

Deep-sea mining

The way forward



RESEARCH

BASELINE INFORMATION ON LIFE IN THE DEEP SEA



Biodiversity

Deep ocean biodiversity: understanding what lives in the deep-sea and where.



Connectivity

Connectivity and life cycles of local species.

UNDERSTANDING POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF DEEP-SEA MINING



Ecosystem impacts

Minimise the impacts on ecosystems in the deep-sea, or establish how deep-sea mining will affect the abilities of deep-sea creatures to repopulate and regenerate.



Plumes

Ecotoxicology from exposure to plumes (re-suspended metals and materials that can resettle and affect life forms).



Modelling

of deep ocean currents and sediment plumes.



Test mining

To predict impact of commercial operations.



REGULATION



Apply Precautionary Approach

Where regulation is implemented prior to achieving full scientific certainty on the effects of mining.



Share of revenues

Establish proper share of revenues for the benefit of humankind, including future generations.



Avoidance

Prioritise avoidance of deep-sea mining and its impacts in mitigation strategies, rather than minimisation or remediation.



Delegate review

Enforcement and inspection authority to qualified entities.



No-mining zones

Establish additional no-mining zones and conservation areas.



MITIGATING ACTION



Resources

Provide regulatory agencies sufficient resources to manage deep-sea mining to the highest environmental standards.



Transparency

Ensure transparency at all levels of the regulatory process.



Monitoring

Develop monitoring programs to evaluate the impact of deep-sea mining from start to finish



Reduce demand

For critical minerals through redesign, repair, reuse, recycling and use of alternative materials.