, reduce consumption and enhance the use of recycled metals:

Enhancing governance and policies in the Netherlands and international arenas



GLOBAL: Contribution to UN report on transition minerals

In September 2024, the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals published a valuable report with principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice. It prioritises environmental protection, human rights, and equitable benefits for all stakeholders.

A Rocha Ghana, ATM, Stop Ecocide NL and VBDO jointly contributed to this report with principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice. It prioritises environmental protection, human rights, and equitable benefits for all stakeholders. A Rocha Ghana, ATM, Stop Ecocide NL and VBDO jointly contributed to this report.



NETHERLANDS: Advocating for a circular energy transition

In 2024, Bottom Line! continued to advocate for an integrated policy approach towards a circular energy transition. Natuur & Milieu is leading this work. Their primary focus is on reducing the demand for these materials required for the transition to electric cars as well as the realisation of offshore wind targets. Natuur & Milieu targeted politicians on both a national and EU level, civil servants from various relevant ministries and the general public through campaigns and opinion articles.

In 2024, Natuur & Milieu asked CE Delft to conduct research quantifying the potential of battery resource demand reductions and emissions by implementing two circular strategies for electric vehicles. The calculations show that there is significant savings potential by focusing more on lighter cars and increased car sharing. This allows for advocacy on this topic in 2025.



THE DEEP SEA: Influencing Dutch position on deep sea mining

In 2024, IUCN NL, Stop Ecocide and DSCCC joined a coalition of Dutch NGOs on the topic of deep sea mining, whose objective is to influence the Dutch position on this issue. Activities included a one-day strategy meeting (hosted by Greenpeace) and a stakeholder meeting with Dutch civil servants that represent the Dutch government at the International Seabed Authority (ISA).



NETHERLANDS: Engagement with Dutch Ministries

In 2024, Bottom Line! engaged with several Dutch ministries to share our expertise on responsible value chains for transition minerals. We shared our knowledge on the impact that mining operations have on the environment and Indigenous peoples and communities living near these operations. We emphasised the importance of reducing reliance on virgin raw materials through a more circular approach, ensuring a sustainable and fair energy transition.

IUCN NL provided input to the House of Representatives for a written consultation on the progress of the Dutch Raw Materials Strategy. Our contribution included points on the role of local civil society, women, youth and IP&LCs, the just energy transition and responsible mining of critical raw materials.

In November 2024 Natuur & Milieu and IUCN NL held a knowledge sharing session with civil servants of four different ministries (EZ, KGG, BZ and I&W). In this session we explained the impact of mining of transition minerals on forests and IP&LCs living near the mining operations and shared our vision on the necessity of integrated policy between the different ministries and a stronger focus on genuinely reducing our raw material demand by using products and materials more intensively, efficiently, and for a longer period. This should result in reduced demand of minerals required for the energy transition without slowing the pace of the energy transition. The results of the CE Delft research were shared and received with great interest.



Limiting the growth of the largest SUVs in the Netherlands could save 10% of car battery raw materials. If the potential of car sharing is maximised and grows to 500,000 cars, it could save 22% of raw materials.

Research CE Delft on behalf of Bottom Line!



Visual of a future with less cars
© Natuur & Milieu

Natuur & Milieu, in collaboration with Stichting De Noordzee (SDN), developed a whitepaper on circular wind farms based on expert interviews and submitted it to the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ). This led to two meetings with the ministry, where the recommendations were discussed. This input is now reflected in the draft tender criteria for IJmuiden Ver Gamma and Nederwiek I-A, with increased emphasis on circularity and critical raw materials (CRM).

Additionally, Natuur & Milieu contributed to three policy debates: two in the Dutch House of Representatives (on the circular economy and economic security) and one at the European level (on limiting vehicle size).

As key stakeholders, Natuur & Milieu and IUCN NL also participated in expert sessions on the Ministry's raw materials strategy, advocating for resource reduction, circularity and for robust environmental and social safeguards in mineral supply chains. IUCN NL and Natuur & Milieu participated in a dialogue session regarding the implementation and governance structure of the Netherlands Materials Observatory (NMO) and emphasised the relevance of including NGOs in its governance structure.

One key insight from our engagement with ministries is that the Ministry of Infrastructure (IenW) is unlikely to take significant policy action to drastically reduce the demand for critical raw materials (CRMs) in EVs and offshore wind. Therefore, it is essential to leverage mandates from other ministries, such as Economic Affairs (EZ) and Green Growth (KGG).



NETHERLANDS: Dialogue between Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Auriga Nusantara

In July 2024, IUCN NL organised a meeting between Auriga Nusantara and civil servants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (e.g. department of Inclusive Green Growth, Multilateral Organisations and Human Rights, the trade policy department), the Human Rights Ambassador and civil servants working specifically on critical minerals. Auriga elaborated on the nickel mining in Indonesia, its anticipated substantial growth in the future and its impact on forests, biodiversity and local communities. Civil servants were able to discuss with Auriga directly about what the impacts are and what could be done to prevent/ mitigate further harm.



IUCN NL, Auriga Nusantara and colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign affairs © IUCN NL

The trade relationship between the Netherlands and Indonesia was also a point of discussion and if the Netherlands could include sustainability as an important pillar. The meeting was very helpful to the civil servants to gain better insights on the issues in Indonesia, especially Sulawesi, and on the impact of nickel mining on forests and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and local communities which they can use when drafting policy notes.



NETHERLANDS: Ecocide Manifesto

In 2024, two municipalities signed up to the Ecocide Manifesto (Utrecht in March and Groningen in May) and the Stop Ecocide team informed them about the Bottom Line! project as cities play tremendously important roles in the energy transition.

International outreach



16th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16)

At CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, IUCN NL hosted a dynamic and well-attended event at the IUCN Pavilion: 'Prosper with Nature: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Human Rights in Energy Transition Mineral Supply Chains'. The session tackled the urgent challenge of skyrocketing demand for critical minerals in biodiversity-rich countries, bringing together a diverse group of experts and decision-makers.

Kicking off with a compelling virtual keynote by Olivia Lazard (Carnegie Europe), the session featured powerful presentations and case studies from Rainforest Foundation Norway, Auriga Nusantara, and A Rocha Ghana, exposing the environmental toll of mineral extraction. This set the stage for an engaging panel discussion, where representatives from the Responsible Critical Mineral Initiative (RCI) China and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) explored solutions and best practices for responsible mining.

A highlight of the event was a Colombian government representative sharing national concerns and objectives on energy transition minerals. The session wrapped up with an interactive and thought-provoking discussion, leaving the audience inspired to push for stronger safeguards in the mineral supply chain.



Left: The speakers at the CBD COP16 event; Right: a Colombian government representative speaking about energy transition minerals © Marianne de Beer / IUCN NL



IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe, North and Central Asia

IUCN NL organised the side event 'Mining and the Energy Transition: Protecting Forests, Biodiversity, and People' at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia in September, together with Natuur & Milieu, Both ENDS, Fern and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA).

We highlighted the devastating impact of nickel mining on Sulawesi's primary forests, its rich biodiversity, and local communities. Mining for energy transition minerals - especially nickel - has driven massive deforestation, threatening endangered species and disrupting Indigenous lands and livelihoods.

We underscored the urgent need for stronger environmental and human rights safeguards, exposing critical gaps in the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act that fail to address these issues. Strengthening these protections is essential to prevent further destruction. The discussion also emphasised the importance of reducing mineral demand through circular economy solutions and shared mobility.



Motion for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

Bottom Line! partners IUCN NL, A Rocha Ghana, Natuur & Milieu, and Stop Ecocide International, together with six other organisations, successfully developed and submitted the motion 'Safeguarding Biodiversity and Human Rights in Energy Transition Mineral Governance' for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. The motion has been officially accepted and will be up for a vote by IUCN members in October.

This motion calls on governments to prioritise sustainability over reckless extraction, urging them to reduce mineral consumption, promote circular economy solutions, and enforce strict no-go zones for mining in ecologically and culturally significant areas. It also pushes for the expansion of Protected Areas, the protection of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights, and the enforcement of high environmental and human rights standards.



Alwi, a fisherman, 78, sitting next to the boat fisherman at Mandiodo village on October 28, 2023 in North Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia.
© Garry Lolutung

Additionally, the motion calls on IUCN's Director General to take the lead in developing guidance on responsible mineral governance and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders. If passed, this motion will be a major step toward ensuring a just and sustainable transition.

Engaging the financial sector



Seminar: Responsible investing in the energy transition

On February 29th, 2024, VBDO and IUCN NL organised the seminar 'Responsible investing in the energy transition'. The seminar was attended by over 100 decision makers from the financial - and investment sectors. Distinguished speakers from these organisations presented their expertise, and later moderated working group sessions, on topics like enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement, impact accounting, and elevating transparency and non-financial reporting. Bottom Line! partner ATM was one of the presenters, alongside presenters from the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) and the Impact Economy Foundation.



Collaborative investor engagement on the Electric Vehicle supply chain

In February 2024, VBDO and Rainforest Foundation Norway launched an investor statement to drive responsible nickel sourcing in the EV supply chain. Signed by 35 big investors, it urges higher environmental and social standards. Supported by NGOs such as Auriga, Transport and Environment (T&E) and IUCN NL, the initiative engages 16 companies, including Mercedes, BMW, and Volkswagen.

Further, VBDO hosted five webinars for investors on responsible mining, covering topics such as FPIC and EU regulations, with over 250 finance professionals attending. VBDO also advocated for social and environmental safeguards at international forums, including the OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains. Additionally, VBDO continued addressing the developments of Ecocide Law in both Dutch and international contexts to investors and stakeholders.



Workers walk near excavators to gather soil containing nickel ore at PT Virtue Dragon Nickel Industry, a nickel processing complex in Konawe Regency, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on October 29, 2023. The industrial are powering the move to electric vehicles. © Garry Lolutung



A fisherman is carrying stingrays after catching an area of sea waters contaminated by a nickel mine at Mandiodo village on October 28, 2023 in North Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. © Garry Lolutung

RAISING AWARENESS

The balancing act between the necessity of accelerating the energy transition and the environmental impact of the required resources to do so remains important in our communications. We continuously share a nuanced story that emphasises the importance of a fast transition away from fossil fuels that should not come at the cost of valuable ecosystems and people.

Balancing the urgency of the energy transition with the environmental impact of required resources remains central to our messaging. We emphasise the need to move away from fossil fuels swiftly, without compromising ecosystems or communities.

Photo essay on nickel mining in Indonesia

Supported by Bottom Line!, award-winning Indonesian photographer and photojournalist [Garry Lotulung](#) has explored the pressing challenges facing Sulawesi's unique wildlife and landscapes amid the rapid expansion of the nickel mining industry. His powerful work has been featured in multiple exhibitions, media and communications outlets, including the [IUCN NL website](#). In 2025, we plan to showcase Garry's photos in a dedicated photo exhibition at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Mock trial with Utrecht University

In 2024, Stop Ecocide and IUCN NL successfully advocated to get the Tompotika nickel mining case fictionalised for Utrecht University's Ecocide Project's Mock Trial – as a key partner in their project. In the case, a fictionalised nickel mining company and its CEO are prosecuted on the basis of the draft Dutch Bill on Ecocide as proposed by the Partij voor de Dieren.

Stop Ecocide and IUCN NL provided helpful legal arguments to the students of Utrecht University who will perform during the mock trial. AIto has been actively supporting the Mock Trial project by providing inside information about nickel mining impacts, biodiversity threats, potential impact on Maleo, and connections with local people.

'Become a Rethinker'

In 2024, Natuur & Milieu launched the public campaign '[Become a Rethinker](#)', promoting the idea that we can do more with fewer resources in an accessible and engaging way. In 2025, this platform will be used to raise awareness about transition minerals. By emphasising lifetime extension and conscious consumption, the campaign inspires circular and sustainable behaviour.



A view of fishing villages of Tapuemea and Tapunggay in Molawe district contaminated by nickel mine on October 27, 2023 in North Konawe, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. © Garry Lotulung



Engaging with youth

From January to April 2024, Stop Ecocide NL engaged with youth from the THINK NOW Foundation, reaching beyond the already-aware audience and tapping into a group with strong potential for deeper climate awareness. They also featured Bottom Line! at a youth-led event during the ICC Assembly of States Parties in December 2024.

Women in Energy

Stop Ecocide NL presented at a Women in Energy event in September 2024 reaching over 150 professionals in the field, many of whom had keen interest in knowing how EU legislation may be influential in a just energy transition.



Stop Ecocide NL presented this graphic showcasing the just energy transition during the Women in Energy event © Stop Ecocide NL

The Bottom Line! story in the media

Next to publications on the websites, in newsletters and on social media channels of the Bottom Line! partners, we have managed to secure some interesting media coverage in 2024. Especially in Ghana and the Philippines, the Bottom Line! Project partners managed to get quite some media coverage.

Highlights include:

Ghana

- Graphic: [‘CSOs sue government over mining in forest reserves’](#)
- Modern Ghana: [‘A Rocha Ghana debunks fears over L.I. 2462 repeal’](#)
- Civic Response Ghana: [‘5 CSOs to Drag Gov’t to Court Over Breach of Biodiversity Laws’](#)
- African Editors: [‘A Rocha Ghana drags land minister to court’](#)

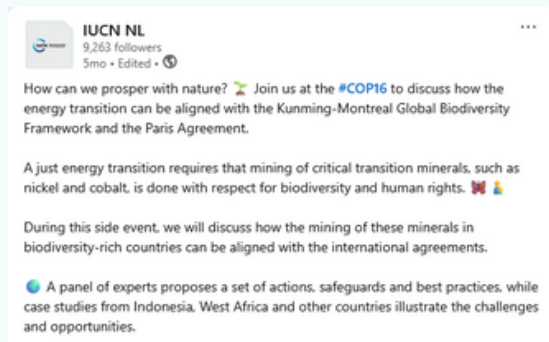
Philippines

- Power-Shift: [‘Mining for Energy Transition Minerals in the Philippines – Risks Involved and Solutions Needed’](#)
- The Visayan Daily Star: [‘Anti mining alliance sets launch’](#)
- DZRH Aksyon Kababaihan: [Interview Elizabeth Ibanez and Malou Verano](#)
- Taumbayan Live: [Interview Elizabeth Ibanez, Beverly Besmanos and Atty. Gerthie Mayo-Anda](#)
- Prof. Cielo Magno’s Podcast: [Interview Jaybee Garganera](#)
- ABS-CBN News: [‘Alyansa Tigil Mina National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera says the country cannot and will not see any substantive reform in the mining’](#)
- Caritas on the Go: [Interview Jaybee Garganera](#)

Netherlands

- Vrij Nederland: [‘Hoe de energietransitie tot ontbossing en geweld leidt’](#)

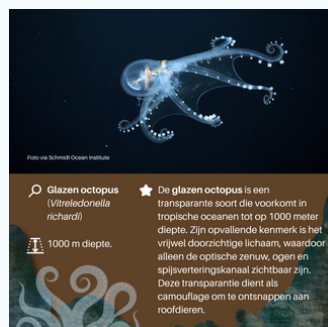
Social media highlights



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AN OUTLOOK TO 2025

2025 marks the final year of the Bottom Line! project, with a strong focus on amplifying its legacy and influence. A key milestone will be our active presence at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, where Bottom Line! Partners - alongside six other organisations - will champion the **motion 'Safeguarding Biodiversity and Human Rights in Energy Transition Mineral Governance'**. With the motion officially accepted, the vote during the Congress by IUCN members could shape global standards for responsible mineral governance.

The year will also see the **publication of a no-go zones map** for Sulawesi, developed by Auriga, and the finalisation of ARG's pivotal **research on Ghana's transition minerals**. This work will provide a critical evidence base for long-term advocacy. Meanwhile, ALTO will deepen its scrutiny of AMDAL documents, using newly obtained reports to challenge problematic mining permits. On the deep sea front, urgent attention will be needed as mining threats escalate.

In the Netherlands, Natuur & Milieu will build on momentum from its 'Become a Rethinker' campaign, expanding public engagement on transition minerals while **advocating for circular strategies that reduce battery demand**.

As the project draws to a close, 2025 offers good opportunities to influence policy, expand and strengthen civic movements to protect ecosystems, and **foster a more sustainable approach to the energy transition**. We will also focus on developing and fundraising for spin-offs of the Bottom Line! project, building on its momentum to expand impact, deepen partnerships, and explore new opportunities for responsible mineral governance that respects nature and human rights.



ALTO staff in Tompotika © Stephanie Broekarts/IUCN NL