



## Deep sea mining: Exploring the unknowns

### Multi-stakeholder conference

(Pre-registration required)

26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 09h00-17h30

**Venue:** Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts  
Rue Ducale 1/Hertogsstraat 1-1000 Brussels,  
Rubens Auditorium

### Context

Commercial interest in deep sea mining is rising rapidly, internationally as well as in the European Union. The EU's Blue Growth strategy identifies seabed mining as one of five "priority areas" that could deliver sustainable growth and jobs in the 'blue economy'. Similarly, at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) we see accelerating activity in applications for exploration and activity on the continental shelves.

Deep seabed mining poses an important sustainability question: with mining activities potentially stretching over many decades, the impacts may be felt for thousands of years or more. There are still many technological and legal constraints, and many unknowns regarding environmental and wider sustainability impacts of the sector.

Moreover, the assumption of the need for deep seabed mining must be further explored. According to the 'circular economy' vision, the priority approach to the consumption of mineral resources should be one of sustainability, reuse, improved product design and recycling of materials rather than exploring for and exploiting new sources of minerals.

The deep ocean is a vital force within the Earth's system, sustaining life as we know it. . If deep-sea mining is permitted to occur at all, it should only take place when appropriate and effective regulations for exploration and exploitation are in place to ensure that the full range of marine habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem functions are adequately and effectively protected.

### Objective

The objective of this event is to:

- Encourage a dialogue between a wide range of stakeholders, policy makers and scientists around the presumed need for deep sea mining given the future demand for raw materials, and
- Update participants on the state of play of deep sea mining and its environmental implications.

## Agenda

- 09:00 – 09:30 Arrival and registration
- 09:35 – 09:45 Welcome and introduction – *Chairperson - Monica Verbeek (Seas At Risk)*
- 09:45 – 10:15 Keynote speeches
- **Lowri Evans** – European Commission – Deep sea mining and the EU's Raw Materials Initiative
  - **Ricardo Santos** – European Parliament – Deep sea mining: a 21<sup>st</sup> century challenge

### Session 1: **Where are we going: Assessing the need for deep sea mining**

#### 10:15 – 11:00 **Presentations**

- **Sybille van den Hove** – MEDIAN – Deep sea mining and the precautionary principle
- **Ann Dom** – Seas At Risk – Deep sea mining in a circular economy

#### 11:00 – 11:30 **Networking break**

#### 11:30 – 13:00: **Panel debate**

*Moderator: Torsten Thiele (Global Ocean Trust, LSE Institute of Global Affairs)*

- Flor Diaz Pulido (European Commission), Sybille van den Hove (MEDIAN), Robert van de Ketterij (IHC MTI), Ricardo Santos (European Parliament), Ann Dom (Seas At Risk), Sven Teske (University of Technology Sydney)

#### 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

### Session 2: **Where are we now: exploring deep sea mining's current status**

#### 14:00 – 15:00: **Presentations**

- **Philip P.E. Weaver** – Seascope Consultants Ltd – Key environmental issues related to deep-sea mining - an update from the MIDAS project'
- **David Billett** – Deep Sea Environmental Solutions Ltd – International Seabed Authority (ISA): towards exploitation - state of play and EU involvement
- **Kris Van Nijen** – DEME – Multi-facetted approach to seabed mining
- **Matthew Gianni** – Deep Sea Conservation Society – NGO perspective

#### 15:00 – 15:30 **Networking break**

#### 15:30 – 16:45 **Panel debate**

*Moderator: Torsten Thiele (Global Ocean Trust, LSE Institute of Global Affairs)*

- Kris Van Nijen (DEME), Phil Weaver (Seascope Consultants Ltd), David Billett (Deep Sea Environmental Solutions Ltd), Matthew Gianni (DSCC), Philomene Verlaan (University of Hawaii, International Marine Minerals Society), Iain Shepherd (European Commission)

#### 16:45 – 17:30 **Conclusions and close**

This event is organised by:  
[Seas At Risk](#), Rue d'Edimbourg 26, Bruxelles 1050  
[Deep Sea Conservation Coalition](#), Postbus 59681, 1040 LD Amsterdam, Netherlands  
[The Royal Flemish Academy for Arts and Sciences](#), Hertogsstaat 1-1000 Brussels

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