

# annual review

2019

**london  
mining  
network**



# london mining network

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

Report designed  
by Jeffry\_dot

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*“Thank you immensely to the team. I have no preference - all of you are excellent people. I think the functioning of everything is the way all of you have worked together, like a football team. If you didn't have this understanding, it wouldn't work. In no moment did you leave us alone, you were with us all the time - you left some of your commitments to the side to be with us and we feel that we were at home. Thank you.”*  
Alvaro Ipuana, community representative from La Guajira, Colombia, reflecting on LMN's Unmasking BHP speaker tour in October 2019.



MESSAGE FROM MARILYN CROSER, CO-CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

*2019 was another packed year for LMN. We brought the voices of mining-affected communities to Europe with speakers' tours. We scrutinised mining companies at their AGMs, asking challenging questions inside the meetings, and organising protests outside. We held vigils in remembrance of those killed in mining disasters, and in solidarity with survivors. We published reports on the transition to a post-extractive future and on the risks associated with tailings dams, and supported a photography exhibition. We've also run education workshops with schools and university students, and launched a new website to better showcase our organisation and our work.*

*Partnership with communities affected by mining is central to everything we do. In 2019, we were fortunate - and humbled - to work with communities and support organisations in Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea/Bougainville, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the USA, as well as supporting member organisations in work on Eritrea, Romania, Russia and West Papua. Their resistance and tenacity is a constant inspiration, and we are privileged to be able to work with them.*

*On behalf of the trustees, I want to extend my thanks to all our fantastic staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work over the year. Thanks also to our member organisations for their commitment to, and participation in our network.*

*We look forward to working with all of you in 2020 to hold mining companies to account and to promote a sustainable and just future.*

## 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.

## OUR VALUES

Frontline voices – Solidarity - Collaboration and teamwork - Environmental Stewardship and Just Transition - Personal and planet – Respectful – Empowerment - Honesty and transparency

## 2019 IN BRIEF

### JANUARY



- Protested outside the South African High Commission in solidarity with Amadiba Crisis Committee who are saying 'no' to mining on their land.
- Signed onto a declaration in support of the community of Roche in La Guajira, Colombia who occupied British-owned Cerrejon mine in protest at being forced off their ancestral land due to the expansion of Latin America's largest opencast coal mine.
- Responded to the catastrophic mining dam collapse in Brumadinho, Brazil.

### FEBRUARY



- Held a vigil outside the Embassy of Brazil to remember those killed in the Brumadinho mining disaster, and in solidarity with all those affected.
- Released a film 'What's in the water', about BHP's activities in Brazil and Colombia, coinciding with BHP's release of their quarterly financial statement. Filmed by Rainbow Collective and co-edited by ThreePenny Festival Arts Collective and LMN.
- Publicised a press release from our Colombian partners CAJAR lawyers' collective who announced legal action against Cerrejon's environmental license, on behalf of affected communities and non-profit organisations

LMN intervened at seven mining company AGMs, attending as dissident shareholders

## MARCH



- Relunched LMN's website
- Protested outside Lonmin's final annual shareholders' meeting and attended the meeting as dissident shareholders.

## APRIL



- Attended Rio Tinto's annual general meeting as dissident shareholders, along with the US Teamsters Union, some of whom work for the British-Australian mining company. We hosted an evening event entitled Rio Tinto's mining waste: a disaster waiting to happen? hosted by journalist John Vidal.
- Protested Anglo American's annual general meeting as dissident shareholders, and demonstrated outside the venue with War on Want, Medact, and others.
- Supported an unprecedented court hearing with lawyers representing Zambian farmers arguing for the right to have their court case against London-listed Vedanta tried in the UK – the farmers' submission was successful.

## MAY



- Called on LMN supporters to take urgent action following paramilitary death threats towards indigenous critics of Cerrejon opencast coal mine, by asking them to email the Colombian president and the Embassy of Colombia in the UK
- Attended Antofagasta's AGM
- Attended British mining company Lonmin's Extraordinary General Meeting, the final one before the company was bought out by South African Sibanye Stillwater. LMN supported a People's Tribunal organised by Marikana Solidarity Collective outside the venue.

## JUNE



- Co-hosted an event with Global Justice Now and South African organisation WoMin on Building power: African feminist efforts on energy and climate justice.
- Attended small mining company Beowulf's annual general meeting as dissident shareholders, asking uncomfortable questions about their requests to the Swedish government to mine an area used by indigenous Sami reindeer herders.
- Held LMN's AGM and Annual Gathering, attended by around 60 people, where we also launched our 2018 Annual Review.

## JULY



- Part-funded a photography exhibition organised by Siti Maimunah from Indonesia, on the deadly impacts of abandoned coal mines in East Kalimantan, Borneo.

## AUGUST



- Supported a vigil outside South Africa's High Commission on the seventh anniversary of the Marikana Massacre in the country, where 36 striking mine workers were shot dead in 2012 by police at the orders of the government, who were in collusion with the mining company, Lonmin.
- Published a technical report on the risk of Atalaya mining company's tailings dams collapsing at its opencast copper mine in Andalucia, Spain.

LMN organised and co-organised 3 events unrelated to company AGMs

## SEPTEMBER



- Co-launched a report entitled A just(ice) Transition is a Post-extractive Transition, with War on Want.
- Ran a workshop for climate strikers in Brighton, during their climate strike week.
- Spoke at DSEi arms fair's Climate Justice day.

## OCTOBER



- Ran our second successful BHP Witness project at Kingston University
- Organised Unmasking BHP tour around the British-Australian mining giant's AGM

## NOVEMBER



- Handed in letter to BHP's offices on the fourth anniversary of Brazil's worst environmental disaster to date, the Samarco mine waste dam collapse, asking why the company had not yet built one house since the 2015 catastrophe.
- Co-organised protest with Global Justice Rebellion outside London's annual Mines and Money awards dinner and ran twitter campaign during their Women in Mining's networking drinks event.

## DECEMBER



- Published a summary report explaining the context around Atalaya mining company's tailings dams.
- Launched our Tailings Dam explainer.
- Organised a film night in northeast London, showing Peruvian film Daughter of the Lake, with Q&As with filmmaker Ernesto Cabello.
- Met with Chilean indigenous leader Sergio Cubillos who visited London during the COP25 climate change talks in Madrid in December, and with a delegation from Brazil, including members of Brumadinho and Mariana communities, who were affected by the mining dam disasters.

## UNMASKING BHP

*"I have a feeling that this tour was very different because we built a lot of trust and support beforehand. You come here and you feel like the people are your friends - Diana, Seb, Lucio - my teacher... You arrive and this trust allows you to relax in some ways - you don't have the same load. It makes it easier to have things to say with this prior trust. It doesn't just happen like that - trust is built over time and common themes are built over time. It is really important for us to continue and deepen this process. This is a tour in which we really felt we trusted people and we relaxed because of that." Catalina Caro, community representative from La Guajira, Colombia, reflecting on LMN's Unmasking BHP speaker tour in October 2019.*



In October, we hosted four human rights defenders from Brazil, Chile and Colombia, representing communities affected by London-listed mining giant BHP, for a week-long speakers' tour.

Alvaro Ipuana from La Guijura, Colombia, represented communities affected by Cerrejon opencast coal mine and was accompanied by Catalina Caro, from Friends of the Earth Colombia (CENSAT). Tchenna Maso brought demands from communities affected by Brazil's 2015 Samarco mining waste dam collapse, as part of MAB (Movement of People Affected by Dams); and Lucio Cuenca, from Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts) spoke of the company's greenwashing attempts in Chile.

Around 40 people and a samba band participated in our solidarity demonstration outside the AGM. In a first for LMN, we co-organised a forum for investors with the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum.

## COMMUNICATIONS WORK, IN BRIEF...

- We wrote and co-wrote 13 press releases
- We published 51 posts on our website
- We produced and co-produced 9 videos
- We published 3 reports
- News outlets such as the Telegraph, Scotsman, the Independent and New Internationalist covered our stories

## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We gained 1,100 followers on Twitter, 413 new followers on facebook, and launched Instagram and Youtube platforms We relaunched our new website at the end of February;

*"The website looks good! It is very clear and informative." John Kearns*

*"Love your new website. Many thanks to you all at LMN. With great respect and in solidarity." Vikki John, Bougainville Freedom Movement*

Some 39,115 visitors viewed our website, up by 5,000 from 2018, reading a total of 67,461 pages, up from 59,280 in 2018. Pages introducing mining issues and mining companies are being widely read.

## NEWSLETTERS

Our newsletters were opened by 32.5-41.9 percent of subscribers, up from 32-38.5 percent in 2018.

*"Thank you for keeping the flow of information coming!" Cormac McAleer, Save Our Sperrins (SOS), Ireland*

*"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. Thank you!" subscriber Steve Burak*

*"I just wanted to say how wonderful, useful and informative your news updates are. Thank you so much for the time the team at LMN put into drawing them together." Global Relations, USPG*

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION WORK

International climate movements such as Extinction Rebellion (XR) and Youth Climate Strike, and a heightened awareness among the public of climate breakdown opened up a bigger space for education and outreach. Thanks to an increase in funding, this year we were able to employ an Education Consultant on a one-day a week basis for the first time.

We ran 14 workshops in total, with university and school students, including students with learning difficulties, with the National Education Union, teachers, activist and solidarity groups and the general public.

We piloted a new workshop entitled Life Above the Coal, suitable for younger children and people with learning difficulties or for people for whom English is not their first language.

We ran our BHP Witness project for the second year, with Kingston university students. Seven participants wrote articles as a result of this project, reflecting upon their experiences, and one student spoke at a film night we held in December.

*The PhoneCycle materials are magnificent. I currently teach a course called Phones, Fashion and Footie to my S3. I will trial this with them. Tremendous, thanks.” Ben Sparham, Highland One World Global Learning Centre, Inverness.*

*Students at SOAS Freshers’ Fair rated the PhoneCycle workshop as mostly “Brilliant” or “Really Good”. “So informative. I went from zero knowledge to feeling well-informed. A relaxed environment that didn’t make me feel guilty”.*



## **BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AGAINST MINING INJUSTICE**

We are working with mining-affected communities or support organisations in Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea/Bougainville, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA as well as supporting member organisations in work on Eritrea, Romania, Russia and West Papua.



### **WE HAVE...**

- 21 network member groups
- 9 associate members
- 9 trustees (an increase of two compared to 2018)
- 9 advisory committee members
- 5 volunteers
- 4 part-time staff

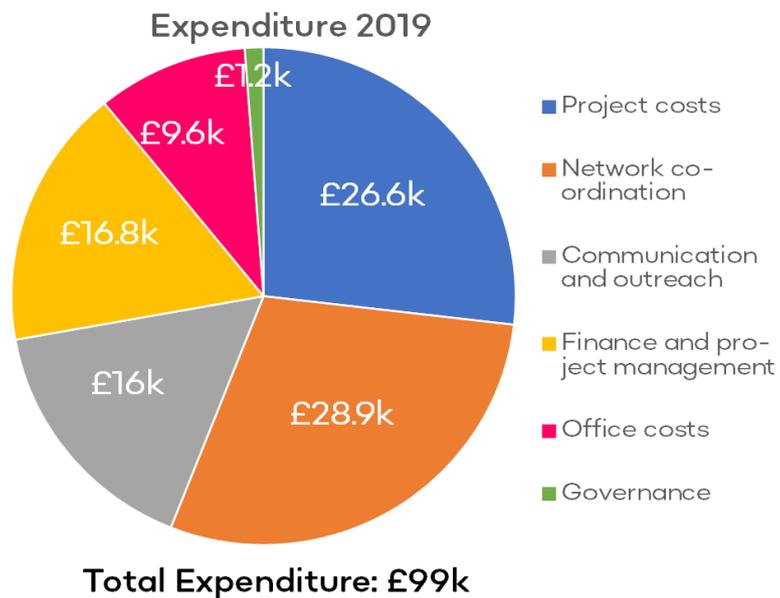
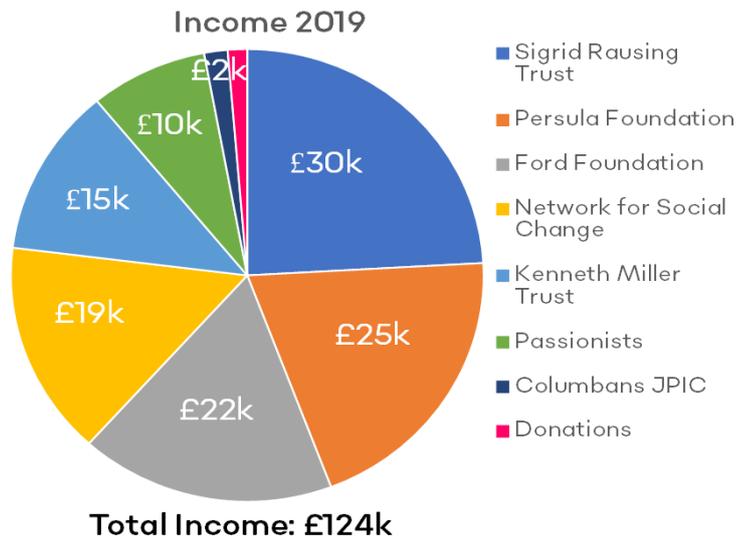
### **WE WORK WITH...**

- 15 UK-based external groups
- 37 international groups

## BUILDING INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES

We have continued our involvement in the steering committee of the international Thematic Social Forum (TSF) on Mining, working with others to create a 'network of networks' challenging the mining industry. We helped organise a TSF meeting in Cologne in June and are working to support the development of two international campaigns, one on the Right to Say No to mining and the other on disinvestment from the mining industry.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## **THANK YOU**

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**

- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation
- Kenneth Miller Trust
- Passionist Community
- Network for Social Change
- Society of St Columban
- Persula Foundation
- Ford Foundation

We are also grateful for financial support received from individual donors.



*The London Mining Network is a fair-minded well organised campaign group fighting for the rights of communities around the world affected by unscrupulous mining companies". **Josephine Siedlecka, on Facebook.***

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