

# In too deep

Karoline Andaur CEO, WWF-Norway



# WE CALL ON GOVERNMENTS TO Support a global moratorium on Deep seabed mining



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We are just **beginning** to discover the mysteries and species of the deep

# Oppdaga 44 nye korallrev i Norge, men mange var døende: – Det er et mysterium

Havforskningsinstituttet har oppdaga 44 nye korallrev langs norskekysten i år. Men jubel ble til bekymring da forskerne innså hvor mange av disse som er døende.



Langt nede på dypet langs norskekysten har forskerne oppdaga 44 nye korallrev så langt i år.

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Vi rapporterer fra **Bodø** 

Publisert 30. mai kl. 21:04 Oppdatert i går kl. 16:55

# A GLOBAL MORATORIUM ON DEEP SEABED MINING

### ...unless and until:

- Environmental, social and economic risks are comprehensively understood
- Managed in a way that ensures the effective protection of the marine environment and prevents loss of biodiversity
- Alternative sources have been fully explored and applied, such as: Reduction of demand for primary metals; a transformation to a circular economy, and responsible terrestrial mining







#### **DEEP SEABED MINING**

# IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

- Marine life and species
- Habitats

## LOSS OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Food security
- Revenues

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Mn

REE

- Scientific advancements
- Pharmaceutical discoveries

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### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The ocean is worth more than its finite resources







# **Business risk**

- Business models must factor in cost in the form of taxation to compensate for the loss of biodiversity.
- Practices of "offsetting" or compensating for damage locally, by restoring ecosystems elsewhere is not an option here.
- Unlikely that DSM will meet basic ESG requirements
- Governance system is not ready.
- Risk of scrutiny if profits from common resources do not benefit the wider public.

Ocean Solutions That Benefit People, Nature and the Economy

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### High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

"Until the need for, and potential consequences of, deep-sea mining are better understood, the concept **is conceptually difficult to align with the definition of a sustainable ocean economy** and raises various environmental, legal and governance challenges, as well as **possible conflicts with the UN Sustainable Development Goals**"

### High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

### A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH TO SEABED MINING

The deep ocean floor contains minerals that are useful for renewable energy technologies and may contribute to the transition to a low–carbon emission society. These areas are among the most isolated and poorly explored of all ocean ecosystems. The sensitivity of these ecosystems, our insufficient scientific knowledge and our limited understanding of the potential impacts of emerging ocean activities requires applying a precautionary approach, undertaking research and investigation, and developing a circular economy to reduce demand and help mitigate these risks.

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Sufficient knowledge and regulations are in place to ensure that any activity related to seabed mining is informed by science and ecologically sustainable.

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Høringsdokument



#### Åpningsprosess for undersøkelse og utvinning av havbunnsmineraler på norsk kontinentalsokkel

Forslag til program for konsekvensutredning etter havbunnsmineralloven 12. januar 2021





Figur 1. Oversikt over undersøkelser av havbunnsmineralene i dyphavet på norsk kontinentalsokkel utført av akademia og Oljedirektoratet. Sulfidforekomster ved dagens aktive varme kilder er vist med rød sirkel, sulfidforekomster over inaktive varme kilder er vist med grønn sirkel. Varmt vann fra mulige, aktive kilder er vist med gul sirkel. Forekomster funnet av Oljedirektoratet i 2019 omfatter både aktive og utdødde områder og er markert med rosa sirkel. Steder der det er tatt prøver av manganskorpe er vist med gul stjerne.

## SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

Restores, protects and maintains the diversity, productivity, resilience, core functions and intrinsic value of marine ecosystems Provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations

Clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows

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It is "beyond reason" for countries to consider the destruction of deep sea places before they have understood them or the role they play in the health of the planet... We need to be guided by science when faced with decisions of such great environmental consequence



Sir David Attenborough on Deep Seabed Mining

# together possible ...



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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