

Dear

I am writing to alert you to my (further) concerns about industrial-scale mining in the Philippines.

A new report from the Working Group on Mining in the Philippines, *Philippines: Mining or Food?*, provides evidence that mining of nickel, copper, gold, cobalt and chromite is causing large-scale ruin of environments and livelihoods and undermining food production and long-term food security.

A country once self-sufficient in rice is now the world's biggest rice importer.

The authors of the report - former World Bank senior environmental adviser Dr Robert Goodland and Clive Wicks of IUCN – state that 'The stark choice facing the country is between a few years of mining and thousands of years of irrigated rice and fisheries production.'

Their field study of six new sites where mining is planned finds that mining in these locations would cause massive environment problems and jeopardise food security.

The report also shows how conflicts and human rights abuse continue to be associated with the Philippine minor sector. Codes of conduct and standards for the extractive industries conclude that mining should not be permitted in conflict zones.

Supporting calls from the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, the report advocates a moratorium on new mining developments and a review of existing mining projects by a credible independent body to determine how far they impact on food production, afford adequate environmental protection and respect legal provisions and rights.

The executive summary and recommendations are available at www.eccr.org.uk.

Mining companies whose plans are challenged in the report include BHP Billiton, Intex Resources, Philex Gold, TVI and Xstrata.

[Either:]

I am asking you as my fund manager / pension provider / bank / insurance company [*delete as appropriate*] to inform me if you hold any investments in any of these mining companies or others that may be operating in the Philippines. If you do hold such investments, please urge the company/ies concerned to halt any plans for new mining projects and investment in the country and to agree to a full independent review of the Philippine mining sector.

If plans and investments are currently on hold because of the economic downturn, a full independent review should take place before any resumption is considered when the global economy picks up.

[Or:]

I am writing to you as one of the mining companies challenged by the report to halt any plans for new mining projects and investment in the country and to agree to a full independent review of the Philippine mining sector.

If plans and investments are currently on hold because of the economic downturn, a full independent review should take place before any resumption is considered when the global economy picks up.

I would be grateful to know the action you will take on this matter and look forward to hearing from you.