

# INVESTOR AND SHAREHOLDER ALERT

On 1st June 2015 Nautilus released an environmental and social benchmarking report on the proposed Solwara 1 mine in the Bismarck Sea of Papua New Guinea. The purpose of the report is to reassure investors and the world that mining the sea floor is a social and environmentally responsible way to satisfy global demand for minerals. **Investors should be wary.**

The benchmarking report is based on information provided by Nautilus, has been reviewed by the company's CEO, and is clearly an attempt to downplay the risks posed by the Solwara 1 project.

**The benchmarking report demonstrates limited scientific understanding of the impacts of seabed mining** and ignores the wide range of risks identified by comprehensive independent reviews of the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)<sup>1</sup>. These reviews demonstrate that the Solwara 1 EIS contains flawed assumptions and poor quality science.

**The benchmarking report wrongly assumes no impacts on communities and no cultural claims.**

The coastal communities of the islands of New Ireland and East New Britain are in vocal disagreement<sup>2</sup>. They believe they are already seeing the impacts of the Solwara 1's exploratory phase – on their traditions of shark calling and in the mass kill they have witnessed of fish species they harvest. Indeed they have banned Nautilus from entering the waters around Solwara 1.

Analysis of oceanographic aspects of the Solwara 1 EIS indicates that it is entirely possible that heavy metals stirred up by the seabed mining process will be transported by currents into marine food chains relied upon by coastal communities and by local and commercial fisheries such as the regional tuna fishery. The benchmarking report fails to account for this.

**Compensation claims for these impacts pose a significant risk borne by shareholders and investors.**

The benchmarking report compares only the first of potential Solwara sites with massive industrial scale terrestrial mines. Extremely little is known about the environmental goods and services of deep sea ecosystems in comparison to terrestrial ecosystems.

Additionally, because of their rarity, the mining of hydrothermal vents at the Solwara 1 site would remove a very high proportion of the global total of these ecosystem types – a property not considered by the report. Taken together with the cumulative impacts that can be expected of multiple deep sea mines planned by Nautilus, **the comparison between terrestrial mines and the Solwara 1 site is like comparing mangoes to coconuts.** This report tells us nothing about the relative social and environmental impacts.

**The benchmarking report attempts to paint a picture of DSM as being the lesser of 2 evils. In reality DSM is just the evil we know least about**

**Don't pay the price for ignorance.**

"If Nautilus breaches this area and enters illegally, we have ALL the right under kastom to destroy the vessels or ship. Elders and villagers from adjoining villages have cautioned the National Government to critically address the issue from the bottom up. Traditional law over the environment must be respected by foreigners."



In December 2013 a man from Messi village, in the Central West Coast Namatanai of New Ireland province put up a "gorgor" at the proposed Solwara 1 project site. In New Ireland society, the "gorgor protocol" is traditional law. Ships or vessels by Nautilus MUST NOT venture into this area prohibited by the "gorgor". Photo: Dennis A. Kosam.

1. <http://deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org/report/>  
2. <https://pnggasem.wordpress.com/about/>

## DON'T PAY THE PRICE FOR IGNORANCE

For further info about Deep Sea Mining and Solwara 1 go to <http://www.deepseaminingoutofourdepth.org>