



**To :**

**M. Patrick Buffet : Président-directeur général d'ERAMET**  
**Mme Catherine Tissot-Colle : Directrice de la communication et du développement durable**  
**Groupe ERAMET**  
**Tour Maine Montparnasse**  
**33, avenue du Maine**  
**75755 Paris Cedex 15**  
**FRANCE**

**Subject : Social and environmental impacts of the Weda Bay mining project**

Jakarta and Montreuil, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Mr Buffet and Mrs Tissot-Colle,

We are writing concerning your nickel and cobalt mining project in protected areas in Halmahera Island, Indonesia.

As you already know, Walhi (Friends of the Earth Indonesia) and Les Amis de la Terre France have been working to assess the social and environmental impacts of the Weda Bay project, and are supporting the demands of local communities affected by your current and planned operations. In this framework, Eramet won the Pinocchio Award in November 2010.

Abednego Tarigan, director of Walhi, is currently in Paris to make the voices of Indonesian communities heard.

**Expected impacts of the Weda Bay project on peoples, the environment and climate**

Halmahera Island is located in the middle of the Wallacea zone. Long isolation and complexity of forming Halmahera Island have given interesting phenomena of fauna variety that live in this area. Most of the fauna and flora in this island still need to be researched and identified, but current information reveal a high-level of species endemism. About 80 percent of Halmahera forest has not been yet explored. The uniqueness of this area derives from a complex geological history which permitted the mixture of Asian and Australian species to occur.

**Our organizations consider that this unique biodiversity hotspot would be heavily and irreversibly impacted by your operations.** Indeed, the mining zone consists of 45.8 percent of protected forest (25,118 Hectares). The deforestation impacts that your company foresees are clearly under-estimated and the areas to be cleared that are in the protection forests (for exploration or later activities) are not quantified. It is also very important to notice that the Aketawaje section of the Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park is within 4km of the project area, and the project would destroy the forest corridor between this section and the Lolobata section of the Park. This will result in *"long-term habitat loss for a number of species endemic to Halmahera*

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and North Moluku, including species protected under international and Indonesian law, and Endangered and Vulnerable species"<sup>1</sup>, such as the Chattering Lory and the Asian Box Turtle.

Moreover, this tropical forest is a carbon sink, playing an important role of carbon storage and sequestration. This mining project will thus affect this function of the forest, inducing indirect carbon emissions. These worrying and irreversible climate impacts are not considered by your company in the environmental impact assessment.

Although Eramet is part of the BBOP (Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme), Walhi and Les Amis de la Terre consider that compensation schemes, especially concerning biodiversity, are not the right solution, and do not permit to avoid biodiversity losses. Besides, these compensation programs do not take into account the social function of the forests, and the rights of forest peoples.

**Most important, the Weda Bay project will bring negative impacts to the livelihood of indigenous people who live in traditional manner.** These people rely on nature courtesy for their basic live such as sagoo tree for food, and pristine river. The area of the mining project is located in "Indigenous People Forest", land that belong to these communities, as recognized by the Indonesian Constitutional Court. On several opportunities, the Sawai and Togutil communities have protested to express their opposition to the development of mining operations in Halmahera island, and one villager has even been arrested and sentenced to jail for nine months for defending his land. In your own documents, it is acknowledged that the project is getting critical response from community. Thus, we consider that your operations are violating the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, recognized in international standards such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

**For all these reasons, Walhi and Les Amis de la Terre reiterate their call to your company, requesting you to cancel immediately the Weda Bay mining plan in the protected area, to save biodiversity, climate, environment and peoples in Halmahera Island, and the world.**

Thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,



Abednego Tarigan  
Director  
Walhi / Friends of the Earth Indonesia



Martine Laplante  
President  
Les Amis de la Terre France

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1 Earthworks, Weda Bay Nickel Review Report, "Supplemental Biodiversity Review of Weda Bay Nickel Project", July 2010, p. 6.

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