

## <Background Facts on Trends in DSM >

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-Over 1000 signatures comprised of 56 indigenous peoples from 34 countries calling for a ban on Deep Sea Mining (DSM) has been submitted to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in March, 2023. The representative Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala articulated that "we come from the deepest depths of the seas" and **condemned deep sea mining efforts and the destruction of cultural heritage.**

-DSM has been considered by **over 900 marine science and policy experts from over 70 countries** to be an additional stressor to the marine environment which will **"result in the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning that would be irreversible on multi-generational timescales"**. These scientists and policy experts strongly recommend that **"the exploitation of mineral resources be paused until sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to make informed decisions as to whether deep-sea mining can be authorized without significant damage to the marine environment and, if so, what conditions"** <https://seabedminingsciencestatement.org/>

-The **International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)** adopted Resolution 122 on 22 September, 2021, **calling for a global halt on DSM** until the criteria specified by IUCN are met, including the introduction of assessments, effective regulation and mitigation strategies. This is further articulated in IUCN's policy brief released May 2022.

Resolution

[https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC\\_2020\\_RES\\_122\\_EN.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2020_RES_122_EN.pdf)

Policy Brief - <https://iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/deep-sea-mining>

-As of October 2024, the global tide of **opposition to DSM has grown to 32 countries and is rising**. The list of countries calling for a ban, moratorium, or precautionary pause include not only countries of the Global South dependent on marine primary sector economies, but also industrialized countries including G7 countries such as Canada, France, Germany. <https://deep-sea-conservation.org/solutions/no-deep-sea-mining/momentum-for-a-moratorium/>

-**G7 Environmental Ministers** agreed to commit to a precautionary approach with regards to DSM in 2023 at Sapporo, and reaffirmed this commitment in 2024 at Torino. In their commitment, they articulated that **a robust knowledge basis and a demonstrative assurance of environmental integrity is "a precondition for any future mining permits"**. <https://deep-sea-conservation.org/solutions/no-deep-sea-mining/momentum-for-a-moratorium/> (see section 25 vii)

-**United Nations Environmental Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)** published a briefing paper on the concerns of DSM, and addressed that **"(i)n their current form, there is no foreseeable way in which the financing of deep-sea mining activities can be viewed as consistent with the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles"** <https://www.unepfi.org/publications/harmful-marine-extractives-deep-sea-mining/>

-**Major commercial banks including ABN AMRO, BBVA, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Lloyds, and Standard Chartered Bank** have committed to supporting a moratorium and/or prohibiting the finance of DSM

See for example [https://www.db.com/news/detail/20240925-deutsche-bank-strengthens-its-ocean-protection-policies-under-backblue-initiative?language\\_id=1](https://www.db.com/news/detail/20240925-deutsche-bank-strengthens-its-ocean-protection-policies-under-backblue-initiative?language_id=1)

- **60 companies have publicly endorsed a moratorium on DSM** as of October 2024. These include mobility and energy companies which are otherwise likely to benefit the most out of deep sea minerals. <https://www.stopdeepseabedmining.org/endorsers/>

- **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)** made a public announcement in April 2021, that it **does not allow their systems to be used by companies involved in DSM**. IRMA reiterated this in June 2022 to confirm their unchanged position on DSM. <https://responsiblemining.net/2022/06/14/irmas-deep-sea-mining-position/>

- **Nippon Foundation** and Tokyo University jointly claimed in June 2024 that they will **begin a demonstration of deep sea nodule mining using commercial scale equipment off the coast of Minamitorishima in a target area spanning 10000km<sup>2</sup> in 2025**. According to their presentation materials, the ultimate aim is to mine nodules for 20 years in the target area. <https://tnfsa.nippon-foundation.or.jp/news/2071302>

If the above plan moves forward, it will be **the largest scale of contiguous mining conducted in human history while the Ministry of Environment has no legislative means of oversight**. (according to interviews conducted by PARC)



Photo: NOAA