

# london mining network

## 2020 Annual Review



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London Mining Network (LMN) is an alliance of human rights, environmental, and solidarity organisations.

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London Mining Network, 225 - 229 Seven Sisters Road,  
London, N4 2DA

email: [contact@londonminingnetwork.org](mailto:contact@londonminingnetwork.org)

tel: 447903851695

Registered Charity No. 1159778

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# Introduction

We rose to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by changing and adapting our programme of work.

Our solidarity with communities harmed by London-linked mining companies continued with more intense consultation via various online platforms. We were very disappointed not to be able to bring community representatives to the UK or to visit communities ourselves, but we did bring people together online and ensured that the voices of affected communities were heard by companies' boards, in shareholder meetings and investor webinars and in the press and social media.

We relaunched our educational board game on mobile phones and developed other educational resources. We published two major reports, one on the massive mining waste legacies left behind by BHP and Rio Tinto around the Pacific Rim and the other on the links between extractivism and militarism.

We improved our website and used social media and email newsletters to disseminate an enormous amount of information about the mining industry and its links to London. With the support and advice of our funders, we were able to improve our digital presence, making increased use of multiple platforms to engage international audiences.

We continued our research and advocacy on mining waste disposal, especially the stability of tailings (fine wastes) dams.

We continued to work with others to build a global

network of groups working for justice for mining-affected communities, and particularly for their right to say no to mining.

We strengthened our own network with new members and new trustees.

And we held an online film festival, which attracted many people who had never been involved in mining issues before.

More and more people are getting involved in solidarity with communities harmed by London-linked mining companies and the struggle to protect the planet's climate and ecosystems.

## ■ **Our Vision**

A just future based on a lower demand for mining and on respect for human rights and ecological justice (including the rights of nature) where mining does take place and in the ecosystems it affects.

## ■ **Our Values**

Frontline voices - Solidarity - Collaboration and teamwork - Socio-environmental Stewardship and Just Transition - Personal and planet - Respect - Empowerment - Honesty and transparency.

With these values, we have supported communities in saying 'no' to mining projects and holding companies accountable, and we coordinate a network of mining justice organisations, playing an integral role in anti-extractivism campaigning.

# 2020 in Brief...

## January



- Submitted comments on the draft Global Tailings Review standard, pointing out the lack of a 'problem statement' and the inadequate length of the consultation period.
- We held a vigil outside the Embassy of Brazil on the anniversary of the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse, remembering those who lost their lives.

## February



- We launched *'Cut and run: How Britain's top two mining companies have wrecked ecosystems without being held to account'*.
- Publicised Christian Aid Ireland's report on Cerrejon Coal

## March



- On International Women's Day, Chilean activist and LMN volunteer Javiera Martinez took part in an action with XR in central London.
- We worked with the Phulbari Solidarity Group to put pressure on GCM at its AGM. When the company cancelled the AGM, we assisted PSG in a meeting at Imperial College on how to respond.

## April



- We submitted questions to and reported on Rio Tinto's closed door AGM.
- We held a week of online actions highlighting Rio Tinto's practices across the globe.
- We adjusted our work and plans to adapt to COVID 19.

## May



- LMN submitted questions to the AGMs of Anglo American and Antofagasta.
- Along with member groups and supporters we complained about Rio Tinto's delay in answering questions asked at the AGM.
- We published stories on our website about Danakali's investments in Eritrea, Atalaya Mining Plc misleading shareholders, and fundraising efforts in support of communities in La Guajira.

## June



- *Voices from the Ground: How the Global Mining Industry is Profiting from the COVID-19 Pandemic* was launched.
- LMN published our statement in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement on our website.
- The Education section of the LMN website was revamped and the Education Newsletter was launched.

## July



- LMN joined calls to strip Rio Tinto of its Human Rights ranking in the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark after the destruction of an Aboriginal site at Juukan Gorge, Western Australia.
- We published a follow up letter addressing Rio Tinto, calling out the continued lack of adequate responses to questions asked at the AGM.

## August



- We published our full analysis of Anglo American's AGM.
- Our response to the Global Industry Standard on tailings was published and gained coverage in several influential mining sector publications.
- We assisted Phulbari Solidarity Group with a vigil outside the London Stock exchange to mark the 14th Phulbari day.

## September



- We launched our International resistance to Mining Film Festival with films covering mining issues in Bougainville, South Africa, Australia and Colombia.
- We published our briefing paper *BHP – Fine Words, Foul Play* and attended BHP's 'investor engagement' online event.



## October



- LMN ran an online campaign to raise awareness of BHP's operations across the world and its impact on communities affected by its mines.
- We submitted questions to and reported on BHP's closed door AGM.
- Along with several member groups and allies, LMN wrote to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment concerning Cerrejon Coal's failure to abide by rulings of the Colombian Constitutional Court.

## November



- *Martial Mining: Rejecting Extractivism and War Together* was launched.
- We marked the fifth anniversary of the Samarco Dam collapse, publishing a statement in solidarity with MAB, a press release and updated information on legal action against BHP.
- We held a special preview screening of *Jozi Gold* to present a counter-narrative to the industry led *Mines and Money* conference.

## December



- With the Gaia Foundation and Earth Thrive, we hosted an online panel discussion on The Rights of Nature movement and its use as a tool in resisting mining.
- LMN was represented during the Cop26 Coalition's *From the Ground Up* sessions at the *Resisting Green Extractivism* event.

# Support for mining-affected communities

*“There is no one outside the US that has done more to help protect Oak Flat than the London Mining Network. Without your help in London, including to connect us with fellow activists around the world, we would not have been able to hold off the world’s two largest mining companies as well as we have”*

**Roger Featherstone, Arizona Mining Reform Coalition,  
USA.**



The loss of the physical presence of representatives of mining-affected communities due to COVID-19 was a severe blow to our work: the opportunity for people in Britain actually to meet community representatives is something that cannot be reproduced in online working.



Nonetheless, we have been able to respond creatively to the fact that we have had to work almost entirely online this year, and have provided new opportunities for interaction with and between members of communities affected by London-linked mining companies.

First, we took advantage of mining multinational Rio Tinto's 'shareholder engagement events' in April to ensure that some of those who would have been physically present at the company's London AGM (Annual General Meeting), and others who were not planning to attend, were able to address shareholders. Before the event, we published the demands of the communities with which we are working and organised an online week of action.



The BHP AGM took the form of an online shareholder engagement session in September, an online AGM for the Australian registered entity and a closed-doors AGM in London. We consulted

our partners in communities affected by the company's operations in Latin America and submitted multiple questions on their behalf. We published a briefing ahead of the AGM and organised an online week of action which resulted in hundreds of people emailing the company's CEO.

We have managed to strengthen our links to partners and allies in a number of countries through more intense communication via online meetings, email and WhatsApp. This has particularly been the case with our colleagues in Latin America, where our dedicated working groups on Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru have developed new ways of working.

We have hosted or helped with numerous online meetings and webinars with individuals and organisations. Of particular note was an online encounter between people in Chile, Colombia and Peru from communities affected by Anglo American's operations. This has laid the foundations of networking within Latin America so that communities can share experiences and strategies.



# Communications

## ■ Social Media

Our Twitter account gained an average of 150,000 impressions per month and gained over 880 new followers. Our LinkedIn page was created in May and has slowly been gaining an audience, currently numbering 100 followers. Views of our reports page increased by over 139% in 2020 compared to 2019.

## ■ Newsletters

We have continued to send out news by email - there were 18 mailouts during the year, all of which maintained our above-average use rate as measured by Mailchimp.

*"I appreciate all the detailed, painstaking work you do to transform these horrors of our world into life that has meaning and real value to everyone."*

**Steve Burak**

## ■ Press work

There has been an increase in the number and range of people contacting LMN: we have formed relationships with new journalists (Byline Times, The Canary, BBC Radio) and retained existing relationships. We have been featured in industry press pieces on Mining.com, Engineering News and Mining Daily, and the Canadian Mining Journal. New names have been added to our press list. News items featured in Sputnik, The Narwhal, The

Ecologist, ICN, London Times, Real Media, Bangla Mirror and Diario U (Chile).

## ■ Website

We have improved our website to make it easier to find specific information. More visual content has been added and internal and external links increased to boost SEO performance. More traffic now comes to the site from search engines than before; pieces related to specific companies and topics make up significant percentages of our visits. During the year, the website received over 51,349 page views. This is up from 45,538 in the same window last year. 53% of our traffic now comes from direct searches.

We launched a new Education Newsletter and Resources page and posted an audio recording of the tour of mining companies' offices which we had conducted in central London in November 2019. We created a page to display and organise our published reports. We published a solidarity statement with Black Lives Matter, making clear the connections between racism, empire, colonialism, slavery, apartheid and British-linked mining companies.



# Education

The pandemic meant that we had to cancel our whole programme of education workshops at schools and universities - but this led to a burst of creativity in other directions.

Before lockdown, we were able to hold in-person sessions at Preston Manor School and as part of Kingston University's Mining and Human Rights Panel. In April, one of LMN's supporters, Hani Diriye, presented a Zoom talk on the Eco-Revolution in Bougainville as part of a series of Black History talks hosted by the blogsite Kandaka.

We hosted an online Film Festival in September, showing *Soldiers Without Guns* (about the Panguna mine in Bougainville), *The Shore Break* (about resistance to mining in Amadibaland, South Africa), *Connection to Country* (about Aboriginal communities and mining in Australia) and *La Buena Vida* (about relocation of indigenous communities around the Cerrejon mine in Colombia). The Chilean



Assembly webinar included showing of the film Lawca, about lithium mining in Chile. In November, we presented the film Jozi Gold about the deadly legacy of radioactive dust pollution from gold mine waste dumps around Johannesburg in South Africa.



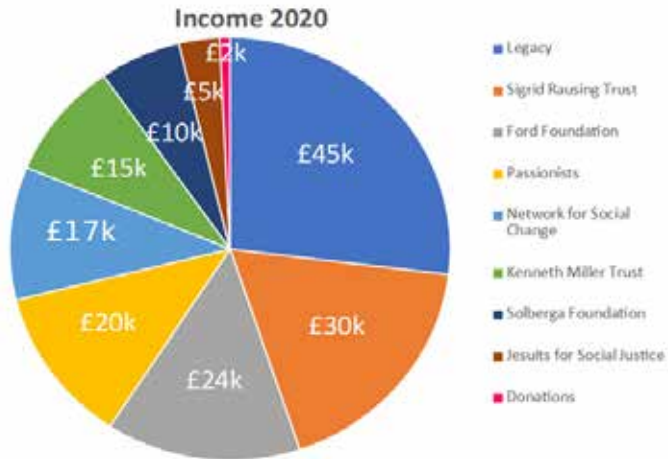
We made fruitful contact with the film makers and this is likely to lead to future collaboration. We are now planning regular online film shows with associated online discussions. We also plan a 'book club', with regular online presentations and discussions of books covering mining or mining related themes.



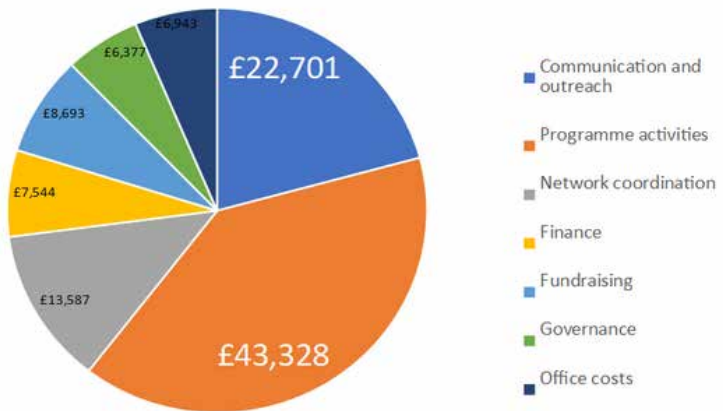


# Finance Summary

A significant and unexpected legacy of £45,000 boosted our income this year, while our spending was somewhat curtailed by the pandemic.



**Total Income: £167k**  
**Expenditure 2020**



**Total Expenditure: £109k**

# Thank You

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A giant THANK YOU to the dedicated groups, volunteers, trustees, advisory committee members and workers involved with LMN this year, who put in enormous amounts of time and hard work.

## ■ Our Funders

- Ford Foundation
- Jesuit fund for Social Justice
- Kenneth Miller Trust
- Network for Social Change
- Passionists
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Solberga Foundation
- Persula Foundation

We are also grateful for financial support received from individual donors



*“Together we are powerful and LMN makes a significant contribution in uniting people, groups and organizations that defend their territories from mining exploitation practices that, with a short- term perspective, destroy life. ...Having a broader and more collective perspective gives us tools to make visible the impunity with which some companies act and the weakness of the states that do not protect the nature of which we are part.”*

**Victoria Uranga, NO + Anglo movement, Mapocho Basin  
Defense Corporation and Churque  
Ecological Center, Chile.**

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