

London Mining Network Annual Report 2018

London Mining Network (LMN) is an alliance of human rights, development, environmental and solidarity groups. London is the world's leading centre of mining finance. Mining is one of the most polluting and destructive industries in the world and is often associated with human rights abuses. Our role is to support communities badly affected by mining, help make their voices heard in London, and assist them in pursuing just solutions to their problems.



"We thank you infinitely for your valuable work, dedication, accompaniment and care that we received from each one of you. We wove bonds of infinite affection that we hope will continue to grow despite the distances.... Everything went very well thanks to all your efforts. We do not have any complaint.... A thousand and a thousand thanks.... As far as possible we try to be the voice of those who need to be heard in the face of the impunity and misfortune caused by the company."

Rosa Maria Mateus, CAJAR lawyers' collective, reflecting on the speaker tour which LMN hosted in October 2018 around the AGM (shareholders' meeting) of the world's largest mining company, BHP.

In brief

We had a busy year, with just three part-time workers in the office and a great team of researchers, advisory committee members and volunteers doing amazing work, as well as our network member groups, associate member groups and others that we have had the privilege of working with.

Our most important contribution is that we have continued to support our partners in mining-affected communities, including mine workers as well as mining opponents and critics, who are at the heart of our work. They are the protagonists of their own struggles, and our role is to amplify their voices and give them the opportunity to confront corporate power here in London where so many of the decisions that affect them are made.

- We welcomed representatives from South Africa's Marikana community in March, still seeking justice for killed and injured mine workers and their widows, for the Lonmin AGM.
- In April, a representative from Indonesia attended the Rio Tinto AGM to speak about the environmental and human rights violations around West Papua's Grasberg mine.
- In June, we worked with community representatives from Galicia and elsewhere in Spain opposing Atalaya mining company's plans for reopening and expanding mine projects.
- In August, as part of Marikana Solidarity Collective, we supported activities marking the sixth anniversary of the 2012 massacre.
- In October, we organised a week of activities called Beyond BHP with network member groups including War on Want, The Gaia Foundation, Colombia Solidarity Campaign and Coal Action Network, which saw earth rights defenders from Colombia, Chile and Brazil and a visitor from the USA challenge BHP company directors, management and shareholders at the company's Annual General Meeting and engage with parliamentarians, journalists, academics, trade unionists, former mine workers and communities affected by open-cast coal mining in this country.

We have continued to publicise the experiences of mining-affected communities, and the injustices caused by irresponsible mining, in the news media, social media, reports by our member groups and in our own publications, with a marked expansion in our own social media coverage and with articles and interviews carried by the BBC, the Guardian, the New Internationalist, the Ecologist, Vice News, DeSmog and Independent Catholic News.

We have built on our education and outreach work in the UK, as part of our goal to take mining issues into schools, colleges and public spaces. We ran workshops on the life-cycle of a smartphone in schools, a summer camp, and a university. This took us around London, to Birmingham, Lancaster and Suffolk, and we collaborated with LMN member group Society of St Columban on our first School Witness Project for the Beyond BHP activities.

We have spoken up for mining-affected communities in company AGMs, submitted evidence to parliamentary bodies in London, participated in a campaign to get the European Commission to improve the legal framework for corporate sustainability reporting, and urged investors to pressure mining companies to respect human rights and environmental standards.

We have worked with others on building alliances for justice, including the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and the Extractivist Economy, held in South Africa in November, out of which has sprung a plan for international action.

We have strengthened our organisation to enable it to rise to the ever-increasing challenges of effectively opposing the injustices perpetrated by the industry underlying all other industries – mining. Our friends in mining-affected communities around the world tell us that the support that groups like ours provide gives them the courage to maintain their struggle for justice. This gives us the resolve to continue working in solidarity with them.



Photo: Liam Barrington-Bush

1. Support for mining-affected communities

One of the main reasons for LMN's existence is to act in solidarity with communities badly affected by London-linked mining companies. Those communities are the main actors in their struggle for justice, but they welcome and ask for the support of friends around the world. Our role is to bring their voices to London and find ways of persuading companies financed from our city to accept the demands of those whose lives they affect so damagingly.

Getting companies to change their behaviour is always an unequal struggle – they have great wealth and power, while the communities with whom we work have relatively little. The issues on which we and our member groups are working are many, and often complicated by differences of views within the affected communities. And there is often no appealing 'business argument' for why a company should behave justly towards affected communities in countries where legislation is usually developed in favour of corporate interests and often with companies' assistance, where enforcement of standards is weak, where threats against mining opponents go unpunished and armed repression of dissent is an ever-present possibility.

International dispute settlement mechanisms such as that of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development are often ill suited to the kind of problems faced by the communities with which we work and lead to recommendations which are unenforceable. International legal cases can take many years, require large sums of money, and can often only result in financial compensation for wrongs suffered rather than rectification of harms done. It is harder to make business arguments in these cases than it is, for instance, to persuade companies to be more open about their climate impacts and adopt policies to mitigate them. This is because there is already broad recognition among institutional investors of the potentially cataclysmic effects of climate change on their investments, and consequent support for meaningful changes in corporate behaviour.

Nonetheless, together, we have achieved much over the years: we have helped delay the construction or expansion of mining projects where our partners in the local communities oppose them; we have helped ensure collective rather than individual relocation for communities where mining expansion is already occurring; we have helped prevent diversion of rivers; we have succeeded in ensuring that investors and parliamentarians have added their voices to ours in pressing for changed corporate behaviour; we have ensured that mining companies have to work harder to 'green' their public image; and most importantly, we have, according to our partners, encouraged them to keep up their struggle for justice and not give up. Our publicity has helped protect the lives of mining opponents under threat in Brazil, Colombia and the Philippines. But constant pressure is needed to achieve justice, and vigilance is needed to prevent further injustices.

This year we have continued and expanded the support we have offered to mining-affected communities, or organisations working with them, in Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia and West Papua, Madagascar, Mongolia, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Tanzania, the UK, the USA and Zambia. We have built strong links with groups challenging gold and uranium mining in Spain, begun to build links with organisations in Peru, and continued monitoring developments in Armenia, Bougainville, Canada and Sweden. And we have continued to work with global mine workers' union IndustriALL on worker rights issues.

Solidarity with communities affected by the Marikana Massacre in South Africa



In August 2012, 34 striking mine workers at Lonmin's platinum mining operations at Marikana, South Africa, were gunned down and killed by South African police. Their families have yet to achieve justice. We have been working with Bishop Jo Seoka of the Benchmarks Foundation in South Africa, with community women's organisation Sikhala Sonkhe, with the German Ethical Shareholders Association, with LMN member group War on Want and as part of London-based Marikana Solidarity Collective to attain that justice. Under pressure from its critics, the company has made commitments which it has not yet kept, and now another company, Sibanye Stillwater, which has the worst record on mine worker deaths in South Africa, wants to take it over. If it does, we have to make sure that commitments made to workers, the bereaved families and the community at Marikana are fulfilled rather than dumped.

In March, we hosted Bishop Jo Seoka from the Benchmarks Foundation, Thumeka Magwangqana from Sikhala Sonkhe and Andries Nkome, a lawyer representing mine workers, so that they could present demands to Lonmin's board and shareholders at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and push for accountability ahead of the takeover. We worked with German Ethical Shareholders' Association and documentary maker Zoe Broughton to film the events. The South African delegation also met with parliamentarians, seeking support to ensure that Lonmin plc, as a company trading on the London Stock Exchange, cannot avoid accountability for its obligations to those affected by the Marikana massacre. As part of the Marikana Solidarity Collective, we held events in August around the anniversary of the massacre, including a 'toxic' tour of London's bank district.

Opposing gold mining in Northern Ireland

Gold mining is particularly damaging to the environment, as many tonnes of rock have to be dug up to obtain a single gramme of gold, and the ore is often processed using either mercury (in small scale mining) or cyanide (in large scale mining) which can both cause severe water pollution. Gold is used in computers, electronics, medicine and dentistry, but the majority of mined gold is used for jewellery or coinage or sits in high security storage rooms as a store of value in case of currency depreciation. Hal Rhoades, of LMN member group the Gaia Foundation, represented LMN at an international gathering in Northern Ireland in March in opposition to Dalradian's plans to mine gold in the Mid-Ulster district. Dalradian is a Canadian company trading on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM). People from around the world shared experiences of the damage done by gold mining, and of ways of stopping it. Dalradian's project has so far not gone ahead. Local campaigners, together with Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland, continue to struggle to prevent it obtaining planning permission.

Defending popular consultations and alternatives to mining in Colombia

LMN member groups Colombia Solidarity Campaign and the Gaia Foundation have worked for many years with communities in the province of Tolima, Colombia, trying to prevent massive gold mining company AngloGold Ashanti (based in South Africa but with close links to Britain, including major British-based investors) from constructing a huge open-cast gold mine in the mountains near Cajamarca. This area is known for its organic agriculture, and is at the headwaters of major river systems. LMN has co-published reports in English and Spanish on the project in recent years along with Colombia Solidarity Campaign and the University of Tolima.



Local communities succeeded in holding popular consultations, or local referenda, in 2017, which rejected large scale mining by majorities of around 98% in each case, and the company has not been able to pursue its plans. The Colombian government, however, is actively attempting to overturn local communities' right to veto mining projects, and this would allow AngloGold Ashanti back in again. LMN assisted the Gaia Foundation and War on Want with events in London in March celebrating the popular consultations and the work of local communities in developing viable economic alternatives to mining, strengthening the arguments against AngloGold Ashanti's proposals.

We followed this up in June by supporting a 'Carnival for Water, Life and Territory', organised by Colombia Solidarity Campaign. The purpose of such events is to create enough publicity to prevent the popular consultations being ignored or over-ridden.

Denouncing environmental damage in West Papua

LMN member groups Partizans and TAPOL, and individual activists within LMN, have been working for many years on the conflicts and environmental damage caused by the Grasberg copper and gold mine in West Papua, a territory occupied by Indonesia in 1963 and officially annexed in 1969, and in which an independence struggle has been conducted ever since. British multinational Rio Tinto has been deeply involved in this mine, operated by PT Freeport Indonesia, and has had an 'offtake agreement' enabling it to profit from its operations in return for investing in its expansion.

In April, LMN hosted Pius Ginting, an environmental activist from Indonesia, for the Rio Tinto AGM. He brought evidence of the appalling environmental damage being done by the Grasberg mine and spoke of the killings which continue to occur in the area as a result of Indonesian military involvement. He called for Rio Tinto to pull out of the project. The company tried to avoid taking responsibility for the conflict which this mine has caused. Although it is now pulling out as a result of Indonesian legislation on local ownership, the company must not be allowed to evade responsibility for the consequences of its historic involvement. Our role will continue to be that of publicising the impacts of the company's activity and supporting colleagues in Indonesia and West Papua in their search for justice.



Pius said: ***"We succeeded in conveying information about the environmental and social impacts in the downstream area of Freeport mining. The Rio Tinto Board of Directors admitted that they do not know the story of the impacts of mining and human rights. ... We succeeded in meeting one of the shareholder owners, that is the Church of England. They will review whether its investment is in line with the safeguard policies on mining. We succeeded in giving the message that should there be any further discussion with the company, impacted communities should be given a channel to voice their grievances, to avoid partial information about the environmental and social impacts of the company."***

Supporting community and union demands to Glencore

For the first time, we attended the AGM of massive London-listed mining and mineral trading company Glencore, which is based in Switzerland and holds its AGMs there. Andy Whitmore was representing LMN at a gathering of international union IndustriALL's global network on Glencore, held around the time of the AGM. The union published a report about the company, highlighting workers' rights, which we helped to publicise. LMN groups have long held concerns about the human rights and environmental impacts of Glencore's activities in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Peru, the Philippines and Zambia, and we work with Swiss colleagues in research and campaigning organisation Multiwatch to monitor abuses and report on them.

Amplifying community concerns over Anglo American in Brazil, Colombia, South Africa and the Pacific Ocean

LMN and several of its member groups have a long history of bringing community and worker concerns to the AGMs of Anglo American, another of the biggest mining companies on the London Stock Exchange. At its May AGM we raised concerns on behalf of community members affected by its iron ore mine at Minas Rio, Brazil, where there had been spills from a slurry pipeline and intimidation of critics of the mine. Local residents want an end to damaging pollution. Those living below the tailings (fine wastes) dam want the option of assisted resettlement because of concerns about the dam's safety. And the mine's critics want the right to voice their concerns without receiving death threats in response.

Members of LMN member group Colombia Solidarity Campaign raised a number of issues on behalf of communities affected by the Cerrejon Coal mine in Colombia, of which the company owns one third (BHP and Glencore also own a third each). This project is associated with multiple relocations of farming communities, coal dust pollution of air and water, disputes over water use, local climate impacts and death threats against mining opponents. We hosted a visit by representatives of communities affected by this mine at London-listed BHP's AGM in October – see below. Communities want just and adequate resettlement where it is necessary, with decent standards of housing, sufficient land to continue agricultural livelihoods and assistance in developing viable new livelihoods should they decide to abandon farming as a result of the move. They also want an end to air and water pollution, a ban on diversion of local water sources, an end to expansion of the edges of the mine workings, and publication of an adequate mine closure plan.

Our friends in Brazil and Colombia value the fact that we can bring their demands to the board and shareholders. They tell us that this has helped protect them and has improved the behaviour of local management. There have certainly been changes in corporate behaviour since campaigners first started attending company AGMs, and former Chairman of Anglo American, Sir Mark Moody Stuart, told us at one such AGM that our continuing presence had led to improvements in the behaviour of local management at the Cerrejon coal mine in Colombia. But we have to keep the pressure on, because the improvements are never sufficient to meet community expectations or the demands of justice.

As we have done each year for the last few years, we provided LMN member group ACTSA (Action for Southern Africa) with proxies to enable them to attend the AGM to speak about the needs of former gold mine workers dying of silicosis. Pressure on Anglo American inside and outside South Africa (including at company AGMs) has encouraged the company to accept an out of court settlement of a legal case in South Africa aimed at providing medical support to these former gold mine workers.

We have worked in recent years with colleagues at Deep Sea Mining Campaign, based in Australia, to raise concerns primarily from communities in and around the Pacific about the potential impacts of deep sea mining on coastal and fishing communities. Deep sea mining is touted as a 'green' alternative to on-land mining and as essential to producing the minerals needed for renewable energy and the 'green economy'. But it risks catastrophic destruction of seabed ecosystems and marine livelihoods. As a result of our combined advocacy, Anglo American has terminated its involvement with deep sea mining company Nautilus, which has so far been prevented from starting a project off the Papua New Guinea coast.

Speaking up for communities in Chile

Building on interventions we have made in recent years at the AGMs of copper mining company Antofagasta, we attended the company's June 2018 AGM to ask questions sent to us by our colleagues in the Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales (OLCA), the Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts. We received inadequate responses – but our friends in Chile tell us that the fact that their struggles are given a voice in London strengthens their position, particularly because interventions in the AGM, though not usually considered newsworthy in this country, do get publicity in Chile and help create pressure for change.

Stopping destructive mining in Spain

In 2017, we began working with colleagues in two organisations, Ecologistas en Accion and Plataforma Touro O Pino Non, to help prevent Atalaya, a small Spanish company trading on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM), from going ahead with unpopular projects involving copper and zinc. We assisted representatives from the two organisations in gaining access to the company's AGM in London in June, and with publicity in the UK. Campaigners from Galicia, an autonomous region in north west Spain, object to the company's proposed copper operations at Touro near the tourist and pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostela. Ecologistas en Accion pointed out the dangers posed by the tailings (fine wastes) dam at an existing copper mine in Andalucia in the south. Atalaya was not pleased to see its opponents and tried to keep them out of the AGM. They even called the police – a first in our experience. The police, however, explained that the company's shareholders have the right to enter its AGM.



Luis Gallardo, from Plataforma Touro O Pino Non, a group resisting the re-opening of an old copper mine in Galicia, travelled to London for the AGM. Luis was pleased that our involvement, and that of our member group Gaia Foundation, had meant that the impacts of the resistance were no longer just local, but regional and beyond. He said: ***“Our strength is growing, and we are getting more support every day from concerned citizens and organisations from inside and outside Galicia and Spain. We are connecting with other people affected by mining around the world.”*** (See Campaigners tell Atalaya ‘no social license for

mine’.) The projects remain halted.

Publicising pollution in India

This year we have welcomed a new organisation into membership of LMN: India Matters UK. We have supported the group over events to publicise coal mining impacts in Chhattisgarh, India – particularly impacts on women – and popular resistance. We hope that there will be a fruitful sharing of experiences between coal-affected communities in India and those with whom we have already been working in Bangladesh, Colombia, Russia and the UK.

Continuing to hold Vedanta to account

Mining company Vedanta, controlled by Indian mining magnate Anil Agarwal, has been under extreme pressure for years over its operations in India and Zambia. Perhaps as a way of avoiding the kind of scrutiny to which colleagues inside and outside London Mining Network have subjected it at its London AGMs since it listed on the London Stock Exchange in 2003 (before LMN came into existence), it delisted from that exchange on 1 October, the same day as its AGM. Nonetheless, activists from independent group Foil Vedanta and from LMN continued to press the company on its record at the AGM and we will continue to seek ways to ensure that it cannot evade penalties for any legal infringements committed around its operations.

Breaking free from BHP

BHP is the world's largest mining company, and despite the fact that it enjoys a reputation for good corporate ethics, there are multiple concerns around its operations in a number of countries. LMN and several of our member groups have been working for many years to hold BHP accountable for its activities.

In October, we hosted a speaker tour by representatives of communities affected by the company's operations in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and the USA. The visitors had meetings with the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, journalists, NGOs, students and members of the public, as well as attending the company's AGM.

"We've been in spaces where we've been able to sow a seed and we're collecting it to take it away again in a bag.... We didn't know about other struggles. If we are able to leave here with a network of collaboration, that's what we have to do." Misael Socarras

Wayuu Indigenous representative Misael Socarras from La Guajira in Colombia and Rosa Maria Mateus from lawyers' collective CAJAR in Colombia's capital, Bogota, presented concerns about the Cerrejon coal mine (one-third owned by BHP along with Anglo American and Glencore). They visited communities opposing opencast coal mining in north eastern England, along with Aldo Amaya, leader of Sintracarbon, the mine workers' union at the Cerrejon mine, who was in England for a meeting of global union IndustriALL's network on BHP. Together with Aldo, they also met with former deep coal miners and with representatives of the UK's National Union of Miners. This part of their tour was hosted by LMN member group Coal Action Network, which is working with other groups in LMN to build links between communities and workers affected by coal mining in England and Colombia and to call for a just transition away from coal mining in a way that does not cause injustice for coal mine workers and their communities. Misael and Rosa Maria very much valued this visit, and it laid the foundations for Coal Action Network's projected work on this project during 2019.

"It was good for me to see the faces behind the company, to see who they are. It made me think – who are they, what's their life, and how can we convince those people who are responsible? There are some people who are criminals." Rosa Maria Mateus



Leticia Oliveira, from Brazilian social movement MAB (Movimento do Atingidos por Barragens, Movement of People Affected by Dams) spoke about the continuing impacts of the Samarco tailings (fine wastes) dam disaster in November 2015 and the inadequacy of the company's response. Samarco is a company owned 50% by BHP and 50% by Brazilian company Vale, and mines iron ore in the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil. The collapse of the company's Fundao tailings dam killed twenty people, destroyed three communities and polluted hundreds of miles of the Rio Doce river valley and the sea around the mouth of the river.

Since early 2016, LMN has been working with MAB, the Churches and Mining Network and other Brazilian organisations, and with LMN member group War on Want, to ensure that BHP fulfils its legal and moral responsibilities to those affected. People are demanding adequate compensation for loss of land, livelihood and access to clean water. Our colleagues in Brazil say that the mining companies' efforts to date have been inadequate and that the companies should be held liable for a major environmental crime.

Our role has been to enable community representatives to speak to company directors, management and officials at its AGMs in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and to build support among organisations in this country for just compensation for those affected by the disaster. We have ensured media coverage of the issues each year, to increase pressure on BHP to improve its behaviour. This year Leticia provided a podcast for national newspaper *The Guardian*.

"For us we believe it's important to be here and at the AGM, to be together with other communities." Leticia Oliveira

This year, we also assisted colleagues at the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre in both Brazil and Britain in arranging meetings in London in November for a delegation from communities affected by the Samarco disaster but not represented by MAB. They had private meetings with BHP company management and with other people to whom we introduced them.

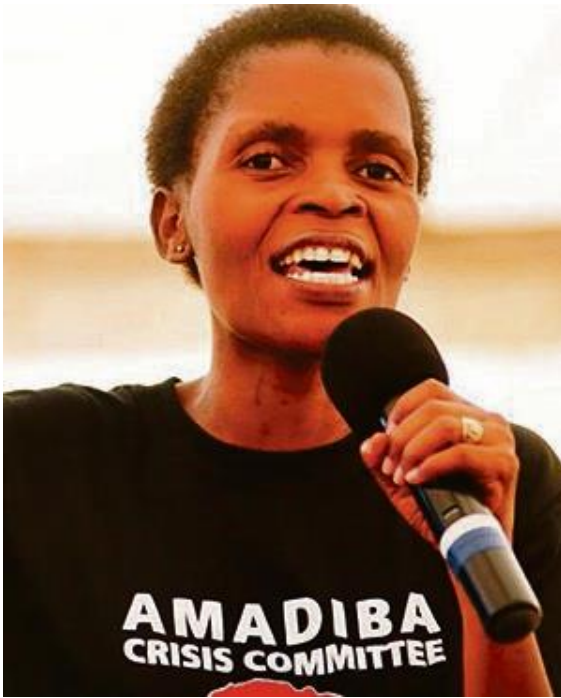
"We try to visualise the strategies that these companies use and that's been really useful. It makes sense to be here as we're linked to different processes – mining and indigenous communities' experiences that nurture our resistance work." Lucio Cuenca

The community representatives whom we host on our speaker tours always discuss with us the usefulness of their visits. All of them value the opportunity to share their communities' experiences with each other, with activists and other potential supporters in this country and with journalists, investors and parliamentarians. Most also believe that, despite the unjust power imbalance between their communities and the mining companies on show at company AGMs, it is worth continuing to press the companies publicly in these annual forums and to insist that they keep commitments and assurances already made.

Lucio Cuenca of OLCA in Chile believed that there was value in bringing Chilean issues to the BHP AGM for the first time, because the company had not previously faced challenges in this country over its operations there.

Roger Featherstone from the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition commented: ***"They had to justify what they were doing and I got in their face. They know we're not equals but they need to take us seriously... What people are talking about is much more of value than the AGM. For me the AGM is the vehicle but the set of meetings that we are having really makes it worth it."***

Assisting the Amadiba Crisis Committee



The Amadiba Crisis Committee in Pondoland in South Africa's Eastern Cape is trying to stop an Australian company, MRC, whose biggest investor is a UK businessman, from constructing a mineral sands mine in Xolobeni on the spectacularly beautiful Wild Coast. Over the past three years we have been working with LMN member groups War on Want and the Gaia Foundation and with activists in the Marikana Solidarity Collective to publicise the community's opposition to the project. We helped organise a protest in support of the community in September and a visit by Nonhle Mbuthuma of the Amadiba Crisis Committee in October.

The company has been thwarted in its plan to start mine construction and a recent court judgement has affirmed the right of the community to say 'no' to mining on its land. But the South African mines minister seems determined that mining should go ahead, so we need to keep the pressure up on UK investors to ensure that the community's wishes are

respected.

Solidarity with the people of Phulbari, Bangladesh

Small mining company GCM Resources, which trades on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM), has been trying for over thirteen years to gain permission to construct a large opencast coal mine on prime agricultural land near Phulbari in north western Bangladesh. The project would require the relocation of tens of thousands of rural people (the company estimates around 40,000, its critics suggest much higher estimates), with no guarantee that they would have adequate accommodation or alternative livelihoods. There is fierce local opposition to the company's plans. For many years, LMN has been working with Bangladeshi activists to bring concerns to the company's AGMs and persuade it to abandon the project. In December, we brought the demands of community leaders from 50 local communities to GCM's AGM, insisting that the company abandon its Phulbari coal project. Community opposition and international solidarity have so far managed to prevent the project going ahead.

2. LMN communications work: telling the public what's really going on

Another key aspect of our work is telling the public, primarily in Britain, about the negative impacts of the activities of UK-linked mining companies, because most people in this country will, usually without knowing it, have close links to some of these companies through their pension funds, insurance companies and banks, and through the taxes they pay to local and national government, whose workers' pension funds are also often invested in mining companies. Many pension funds automatically invest in the top 100 companies on the London Stock Exchange, and at present these include BHP, Rio Tinto, Glencore, Anglo American and Antofagasta.

Media work

Marikana Massacre, South Africa

We assisted in the production of a video of activities around the Lonmin AGM in March. Events were covered in the Daily Telegraph and community leader Thumeka Magwangqana from women's organisation Sikhala Sonkhe was interviewed by the BBC.

Pollution at the Grasberg mine, West Papua

In April, the widely-read website Independent Catholic News featured testimony from Indonesian activist Pius Ginting about the catastrophic pollution around the Freeport-Rio Tinto controlled Grasberg copper and gold mine in West Papua. BBC Indonesia also aired an interview with Pius.

Tuticorin Massacre, India

We ensured that Independent Catholic News covered the massacre of protesters against Vedanta's Tuticorin smelter in India in May.

Atalaya AGM

Activities around the Atalaya AGM in June were covered in Spain by Galicia Press, Xornal Galicia and El Salto Diario.

BHP AGM

The issues raised by our visitors in October were covered by The Guardian (both about the Samarco tailings dam collapse in Brazil and the Cerrejon coal mine in Colombia), the New Internationalist, the Ecologist, Vice News and DeSmog.

Social media

"If you want to: support post-development, support Global South communities fighting capitalist #extractivism, hold #mining corporations to account, put your privilege to good use, support people of colour protecting the #environment against UK companies.. THIS is the way". Julia Lagoutte, in a tweet to us in November

We use Twitter and Facebook to let people know about important London-linked developments in the mining industry, the negative impacts of companies based in our city, the views of affected communities, and related events. We also use it to interact with supporters, journalists – and companies through strategic hashtags and mentions – and we also took to social media to encourage people to donate to our first crowdfunder launched ahead of Beyond BHP. In 2018, we gained 693 followers on Twitter, totalling just under 7,000 by the end of the year. We also have 155 more Facebook followers, up from 2,017 at the beginning of January to 2,172 by the end of December. Our most successful Facebook posts and Tweets have been when we have had community visits – with photos and video of demonstrations and events the most widely shared. These shares have corresponded with peaks in new followers, retweets and mentions.

Website

Our website carries many articles explaining the issues, including accounts of our activities. During 2018 there were 59,280 page views by 34,378 visitors. Our ten most popular articles were:

	Article	Page Views
1	FROM 2010: Rio Tinto – a shameful history of human and labour rights abuses	18,212

2	Death and destruction caused by mining in West Papua – but Rio Tinto denies responsibility	1040
3	Berkeley Energia uranium mining project in Spain – EU's only new uranium mine	583
4	Why is Vedanta delisting from the London Stock Exchange?	577
5	Indonesian mining campaigner calls for Rio Tinto to exit Papua	494
6	FROM 2017: Briefing on Anglo America Minas Rio iron ore mine in Brazil	484
7	Fear and loathing in La Guajira	467
8	FROM 2017: A terrible tragedy – we are desperately sorry – BHP AGM	439
9	FROM 2016: Follow the money from Pondoland to London Wall	435
10	Leave the gold in the hills	416

Newsletters

We send out a monthly email newsletter with links to dozens of articles of interest. This year presented a challenge because of implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Sadly, we lost over a third of our 917 subscribers due to having to ask them to 'opt in' according to new EU regulations in May. Being a small organisation, we have struggled both with its implementation and with its effect, as it has decreased our reach. However, since July, all of our newsletters have been opened by 32-38.5% of subscribers – well above the non-profit average of 22% - and subscriber numbers are climbing back again. The 'click rate' on links within emails is between 4-8%, also exceeding the industry average of 2%. Due to positive feedback and a high open rate, we will be putting the newsletter on our website in 2019 so that it can be read more widely.

"I love your newsletters, they really are the best out there... thank you!"

Natalie Lowrie, Communications Coordinator of the Deep Sea Mining Campaign, Australia

Publications

In 2018 we assisted LMN member group Coal Action Network with a report on the impacts of coal mining in Siberia – because Russia is the biggest supplier of the coal still burnt in UK power stations. By drawing attention to the catastrophic human rights and environmental impacts of coal mining in Russia, we hope to speed the phase-out of coal use in the UK and create pressure for improvements in Russia.

As part of our work with Ecologistas en Accion in Spain, we have been monitoring the activities of Berkeley Energia, which wants to open a uranium mine. In June we published a briefing on the project. We also sent an open letter to UK financial authorities raising concerns (see below under 'Speaking Truth to Power').

LMN member group Eritrea Focus published a report on the links between mining and repression in Eritrea, and the UK links, which we helped to publicise.

We contributed information to a report on British mining companies in Latin America, published in October by LMN member group War on Want.

We assisted in publicising a technical report published by Arizona Mining Reform Coalition ready for the BHP AGM in October, showing the practical problems involved in constructing a copper mine at Oak Flat, Arizona, where BHP and Rio Tinto are eager to mine in an area sacred to Apache indigenous people.

We also published a briefing on the impacts of a number of mining projects involving BHP ready to hand to shareholders entering the company's AGM.

3. Reaching out to young people

In 2017, one of our committee members, Kerima Mohideen, a teacher, devised an educational board game to help people learn about the impacts of mobile phones on environment and society. Crucial to those impacts are the effects of mining the minerals used in phones. With the help of Ciprian Diaconita of LMN member group Environmental and Social Change, the game was designed and printed in an attractive and durable format.

Kerima began taking it around to schools and youth groups to encourage young people to engage with the issues. The game was featured at this year's Lush Summit in February, organised by Lush cosmetics for all its employees and representatives of organisations which it has helped fund, including LMN. Presenters Kerima Mohideen and LMN Communications Worker Lydia James were interviewed for the Summit's television channel interviewed for the Summit's television channel thus bringing the game to a much larger audience.



During 2018 the project expanded. Kerima and Lydia have continued to present the game in schools, colleges and youth groups, but they have also begun a collaboration with LMN member group the Society of St Columban (the Columbans) on a pilot project with students in three Catholic secondary schools, raising awareness about mining issues and reflecting on it in the light of the schools' faith traditions.

From January to March, Kerima and Lydia ran joint workshops with Columban youth worker James Trewby in Birmingham. The first workshop was with Columban interns and youth workers, followed by others in Catholic schools. An idea emerged from this collaboration, to invite schools to witness a demonstration outside a mining company Annual General Meeting when LMN was hosting overseas partners, this year, the BHP AGM in October.

Links were made with a Catholic school in Lancaster. A preparatory workshop was held in early October for interested sixth form students introducing the issues around mining, the BHP mining company and some of the countries BHP works in: Chile, USA, Colombia and Brazil. Visitors from these four countries were travelling to London for the BHP AGM so the workshop also considered why they were coming, and what their demands of the company were. The second part of the

workshop focused on why people get involved in social action and the differences between protest and campaigns.

Four female students aged 16-17 came on the trip the week after, from 16-17 October. The group witnessed the BHP AGM demonstration in the morning of 17 and attended a photographic exhibition organised by LMN member group the Gaia Foundation, 'We Feed The World', on the importance of small-scale farmers', before watching the visitors being interviewed and attending an evening public event at University College London UCL.

James and Lydia returned to Lancaster a fortnight later to conduct a debrief with the students. After explaining what they thought about the trip, the students heard how the trip had been from other people's perspectives such as the visitors and Threepenny Festival artists. They looked at some media coverage of the event and explored ways to respond to issues of social and environmental justice. Different responses were outlined: faith/prayer, media/communications, donating/fundraising, lobbying/policy, protest/direct action and consumer/lifestyle changes. The students then led a week's worth of assemblies at the school in December based on what they had learnt. They also decided to write an article for Catholic news websites and the local newspaper.

All four students said that they were happy to have participated in the project and gave feedback on the trip:

"I now have an awareness of how issues affect people and if I see these things happening on TV in the future, it will mean more to me".

'I liked talking to people, hearing different perspectives on different matters'

And how they would like to respond:

"I want to do a sponsored solidarity walk for people that would like to join us after seeing our assembly".

"Doing a dramatic piece, maybe involving the GCSE drama class".

4. Speaking truth to power

Using company AGMs is not the only way LMN speaks to those with power as part of our work for positive change.

- In March, we assisted LMN member group Coal Action Network and residents of County Durham in presenting an 86,000 signature petition to Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, demanding that he use his powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to revoke permission for a new opencast coal mine, 'Bradley' in Dipton near Consett. In May, we co-signed an open letter to the new Housing, Communities and Local Government minister urging him to stop the project. Regrettably, the minister did not listen, and the project was allowed to go ahead.
- In April, we joined colleagues in CORE (the corporate accountability network), the Legal and Human Rights Centre, Miningwatch Canada and RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development) in signing an open letter to Acacia Mining ahead of its AGM, calling for it to improve its human rights record in Tanzania, where this London-listed subsidiary of Canadian gold mining company Barrick is under fire for the lethal force used by its security

guards against unarmed small-scale miners attempting to find gold on the company's waste heaps.

- In May, we sent an open letter about Berkeley Energia to the London Stock Exchange, explaining why we believed that the company should not be allowed to move its listing from the Alternative Investment Market to the main London Stock Exchange. The change in listing nonetheless went ahead, demonstrating once again the need for greater scrutiny by the UK's corporate listing authorities.
- In July, we joined numerous organisations in signing an open letter to Cerrejon Coal in Colombia, challenging the company on its human rights and environmental record. LMN Co-ordinator Richard Solly participated in a meeting between community representatives and mine management at the company's mine site offices in Colombia in August. The company clearly feels under pressure from international critics who support the communities affected by its operations, and has improved both its policies and practices over the years since LMN came into existence (2007), but there is need for continuous pressure to ensure that it keeps the commitments it makes.
- We took community representatives with us in October for the BHP AGM speaker tour to meet Nicole Piche, administrator of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights. Nicole has received numerous representatives of communities affected by UK-linked mining companies and ensures that information about their negative impacts is made available to members of the group.
- One of LMN's researchers, Richard Harkinson, has been involved in working with European Parliamentarians and NGOs to lobby the European Commission on mine waste policy and reporting on sustainability. In the autumn, we joined over 20 other organisations in calling on the European Commission to improve the legal framework for corporate sustainability reporting.
- In November, we helped draft an Early Day Motion in the UK Parliament on the need for justice for families suffering because of the Marikana Massacre. This was submitted by Roger Godsiff MP, chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on South Africa.
- In December, we submitted evidence to the UK Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee inquiry on 'Global Britain and South America' on the human rights and environmental impacts of UK mining companies in several South American countries and made clear our willingness to give oral testimony in Parliament. This inquiry is timed to continue through the first part of 2019.

5. Building a worldwide network against mining injustice

Continuing to work with groups outside our network

We have continued to work on particular issues or particular events with groups in this country which are outside our network, including ABColombia, the Andrew Lees Trust, the Bangladesh National Committee to Protect Oil Gas and Mineral Resources UK Branch, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, corporate responsibility coalition CORE, student group Decolonising Environmentalism, the fossil fuel Divestment Campaign, Foil Vedanta, Global Witness, Latin America Bureau, Marikana Miners Solidarity Campaign, Latin American youth group Movimiento Jaguar Despierto, Phulbari Solidarity Group, RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development) and ShareAction.

Across Europe, we have continued to work with our former partners in the now-ended 'Stop Mad Mining' campaign (particularly with Re:Common in Italy, Power Shift in Germany and Miningwatch Romania), with Banktrack, and with the CIDSE network of Catholic development agencies in working towards an international 'network of networks' challenging the mining industry. We have continued to co-operate with Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien (ASK), Misereor, Multiwatch, PAX,

urgewald and an alliance of other groups working on the human rights impacts of coal imports from Colombia. We have continued working with the German Ethical Shareholders' Association and Apartheid Reparations Switzerland on Lonmin.

Internationally, we have continued to work with groups including BHP Billiton Watch, the Deep Sea Mining Campaign and Mineral Policy Institute in Australia; with MAB (Movimento do Atingidos por Barragens, Movement of People Affected by Dams) and the Churches and Mining Network in Brazil; with Miningwatch Canada; in Chile, with OCMAL (Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America) and OLCA (Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts); in Colombia, with lawyers' collective CAJAR, CENSAT (Friends of the Earth Colombia), CINEP (a human rights investigation organisation), indigenous women's organisation Fuerza de Mujeres Wayuu, community advice organisation Indepaz, Sintracarbon mine workers' union and Tierra Digna lawyers' collective; with TANY (Collective for the Defence of Malagasy Lands) in Madagascar and France; with Oyu Tolgoi Watch in Mongolia; with the Benchmarks Foundation and Sikhala Sonke in South Africa; with Earthworks in the USA; and across the world with Franciscans International, the International Coal Network, the International People's Conference on Mining, the WoMin network on women and mining, the Yes to Life No to Mining network, and global mining union IndustriALL.

London Mining Network has never been in the business of drawing up a list of purportedly 'acceptable' standards for mining and then grading companies against that list. This is because we are concerned that such exercises can be used by mining companies to clothe themselves in a respectability that they do not in fact deserve by drawing attention to their relative position in a league table rather than their actual behaviour on the ground. Our priority is solidarity with communities and workers who are suffering because of the activities of London-linked mining companies, whatever their reputation relative to other companies. We aim primarily to amplify the voices of affected communities and ensure that they are heard in this metropolitan epicentre of destructive global mining finance. But others (among them the Responsible Mining Index, Initiative for Responsible Mining Development and Corporate Human Rights Benchmark) have been working on drawing up standards to improve the behaviour of mining companies, and we have maintained contact with them to share the fruits of our own experience.

We are a 'Passionist Partner', an arrangement under which the Passionists, a Roman Catholic religious congregation, provide funding of £10,000 per year for four years and the organisations funded (mostly environmental, social justice and caring organisations) agree to share information and insights so as to strengthen each other's work.

For the first few months of 2018, we continued to share the LMN office with Muslim youth organization JAWAAB, which works against Islamophobia and discrimination; JAWAAB have now moved premises.

Creating international alliances

In May, LMN advisory committee member Benjamin Hitchcock gave a paper at the international 'Capitalising on the Sun' conference in Edinburgh, called by the nascent 'Better Solar Network'. This conference was held to draw together people keen to ensure a transition away from fossil fuels but also concerned about the possible impacts of increased mining of minerals necessary for renewable energy production on communities and ecosystems. Benjamin spoke about the negative impacts of mining linked to the renewable energy industry and made tentative suggestions about the possibilities for an economy which is not simply post-fossil-fuels but also post-extractivist. LMN intends to continue working with the Better Solar Network to ensure that the necessary transition away from coal and other fossil fuels does not lead to greater injustices against communities affected by the mining of other minerals.

During 2017 and 2018, LMN was involved with colleagues in organisations around the world, led initially by the Churches and Mining Network in Latin America and People's Dialogue in Southern Africa, in mapping existing networks working for justice in the mining industry and preparing for an international gathering to build on the achievements of the International Peoples' Conference on

Mining held in the Philippines, with LMN's support, in 2015. The gathering took place in South Africa in November 2018 and took the form of a Thematic Social Forum along the lines of those organised by the World Social Forum. Hundreds of delegates gathered from around the world, and LMN was represented by advisory committee members Andy Whitmore and Seb Ordonez. The Forum issued a Final Declaration and a Programme of Work on which LMN will continue to co-operate with partner organisations to strengthen mining-affected communities, including mine workers, in their dealings with mining companies.

6. Strengthening our organisation

We put extra efforts in 2018 into expanding our trustee body and adding new expertise in organisational development. We now have seven rather than five trustees and a new treasurer, who spent his professional career in local government auditing, to assist us with fundraising, reporting and legal compliance.

Membership and networking

In September, 2018, we were joined by India Matters UK, a new London-based group working on human rights and environmental issues in India. We lost UK Tar Sands Network. Membership of London Mining Network stands at 21 groups (listed below). During the year, one of our ten associate member groups went out of existence, and we had a total of nine associate member groups at the end of 2018, including some large organisations working on human rights, indigenous rights, environmental protection and relief of poverty.

Member groups of London Mining Network during 2018 were: ACTSA (Action for Southern Africa), Biofuelwatch, CATAPA (Comite Academico Tecnico de Asesoramiento a Problemas Ambientales), Coal Action Network, Colombia Solidarity Campaign, The Cornerhouse, Corporate Watch, Earth Thrive, ECCR (Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility), Environmental and Social Change, Eritrea Focus, Forest Peoples Programme, Gaia Foundation, Global Justice Now, India Matters UK, LAMMP (Latin America Mining Monitoring Programme), Partizans (People Against Rio Tinto And Subsidiaries), Scottish Opencast Communities Alliance, Society of St Columban, TAPOL (the human rights campaign for Indonesia) and War on Want.

News has been shared among members via four network meetings. Between meetings, groups and individuals within LMN sent updates and promoted joint working between member groups and associates via LMN's internal email list, with a total of 144 emails sent on the list during the year.

Trustees and advisory committee

At the beginning of 2018 there were five trustees: Co-Chairs Mark Muller and Saranel Benjamin, and Andrew Hickman, Patrick Scott and Peter Frankental. At the LMN AGM on 16 April, Saranel Benjamin and Patrick Scott resigned in accordance with the constitutional requirement that one-third of the trustees offer their resignation at each AGM. Saranel Benjamin did not stand for re-election because of pressure of other work. Patrick Scott did stand for re-election and was duly re-elected. Peter Frankental had been co-opted to the trustees during 2017 and therefore stood for election for the first time, together with Dottie Guerrero, Marilyn Croser and Sue Willman. All were duly elected. Mark Muller agreed to serve as Chair once again. There were therefore seven trustees from the AGM until the end of 2018: Andrew Hickman, Dottie Guerrero, Marilyn Croser, Mark Muller, Patrick Scott, Peter Frankental and Sue Willman.

The advisory committee, which is chosen by the trustees to assist them with the consent of the membership, consisted of Anca Giurgiu (Environmental and Social Change), Andy Whitmore (Forest Peoples Programme), Daniel Voskoboynik (climate campaigner), Hal Rhoades (the Gaia Foundation), Kerima Mohideen (Partizans, India Matters UK), Maggie Scrimgeour (Colombia

Solidarity Campaign), Richard Harkinson (Partizans, India Matters UK), Seb Ordonez (War on Want) and Terry Blackman (retired local government auditor, elected LMN honorary treasurer at the AGM). During the year, Daniel Voskoboynik left because of moving overseas, and Benjamin Hitchcock, of the Gaia Foundation, replaced him.

Reserves policy

The trustees have adopted a policy regarding reserves in accordance with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The policy ensures that we are able to meet all our current and future liabilities. It is reviewed periodically by the Board of Trustees and is appropriate to the nature of the organisation: primarily grant funded to carry out campaigning activities, but not a service provider with significant contractual commitments.

The Trustees and members consider that an adequate approach to financial risk would be to ensure that key commitments identified for a minimum period of three months within the current strategic plan are sufficiently funded, in addition to LMN's basic running costs. The Trustees have therefore decided that a reserve fund enabling operations to continue for a three month period is an appropriate level for the reserves policy (being approximately £27,000).

When we do not hold this level of reserves, but have agreed income streams for at least a year in advance, we will strive to ensure we reach this level, and will monitor the situation at meetings. We will aim to build reserves via membership fees, unrestricted donations and any surplus from unrestricted grants.

If we do not have guaranteed income streams for a year in advance, when available funds fall to or below the minimum requirement of £27,000, this should trigger a Trustees' meeting to review the situation.

London Mining Network commitments are to support organisations with whom we have a commitment in principle to see through agreed pieces of work, and to ensure that those working or contracted by LMN are given at least three months' notice in the event that LMN has to close or reduce its work due to lack of funds.

The Trustees and members are aware of the need to mitigate the risk of a sudden and significant fall in income by diversifying LMN's funding base.

Risks

The trustees have identified the following risks to the operations of the charity and instituted appropriate risk management:

Loss of funding: We constantly need to find new funders to replace grants which expire. We are actively seeking new funders and investigating online fundraising potential.

Loss of data: information possessed by London Mining Network is mostly held on computer, and such data may be lost, stolen or deleted. We are instituting secondary backup systems to supplement the external hard drive on which all such information is regularly backed up and which is kept in a locked cabinet in the LMN office when staff are not there.

Legal action: supporting communities which are in conflict with mining companies involves publishing information which companies may prefer were not published, and over which they may take legal action. We do all that we can to ensure the accuracy of information which we publish and consult a legal advisory group including specialists in defamation law. Trustees and paid workers have also taken training in basic defamation law.

Protecting our people: Policies and procedures are reviewed regularly at Trustee meetings and updated in response to changes in the working environment and/or emerging risks.

7. What we stand for

Charitable Objects

London Mining Network was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in January 2015. Our Charitable Objects are:

(1) To promote and protect human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) within the context of mining throughout the world by all or any of the following means:

- Monitoring abuses of human rights with regard to mining-affected communities;
- Research into the impacts of mining on human rights;
- The dissemination of such research to the public;
- Providing advice to government and others on the mining industry's impacts on human rights;
- Commenting on proposed legislation and government policy in relation to companies involved in mining and mining finance in respect of human rights;
- Raising awareness of the impacts of mining on human rights;
- Promoting public support for the rights of mining-affected communities;
- Promoting respect for human rights by mining companies and other bodies involved in mining;
- International advocacy in relation to mining and human rights;

(2) To promote sustainable development (that is, development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) in such mining-affected communities by means of the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and prudent use of resources.

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the Trustees shall have power to engage in political activity provided that the Trustees are satisfied that the proposed activities will further the purposes of the charity to an extent justified by the resources committed and the activity is not the dominant means by which the charity carries out its objects.

Public benefit

The Trustees have taken account of the statutory reporting duty introduced in 2009 to illustrate how in practice the activities of LMN meet the legal public benefit requirement. In this respect, the Trustees have noted and paid due regard to all the Charity Commission's statutory guidance that is relevant to our mission, and have highlighted in this report examples of LMN activities which illustrate how our work fulfils its mission and the significant benefits it brings to individuals and communities affected by mining companies.

8. Thanks

We are very grateful to our paid LMN workers

- Richard Solly, who continued to work as LMN's part-time Co-ordinator
- Steph O'Connell, who continued to work as LMN's part-time Finance Worker
- Lydia James, who continued to work as LMN's part-time Communications Worker

All of our paid workers also put in a very great deal of unpaid work.

We have relied on much in-kind support from member groups as well, particularly the provision of paid staff time to assist our work. Gaia Foundation and War on Want in particular have provided enormous help during the year.

We are also very grateful to all our advisory committee members and the many others who assisted us voluntarily during 2018, particularly

- Andrew Hickman, Andy Higginbottom, Benjamin Maxwell Hitchcock, Cristian Olmos, Diana Salazar, Hal Rhoades, Isobel Tarr, Juan Sebastian Smart, Maggie Scrimgeour, Paul Robson, Sebastian Ordonez and Ximena Blanco, who spent many hours accompanying community representatives during their visits to Britain;
- Ali Sargent, Cristian Olmos, Juan Sebastian Smart and Ximena Blanco for their continuing work in support of mining-affected communities in Chile; Tom Allen and John Ackers for their technical and website support;
- Benjamin Maxwell Hitchcock, for his work on the impacts of mining for minerals used in renewable energy;
- Gordon Bennett, Jonathan Price, Shanta Martin and Sue Willman for pro bono advice on legal matters.
- Kerima Mohideen for her work on the board game about mobile phones and other aspects of LMN's educational outreach work;
- Mark Muller, who has continued generously providing free advice on technical aspects of mining;
- Paul Robson, who has continued to work with us on the Samarco tailings dam disaster;
- Richard Harkinson, who has continued to make an enormous contribution through his work on the European Mining Waste Directive and through conducting research into tailings dam design and construction, mining in Spain and problems posed by the lack of regulation of companies trading on London's Alternative Investment Market.
- and Terry Blackman, who has provided hundreds of hours of unpaid work to assist us in fundraising, reporting and legal compliance.

Funding was provided during the year by the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the European Commission, Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, Kenneth Miller Trust, the Passionist Community, Lush Charity Pot, Network for Social Change and the Society of St Columban. We are grateful also for financial support received from individual donors.

The German Ethical Shareholders Association paid for Bishop Jo Seoka and Andries Nkome to visit London in March. The Gaia Foundation paid for the visitors from Colombia in March and War on Want for Nonhle Mbuthuma's visit in October. The Arizona Mining Reform Coalition covered the costs of Roger Featherstone's visit in October. Leigh Day and Co Solicitors paid the air fare for Rosa Maria Mateus to visit in October.