Critical Minerals Innovation Forum

13-14 October | London

Drive responsible sourcing from mine to end-product

Event Sponsor

For more information or to get involved, please contact Emilia Colman
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Speakers:

1. Adam Rolfe, senior director of standards and partnerships, **Responsible Minerals Alliance**
2. Adriana Auruzo, VP environmental, social and sustainability affairs, **Southern Peaks Mining**
3. Alan Knight, chief sustainability officer, **WE Soda**
4. Andrew Jacob, group sustainability, **BHP**
5. Angela Jorns, lead fair minerals, **Fairphone**
6. Anna Brog, head of sustainability, **Kenmare Resources**
7. Anna Dziuba Bergfors, head of social sustainability and reporting, **Volvo Construction Equipment**
8. Barbara Cooreman, head of ESG due diligence, **Umicore**
9. Catherine Rubbens, project director - better mining, **SLR Consulting**
10. Catherine Rushforth, head of human rights, **Airbus**
11. Charlotte Brierley, human rights lead, **Sky**
12. Christian Spano, director, circularity, **Vale Base Metals**
13. Christoph Klein, manager, responsible sourcing of battery minerals - due diligence, **BASF**
14. Chrysantha Davis, responsible minerals program, supply chain sustainability, **Cisco**
15. Davidzo Muchawaya, regional lead, (outreach) Africa, **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance**
16. Diana Radovan, director of sustainability policy, **Global Electronics Association**
17. Eileen Maes, external affairs manager, **Critical Minerals Association**
18. Eric Kalala, CEO, **Enterprise Generale du Cobalt**
19. Farhath Abbas-Mirza, head of responsible minerals program, **ABB**
20. Francesca de Meillac, senior advisor, **Shift**
21. Ilaria Gualteri, global social sustainability manager, **Hitachi Energy**
22. Ines Kaempfer, CEO, **The Centre for Child Rights and Business**
23. Jan Klawitter, VP government and international policy, **Anglo American**
24. Jennifer Brewer, financial controller - Gemfair, **De Beers Group**
25. Jessica Wan, co-head of sustainability research, **Redwheel**
26. Jonty Knox, senior business partner – nature, strategy, and partnerships, **Rio Tinto**
27. Judy Kuszewski, sustainable business expert and writer, **Independent**
28. Kanishk Negi, director of sustainable procurement, **Schneider Electric**
29. Katy Ogundiya, director, sustainable and thematic research, **Barclays Investment Bank**
30. Marie Gerbier, director, energy, mining and industries, **Societe Generale**
31. Marina Hornasek-Metzl, VP corporate ESG and quality, **AT&S**
32. Mike Smith, director, value chain, **Copper Mark**
33. Nick Baker, group sustainable supply chain manager, **Skanska**
34. Norman Mukwakwami, global head of responsible sourcing, **Trafigura**
35. Olga Antonovskaya, former head of portfolio strategy new business ventures, **BHP**
36. Oliver Richards, head of critical minerals and mining, **UK Department of Business and Trade**
37. Phil Bloomer, strategic advisor, **Business and Human Rights Centre**
38. Pia Lindqvist, head of supplier sustainability within raw material procurement, **Outokumpu**
39. Raj Udayan Ray, managing director, metals and mining research, **BMO**
40. Rebecca Villalobos, founder, sustainability and social impact partner, **Earthly Strategies**
41. Sander Jahilo, head of resource sustainability, **Volvo Construction Equipment**
42. Sara Olsson, responsible business manager, **IXM**
43. Simon Blanchard, responsible sourcing manager, **Verkor**
44. Sonia Marsh, head of sustainability, **International Tin Association**
45. Sophie Lu, global head of heavy industry decarbonisation, **HSBC**
46. Susannah McLaren, head of responsible sourcing and sustainability, **Cobalt Institute**
47. Vedrana Lemor, head of corporate sustainability, **Aurubis**
48. Wen-Yu Weng, executive lead - critical minerals, **Ellen MacArthur Foundation**

**please note this agenda is subject to amendments

Day 1 – 13th October

9.00am-9.20am | ***Fireside chat***

Where do we stand? An honest assessment of progress, pressure and what comes next

Responsible sourcing in critical minerals has never been higher on the agenda. But how much has actually changed? This session sets the tone for two days of honest, practical conversation, taking stock of where the sector has made genuine progress, where it is falling short, and what the pressure points are that will define the next chapter.

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

9.20am-10.00am | ***Panel***

Shared risk, shared resilience: Partnerships that promote accountability across the value chain and deliver real business value

Ask a mining company who their customer is and they'll name a trader or a refiner. Ask a brand where their minerals come from and they'll point to a smelter at best. The two ends of the critical minerals value chain are operating in isolation from each other, and it is showing up in weaker accountability, murkier supply visibility, and missed opportunities on both sides.

Direct engagement between miners and downstream buyers is rare. But where it happens, it changes what's possible for the entire value chain. This session asks what it would take to make it the norm.

- Moving beyond transactional relationships: how downstream buyers and upstream producers are rethinking risk and investment sharing
- What accountability looks like in practice across long, complex value chains
- The business case for responsible sourcing partnerships, beyond reputational benefit
- The role of industry initiatives and third parties in enabling trust where direct relationships are limited

Speakers:

- Nick Baker, group sustainable supply chain manager, **Skanska**
- Pia Lindqvist, head of supplier sustainability within raw material procurement, **Outokumpu**
- Sara Olsson, responsible business manager, **IXM**

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

10.00am-10.30am | ***Panel***

Security of supply and operational reality: How to manage geopolitics and concentration risk

The critical minerals supply chain has a concentration problem. Over 75% of the world's cobalt is mined in the DRC (Cobalt Institute, 2026). China controls over 90% of rare earth processing capacity (International Energy Agency, 2026), and lithium refining remains heavily consolidated across a handful of players. For businesses across the value chain, this isn't an abstract geopolitical concern. It's an operational reality that is already reshaping procurement strategies, investment decisions, and long-term planning.

The question is no longer whether to act, but how. Diversification is easier said than done when alternative sources are underdeveloped, timelines are long, and costs are high. Meanwhile, trade policy shifts, export restrictions, and shifting alliances are compressing the window for measured responses. This session moves beyond the geopolitical headlines to focus on what businesses across the value chain can actually do and what it realistically takes to build resilience without sacrificing cost competitiveness or sustainability commitments.

Speakers:

- Jan Klawitter, VP government and international policy, **Anglo American**
- Oliver Richards, head of critical minerals and mining, **UK Department of Business and Trade**
- Simon Blanchard, responsible sourcing manager, **Verkor**

Moderator: Eileen Maes, external affairs manager, **Critical Minerals Association**

10.30am-11.00am *Networking break*

11.00am-11.45am **|** ***Panel***
Visibility has a limit: An honest reckoning with what traceability can and cannot deliver

Traceability is one of the most talked-about tools in sustainability. The promise is compelling: if we can see where materials come from, we can verify how they were produced, identify problems, and hold bad actors to account. Regulation is reinforcing that expectation, with due diligence requirements demanding ever greater visibility from companies across the value chain.

But the gap between what traceability is expected to deliver and what it can actually deliver is widening. Data can be falsified, chain of custody breaks down at informal mining sites, and visibility at the mine level tells you little about the conditions under which extraction actually took place. Meanwhile, the cost and complexity of traceability systems falls disproportionately on the suppliers least equipped to absorb it.

This session offers an honest assessment of where traceability adds genuine value and where it doesn't:

- The real limits of traceability technology and methodology across different mineral supply chains
- Where traceability data is genuinely decision-useful and where it risks becoming a compliance exercise
- How companies are combining traceability with other tools to build a more complete picture of supply chain risk
- The trap of over-reliance on visibility as a substitute for deeper accountability

Speakers:

- Angela Jorns, lead fair minerals, **Fairphone**
- Catherine Rushforth, head of human rights, **Airbus**
- Chrysantha Davis, responsible minerals program, supply chain sustainability, **Cisco**
- Sophie Lu, global head of heavy industry decarbonisation, **HSBC**

Moderator: Sonia Marsh, head of sustainability**, International Tin Association**

11.45am-12.30pm **| *Panel***

Making projects bankable: How to plug funding gaps to ensure (sustainable) supply keeps up with demand

The pipeline of critical minerals projects is not the problem. Hundreds of deposits are identified, explored, and sitting in development queues around the world. The problem is that too few of them make it to production. Capital is available, but it is not flowing to the right places, and the reasons are more structural than they might appear.
This session gets into the mechanics of what it actually takes to move projects from viable to financed:

- The structural barriers that keep credible projects stuck at the development stage
- How blended finance, offtake agreements and public-private instruments are being deployed in practice
- Sustainability standards as a bankability asset, not just a cost
- What miners, investors and buyers each need to change to close the gap between supply commitments and capital deployment

Speakers

- Jessica Wan, co-head of sustainability research, **Redwheel**
- Katy Ogundiya, director, thematic and sustainable investing, **Barclays Investment Bank**
- Marie Gerbier, director, energy, mining and industries, **Societe Generale**
- Raj Ray, managing director, metals and mining research, **BMO**

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

12.30pm-1.30pm *Lunch*

1.30pm-5.00pm **| *Breakout sessions***

*'The other room' is fully off-the-record and closed-door. No speakers, no agenda — just an open conversation on the topics the sector needs to discuss but rarely does in public. Limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration required.

**'This house believes' puts the sector's most contested questions to the room. Participants are randomly assigned a side to argue — whether they agree with it or not. High-energy, structured and limited to 12 participants per session.

1.30pm-2.15pm **| *Breakouts round 1***

1. **Panel -** Artisanal mining: Why responsible engagement so often falls short - and what it takes to make it stick

   Speakers:

   - Eric Kalala, CEO, Entreprise **Générale du Cobalt (EGC)**
   - Ines Kaempfer, CEO, **The Centre for Child Rights and Business**
   - Susannah McLaren, head of responsible sourcing and sustainability, **Cobalt Institute**

   Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

2. ***The other room** – We need to talk about China: How do you do due diligence in a jurisdiction that penalises it

3. ****This house believes** – The circular economy for critical minerals is built on a recycling myth

2.15pm -3.00pm **| *Breakouts round 2***

1. **Panel -** Beyond tier one: What visibility do companies really have past smelters and refiners and where can they drive change?

   Speakers:

   — Catherine Rubbens, project director – Better Mining, **SLR Consulting**
   — Charlotte Brierley, human rights lead, **Sky**
   — Farhath Abba-Mirza, head of responsible minerals, **ABB**

   Moderator: Adam Rolfe, senior director of standards and partnerships, **Responsible Minerals Alliance**

2. **The other room -** CSOs at risk: Has corporate sustainability taken a wrong turn?

   Moderator: Alan Knight, chief sustainability officer, **WE Soda**

2. **This house believes -** This house believes: The critical minerals supply gap makes deep sea mining inevitable

   Moderator: Simon Granberg, senior deep-sea mining policy officer, **Seas At Risk**

3.00pm-3.30pm *Networking break*

3.30pm -4.15pm **| *Breakouts round 3***

*** Split into small teams, you will be given a real-world supply chain liability scenario to work through and 75 minutes to develop a solution. Each team then pitches back to the room. No slides, no preparation required — just the people around you, the problem in front of you, and a deadline.

1. **Panel -** Mining standards: How to implement for real impact, not just compliance

   Speakers:

   — Adriana Auruzo, VP of environmental, social and sustainability affairs, **Southern Peaks Mining**
   — Andrew Jacob, group sustainability, **BHP**
   — Mike Smith, director, value chain, **Copper Mark**

   Moderator: Judy Kuszewski, sustainable business expert and writer, **Independent**

2. ***Mini hackathon -** Is your board ready? A working session on legal exposure in critical minerals supply chains

4.15pm -5.00pm **| *Breakouts round 4***

1. **Panel –** Too little, too late: How to make community engagement meaningful from the start

   Speakers:

   — Davidzo Muchawaya, regional lead, Africa, **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance**
   — Anna Dziuba Bergfors, head of social sustainability and reporting, **Volvo Construction Equipment**

   Moderator: Phil Bloomer, strategic advisor, **Business and Human Rights Centre**

2. **Mini Hackathon -** Is your board ready? A working session on legal exposure in critical minerals supply chains (Continued)

5.00pm-6.00pm *Networking drinks*

Day 2 – 14th October

9.00am-9.20am **| *Q&A***

TBC

9.20am-10.00am **| *Panel***
Procurement under pressure: Can buyers balance CSDDD, price volatility and security of supply?

CSDDD obligations begin applying from July 2028, and with potential fines reaching 5% of annual turnover for non-compliance (European Commission, 2024), the window to get ready is narrower than many companies realise. For smelters, refiners, chemical companies and manufacturers whose supply chains run through some of the world's most opaque and high-risk mineral sourcing regions, meeting the directive's requirements demands a level of visibility that most have not yet achieved. And in a sector where cobalt prices swung by 130% in 2025 (IEA Global Critical Minerals Outlook, 2026) and supply security is climbing every board agenda, the pressure to comply is competing with pressures that pull in the opposite direction.

This session gets into the operational reality of what compliance actually looks like on the ground:

- How sustainability and due diligence teams are building the systems, processes and supplier relationships needed to meet CSDDD requirements in practice
- Where the real implementation gaps are and what it takes to close them across complex, multi-tier critical minerals supply chains
- Managing competing pressures: how companies are making sourcing decisions when due diligence, cost discipline and supply security point in different directions

- What good looks like: practical examples of due diligence programmes that are delivering results beyond compliance

Speakers

- Barbara Cooreman, head of ESG due diligence, **Umicore**
- Christoph Klein, manager – responsible sourcing of battery minerals – due diligence, **BASF**
- Vedrana Lemor, head of corporate sustainability, **Aurubis**

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

10.00am-10.30am *Networking break*

10.30am-11.20am **| *Panel***

From commitment to action: Partnerships and business models closing the circular economy gap

Downstream companies know circularity matters. End-of-life copper waste alone could be worth more than $110 billion by 2035 (Systemiq, 2025). The opportunity is hiding in plain sight. But recycling alone will not close the gap. The more transformative opportunity lies in circular design, product-as-a-service business models and second-life applications — choices being made now that will define whether circularity becomes a reality or remains a commitment on a slide.

This session examines what it takes for downstream companies to move from intention to action:

- Circular design in practice: how product and system redesign reduces mineral demand and extends material life
- Business models that shift incentives: from ownership to service, and what that means for supply chain relationships
- The partnerships needed to coordinate end-of-life collection, processing and reintegration into supply
- What downstream buyers can do now, before the feedstock wave arrives after 2030

Speakers

- Christian Spano, director, circularity, **Vale Base Metals**
- Marina Hornasek-Metzl, VP corporate ESG and quality, **AT&S**
- Sander Jahilo, head of resource sustainability, **Volvo Construction Equipment**
- Wen-Yu Weng, executive lead – critical minerals, **Ellen MacArthur Foundation**

Moderator: Diana Radovan, director of sustainability policy, **Global Electronics Association**

11.20am-12:10pm **| *Panel***

Nature's social license: Is the human impact of biodiversity loss the business case for action?

Extractive operations are among the leading drivers of habitat destruction, water depletion and ecosystem degradation in some of the world's most biodiverse regions. The environmental consequences are well documented. Less examined is what that destruction means for the people who depend on those ecosystems — and what it means for the companies whose social license rests on those communities' consent.

Human rights provides a more tractable anchor for business than biodiversity metrics alone. Where ecosystem loss translates into loss of livelihoods, displacement or deteriorating access to clean water, it enters the territory of due diligence obligations that companies are increasingly required to act on.

This session examines whether human impact is the lens that finally makes nature a boardroom priority:

- The scale of mining's biodiversity footprint and what it means for affected communities
- Human rights due diligence as a lever for driving nature-related accountability across the value chain
- How companies are integrating community impact and ecosystem health into site-level decision making
- What credible commitments to nature protection look like for miners and downstream buyers

Speakers:

- Anna Brog, head of sustainability, **Kenmare Resources**
- Ilaria Gualtieri, global social sustainability manager, **Hitachi Energy**
- Jonty Knox, senior business partner – nature, strategy and partnerships, **Rio Tinto**
- Kanishk Negi, director of sustainable procurement, **Schneider Electric**

Moderator: Francesca de Meillac, senior advisor, **Shift**

12.10pm-1.10pm *Lunch*

1.10pm – 3.10pm | ***Roundtables***

Roundtable A – **New supply reality:** Why projects stall and what it would take to move them forward

- Olga Antonovskaya, former head of portfolio strategy new business ventures, **BHP**

Roundtable B – **ASM at scale:** Can responsible sourcing survive commercial pressure?

- Jennifer Brewer, financial controller – Gemfair, **De Beers Group**

Roundtable C – **Traceability that works:** What data is actually decision-useful?

Roundtable D – **Collaboration vs competition:** Can the industry act collectively when it matters most?

3.10pm-3.30pm **Roundtable key takeaways and closing remarks**

- Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**

For more information or to get involved, please contact Emilia Colman
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