



WORLD RESOURCES FORUM ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2025

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A Letter from our President and Managing Director

Dear Reader,

In 2025, critical raw materials increasingly made headlines as governments sought to secure supply for industry, energy systems, and defence. Rising geopolitical tensions and growing competition over access have pushed resource issues to the forefront of international debate. These discussions were primarily led through the lens of competition and security, often sidelining the environmental and social impacts associated with extraction and wider resource governance.

In this context, the role of credible spaces that bring stakeholders together becomes even more important. Throughout 2025, WRFA continued to demonstrate the value of dialogue, collaboration, and evidence-based approaches to advancing sustainable and fair resource systems. At a time when international cooperation is under pressure, the 2025 edition of the World Resources Forum in Geneva demonstrated that constructive exchange between science, policy, industry, and civil society remains possible and essential.

Alongside our convening activities, our team continued to implement a broad portfolio of international projects addressing some of the most pressing challenges of sustainable resource management: from strengthening responsible sourcing and due diligence, to advancing circular solutions in electronics value chains and supporting sustainable healthcare systems.

The year also marked an important institutional step for our organisation. The governance of WRFA has been renewed and strengthened with the appointment of new high-level board members who bring additional geographical diversity, expertise, and strategic insight. This renewed governance structure reflects the global nature of resource challenges and reinforces the organisation's capacity to navigate an increasingly complex international landscape.

Looking ahead, we are advancing several strategic workstreams designed to further increase our impact. These include, among others, expanding capacity-building through the newly launched WRF Academy, strengthening our work on transparent resource governance, and deepening collaboration for innovative solutions.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our partners, members, and supporters around the world. We thank all those who have contributed to this journey and look forward to continuing this work together in the years ahead.

With best regards,

Bruno Oberle and Mathias Schluep



Bruno Oberle
President



Mathias Schluep
Managing Director

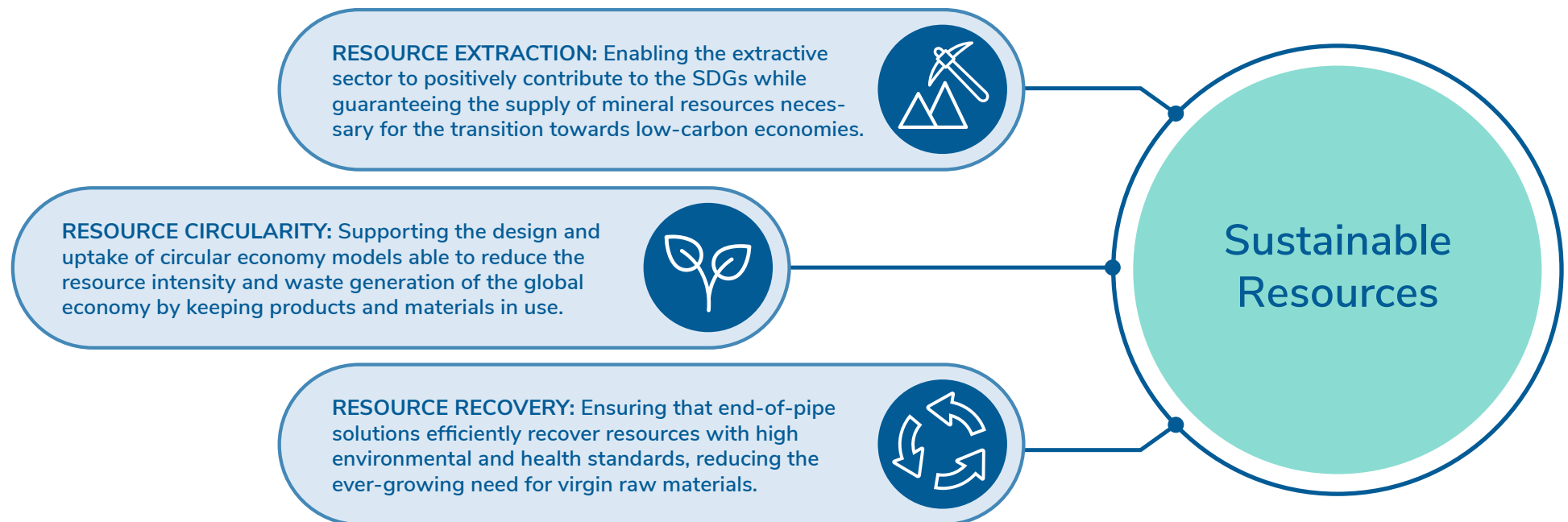
Empowering Collaboration for Sustainable Resources

The World Resources Forum ...

... is an international non-profit organisation that mobilises concerted action to promote sustainability and fairness in the global use of natural resources. Through our multi-stakeholder conferences and projects, we strive to scale up knowledge and practical solutions that make resource use a driver of human well-being within planetary boundaries.

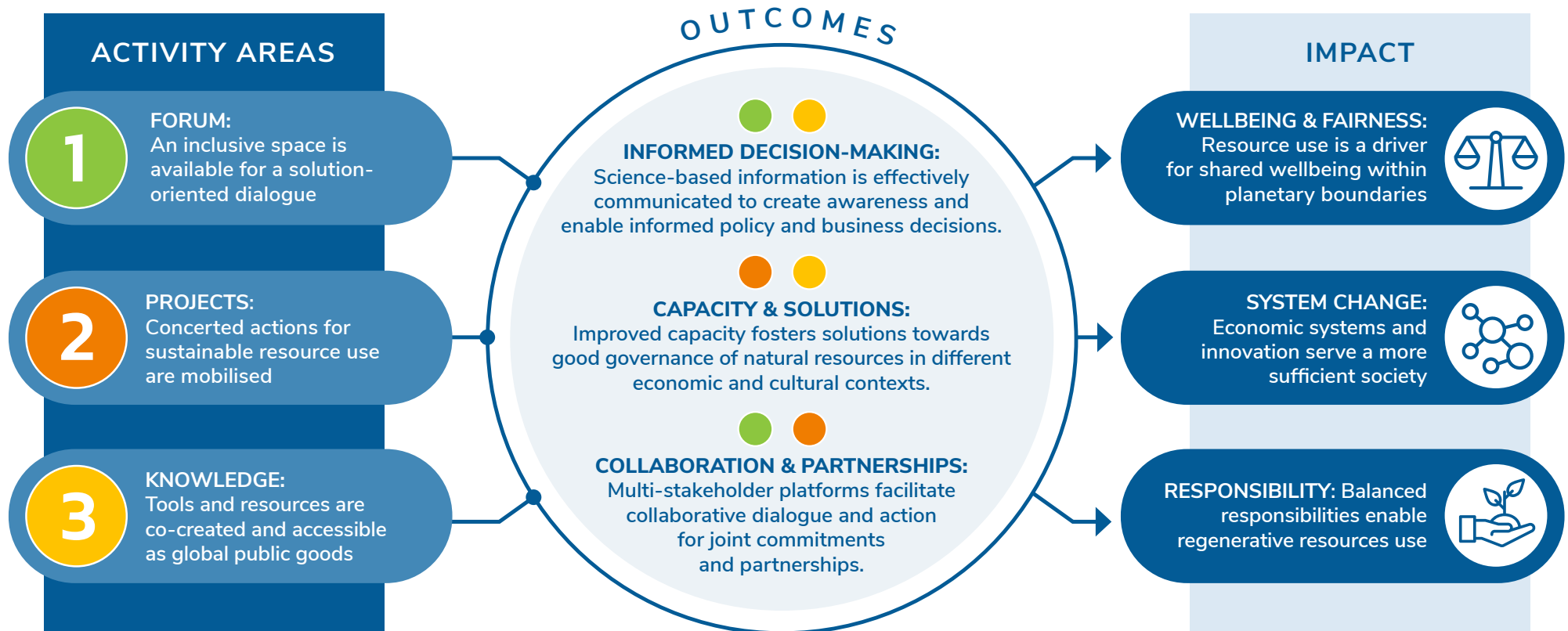
Tackling systemic challenges along the full life cycle of resources

The sustainable use of natural resources is crucial for combating climate change, achieving the SDGs and facilitating the low-carbon transition. Increasing resource use is currently the main driver of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Furthermore, the distribution of resources is highly unequal. High-income countries currently consume 6 times more resources per capita than low-income countries and are responsible for 10 times more climate impacts per capita than low-income countries. An effective and coordinated governance of resources requires collaboration among governments, industry, scientists and civil society on a global scale. Through our work, we aim to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and action to improve the governance and management of resources throughout their full life cycle:

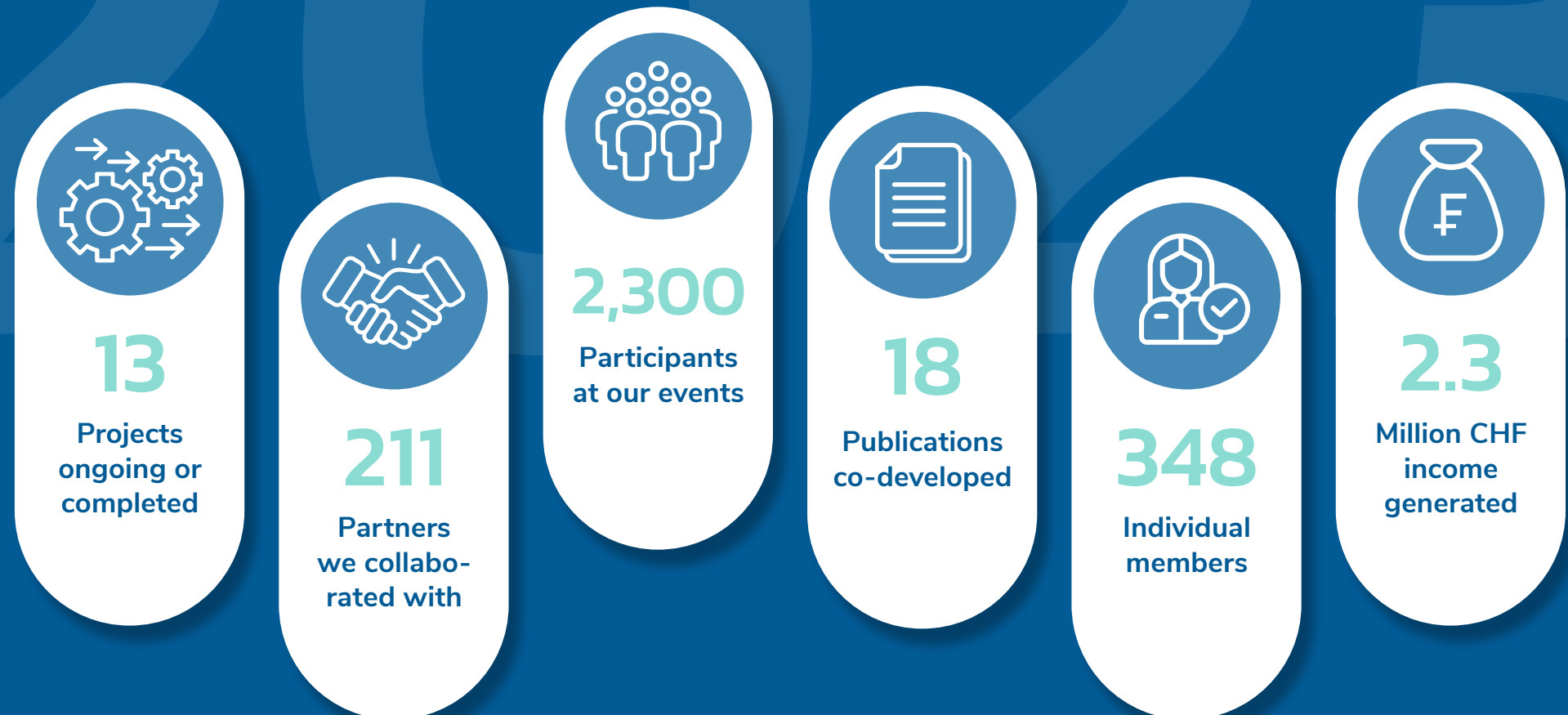


Our Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change outlines our strategic approach towards achieving sustainable and fair global resource use. Explore what outcomes we strive for through our three activity areas and how they contribute towards the positive impacts we wish to see in the world.

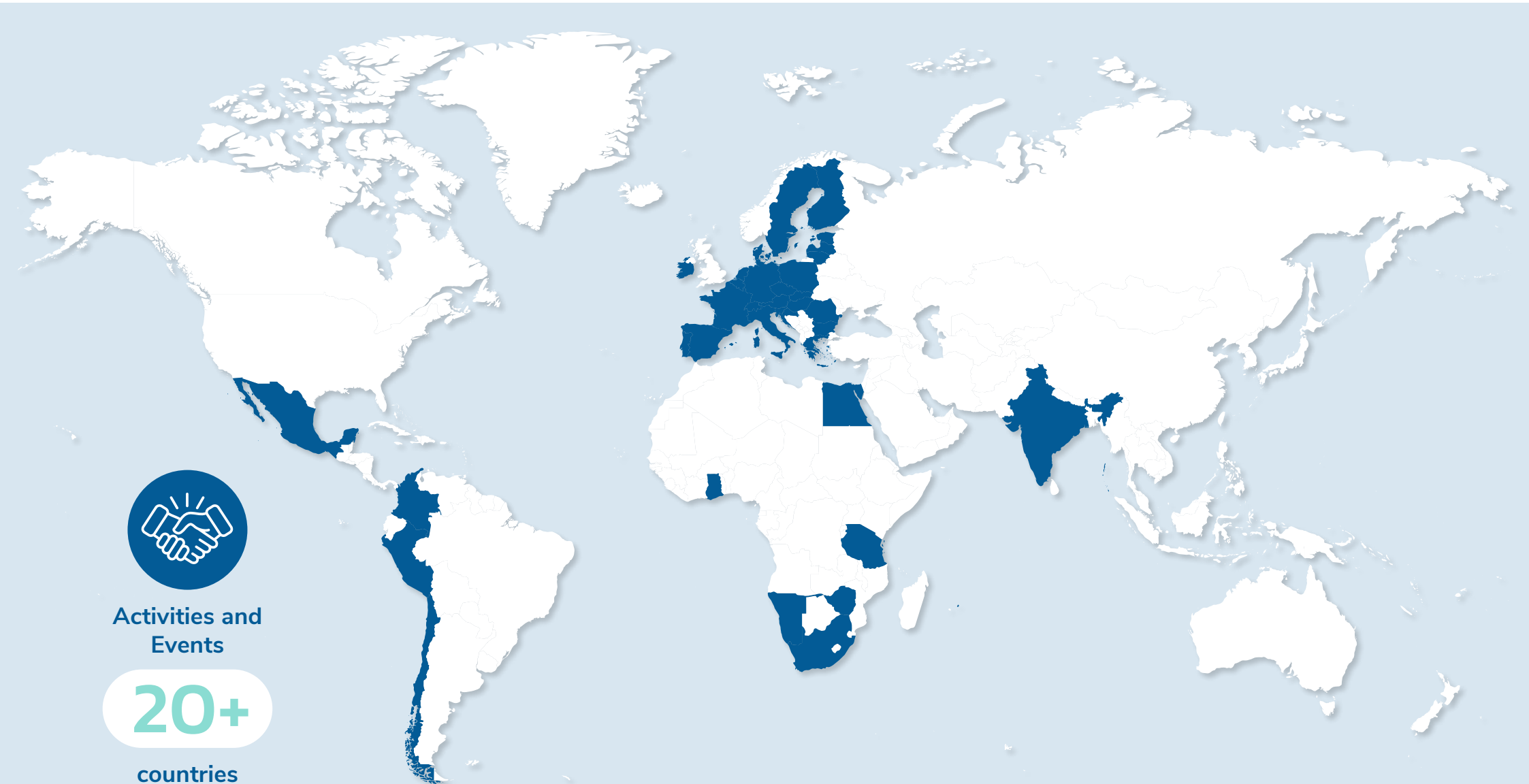


A Year in Numbers





Our Global Presence in 2025



Activities and
Events

20+

countries

Strengthening the Governance of WRFA

In 2025, the governance of the World Resources Forum Association (WRFA) was further strengthened with the appointment of four new members to its Board. The new Board members bring extensive expertise from civil society, international organisations, research, and industry, reflecting the global and

multi-stakeholder nature of sustainable resource governance. By broadening the geographical diversity and professional expertise of the Board, these appointments reinforce WRFA's mission to advance sustainable resource management and support fair and inclusive transitions in global resource systems.



MA Jun

Founding Director,
Institute of Public &
Environmental Affairs



Allison George

Senior Strategic Advisor,
dss+



Claudia Peña

Co-Director Regional Hub,
International EPD System



Isabelle Ramdoo

Director,
Intergovernmental Forum on Mining,
Minerals, Metals and Sustainable
Development (IGF)

As of 2025, the WRFA Board is composed of the following Members:

- **Bruno Oberle (President)**
- **Xaver Edelmann (Vice-President)**
- **Hubert Rhomberg**
- **Cornis van der Lugt**

- **Harry Lehmann**
- **Peder Jensen**
- **Patrick Wäger**
- **Claudia Peña**

- **Isabelle Ramdoo**
- **MA Jun**
- **Allison George**
- **Janez Potočnik**

- **Martine Rohn-Brossard**
(Special Advisor to the Board)

Under the Spotlight

SRI Programme Concludes: A Lasting Legacy for Sustainable and Inclusive Recycling



Countries involved:

Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Colombia, Peru

Duration of the project: 2019-2025

After more than a decade of strategic engagement, the Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) programme came to a close in 2025, leaving a strong **legacy of improved e-waste management**, empowered local stakeholders, and stronger national systems across multiple countries in the Global South. Funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and coordinated by the World Resources Forum Association (WRFA), SRI supported systemic change through a combination of **policy reform**, **technical standards**, **business development** and **capacity building**.

[OVERALL SRI PROGRAMME BROCHURE](#)

[ALL RESOURCES ON THE SRI WEBSITE](#)

"Over the last ten years, SRI has helped transform e-waste from an environmental hazard into a resource opportunity for Egypt. The progress we see today is the result of strong collaboration, innovation, and local ownership."

Mathias Schluep, SRI Global Coordinator

"SRI laid a strong foundation for a circular economy in Ghana, and the country can become a leader in sound e-waste management in the region and in Africa at large."

H.E. Simone Giger, The Ambassador of Switzerland to Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

"The SRI programme has unlocked a lot of other opportunities. It has positioned South Africa as a leader in the whole SADC region in terms of e-waste management."

Sharon Mogomotsi, Director of Hazardous Waste Management, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), South Africa

SRI Impact at a Glance:



EGYPT

- E-waste processed: 1,900 → 6,800 tons
- Authorised recyclers: 6 → 27
- Formal green jobs: 100 → 350
- Vocational schools introducing e-waste curricula: 19 (43% female participation)



GHANA

- 50+ companies in the recycling sector
- Up to 9,000 individuals engaged in the formal e-waste value chain



SOUTH AFRICA

- E-waste generated: 617,500 tons
- E-waste formally recycled via Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs): 28,855 tons (formal recycling rate 11.4%)
- 5 Producer Responsibility Organisations officially registered and operating



■ Participants at the SRI Egypt closing meeting.



■ Participants at the SRI Ghana closing meeting in Accra (June 2025)



■ SRI South Africa team at the closing meeting at the Residence of Switzerland in Pretoria (May 2025)



■ SRI Egypt closing meeting in Cairo (April 2025)

SRI legacy continues as new CEI project begins

While the SRI programme has officially concluded, its work continues through the Circular Electronics Initiative (CEI) project in Egypt, Ghana, and South Africa. This next phase will build on SRI's achievements, scaling successful models, strengthening systems, and further embedding circular economy practices in local and regional recycling sectors

Read more under '[New Projects](#)'.



Strengthening Trust at the Mine Site: how we fostered transparent dialogue with communities living near resource extraction activities in the Global South

The global demand for minerals, particularly those critical to the energy transition, is rising rapidly. At the same time, **conflicts** around **mining projects** continue to delay investments and destabilise regions. One pillar of responsible sourcing is that communities located around mine sites understand and experience the benefits and safeguards that companies commit to on paper.

In 2025, our work through the **Responsible Mining Index (RMI) stakeholder engagement dialogues** and the **Resource Impact Dashboard (RID)** brought this principle into practice. Across the extractive sector, transparency has improved at the corporate level. Companies increasingly publish ESG strategies, climate commitments, and human rights policies. But how do these commitments translate into meaningful improvements on the ground?

Listening first: community dialogues in Peru and Zimbabwe

Through the RMI stakeholder engagement initiative, we carried out structured dialogues at **two mining sites in Peru and Zimbabwe**, facilitated by trusted local experts to ensure independence and credibility. Community members were invited to share their perspectives on environmental impacts, social development, employment, grievance mechanisms, and company engagement practices.

The conversations revealed a consistent pattern: while companies communicate ambitious ESG

commitments at headquarters level, local stakeholders often struggle to see how these translate into tangible outcomes. In some cases, engagement processes existed but were not transparent. In others, communities lacked access to relevant information about impacts and mitigation measures. The result is a structural trust gap.

From perception to evidence: implementing the RID in Ghana

Together with ETH Nadel, we also had the opportunity to implement the RID methodology in Ghana, working directly with local stakeholders to capture both quantitative development indicators and community perceptions of mining impacts. The **RID translates complex impact data into an accessible, policy relevant format**. It enables communities, companies, and regulators to discuss development outcomes based on comparable evidence. By integrating company data with community perspectives, the dashboard reduces information asymmetries that often characterise company-community relationships.

Read more about ...

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN RMI

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN RID



■ Participants at the stakeholder engagement dialogues in Zimbabwe and Peru.

Launch of the WRF Academy

In 2025, we launched the WRF Academy, a new training initiative designed to strengthen professional capacities in sustainable resource management. The Academy builds on the organisation's long-standing experience in knowledge exchange and technical capacity building, and translates this expertise into structured training programmes for professionals from industry, governments and civil society.

The Academy was officially introduced at the World Resources Forum 2025 in Geneva, where a dedicated training day followed the main conference programme. The first course focused on Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA), with particular emphasis on Social Life Cycle Assessment (Social LCA). Delivered by Prof. Sonia Valdivia and Prof. Guido Sonnemann, the training combined conceptual foundations with practical applications. Participants welcomed the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in a practice-oriented learning environment.

"The training translated complex sustainability concepts into practical tools that we can apply in our daily work. It was particularly valuable to explore how environmental, social and economic indicators can be integrated in real assessments and decision-making processes. The course also created a space for meaningful exchange with experts and practitioners working on similar challenges".

Participant at WRF Academy Course on LCSA

The WRF Academy builds on more than a decade of educational activities conducted by WRFA within international projects, including modules on sustainable e-waste management, technical workshops, and specialized curricula supporting artisanal and small-scale mining. By consolidating these experiences into a dedicated training platform, the Academy makes this

knowledge accessible in a more systematic and independent format.

Looking ahead, the Academy will form a key pillar of WRFA's capacity-building strategy. Future courses will expand the training portfolio and support professionals worldwide in developing the skills needed to advance sustainable and inclusive resource management.

Learn more about ongoing training opportunities:

■ MOOC E-Waste Challenge

[Reducing E-waste By Design, Standards, Business & Policy »](#)

[Inclusive and Sustainable E-Waste Recycling: Global Solutions for a Growing Problem »](#)

[E-Waste Management: Standardisation & Conformity Assessment »](#)

■ Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

[Curriculum and training material for in-country short courses »](#)

The trainers at the WRF Academy's Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment course in Geneva:



Prof. Sonia Valdivia
Scientific Director WRF



Prof. Guido Sonnemann
University of Bordeaux

A new chapter for sustainable electronics: the STEP Initiative comes under WRFA leadership for strengthened impact



In 2025, the World Resources Forum Association took over the Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) and its leadership under the new name of Sustainable Electronics Platform. This marked a strategic repositioning of one of the longest standing multi stakeholder initiatives in the electronics sector.

Founded in 2004, STEP emerged at a time when electronic waste was gaining international attention but lacked coordinated global responses. Hosted initially within the UN system, the initiative brought together producers, recyclers, researchers, UN organisations, and policymakers

to address one overarching challenge: how to manage the rapidly growing volumes of discarded electronics.

Over two decades, STEP built credibility, networks, and technical expertise across the full electronics value chain, from production and design to disposal and material recovery. It placed particular emphasis on the Global South, where the environmental and social costs of poor e-waste management are most visible.

However, the landscape changed. E-waste governance matured, new actors entered the field, policies multiplied, and circular economy debates expanded beyond end-of-life management. By 2023, it was clear that incremental adaptation would not be sufficient. The platform needed a new strategic direction and stronger institutional anchoring.

Under the new STEP strategy, the platform has shifted from a primarily problem focused initiative on e-waste to a systemic Sustainable Electronics Platform addressing the full lifecycle

of electronics. The scope now explicitly covers design, reuse, repair, reverse logistics, innovative business models, and material recovery.

This strategic shift moves STEP from being primarily a discussion platform to becoming an implementation-oriented alliance. Its integration into the World Resources Forum strengthens its policy relevance and alignment with broader resource governance debates. Together with its members and partners, we will now set in place activities that will enable the platform to move from addressing symptoms to shaping the future of sustainable electronics worldwide.

[STEP WEBSITE](#)[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Forum

WRF 2025 – New Resource Strategies for a Fair and Sustainable Future

How can we design and scale new resource strategies that deliver both sustainability and fairness? The 2025 edition of the World Resources Forum addressed this challenge through three critical hotspots of resource use – the **extractive sector**, the **built environment**, and **consumer & industrial goods**.

On 2-3 September 2025, WRF25 brought together 450 in-person participants and more than 2,000 global participants from over 60 countries. Across the three sectors, participants explored solutions to govern resources more transparently, use them more efficiently, and ensure that their benefits are shared equitably across societies.

Three **high-level priorities** emerged from the Forum:

- Reinvigorate rule-based, transparent multilateral governance for minerals and metals.
- Improve data and transparency across extraction, trade, and circularity to enable evidence-based governance.
- Align sustainability and supply security as mutually reinforcing objectives, rather than competing agendas

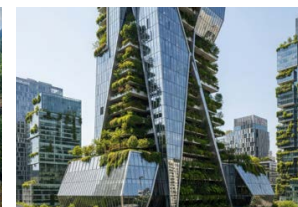
Beyond the numbers, the Forum reaffirmed dialogue as its core methodology. In a time of global fragmentation, WRF25 showed that trust-based exchange between governments, companies, researchers, and civil society remains possible and necessary. By connecting science, policy, and practice, WRF25 strengthened WRF's role as a neutral, international platform shaping fair and sustainable resource strategies.

[READ THE REPORT](#)
[WATCH THE AFTERMOVIE](#)

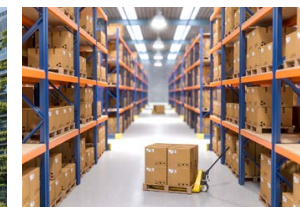
THREE RESOURCE HOTSPOTS



Extractive sector



Built environment



Consumer & industrial goods

LOCATION & DATE

GENEVA (SWITZERLAND) – 2-3 SEPTEMBER 2025 | ONLINE – 4-5 SEPTEMBER

KEY NUMBERS

60+
COUNTRIES
INVOLVED

2,000+
GLOBAL
PARTICIPANTS

168
SCIENTIFIC
PRESENTERS

120
SPEAKERS

450
IN-PERSON
PARTICIPANTS

65
PARTNERS

23
PARTNER-LED
SESSIONS

29
SCIENTIFIC
SESSIONS

Webinars

The Case for Science-Based Material Targets

This webinar explored the growing case for science-based targets for material use. Global material consumption has tripled over the past 50 years, reaching around 100 billion tonnes annually, and is projected to continue rising without decisive policy action. The discussion brought together leading experts to examine how science-based targets could complement climate policy and strengthen circular economy strategies. Speakers highlighted that the extraction and processing of materials are major drivers of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, yet material use remains largely absent from global sustainability targets. The webinar discussed how measurable material footprint targets could guide policy, improve transparency, and support a transition towards more resource-efficient and resilient economies.

Speakers:

- **Janez Potočnik**, UNEP International Resource Panel (IRP)
- **Heather Grabbe**, Bruegel
- **Antoine Oger**, Institute for European Environment Policy (IEEP)
- **Inga Wagner**, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

[WATCH WEBINAR](#)

Driving the Energy Transition: Circularity in the Mining and Metals Industry (organised by ICMM)

The AfricaMaVal workshop focused on the role of secondary raw materials and inclusive recycling in Africa, specifically within the e-waste sector. Experts provided an overview of e-waste volumes, regulatory frameworks, and value chains, as well as the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) take-back systems. The session also highlighted the experiences of recyclers working in Critical Raw Material (CRM) recovery and discussed the challenges they face in scaling up operations. This workshop is part of the EU-Horizon funded AfricaMaVal project, which aims to foster EU-African partnerships and promote sustainable raw material value chains.

Speakers:

- **Bernardita Mancilla Vigneaux**, Director of Responsible Production and Circular Economy, CODELCO
- **Eleane Cote**, Principal Advisor – ESG, Rio Tinto
- **Lisa Hickey**, Mining Social Responsibility Officer, Worldwide Mining Business Line, Michelin
- **Atilson Neto**, Global Sustainable Mining Expert & South America Fossil Free Materials Lead, Volvo Group
- Moderated by **Bryony Clear Hill**, Director of Innovation, ICMM

[WATCH WEBINAR](#)

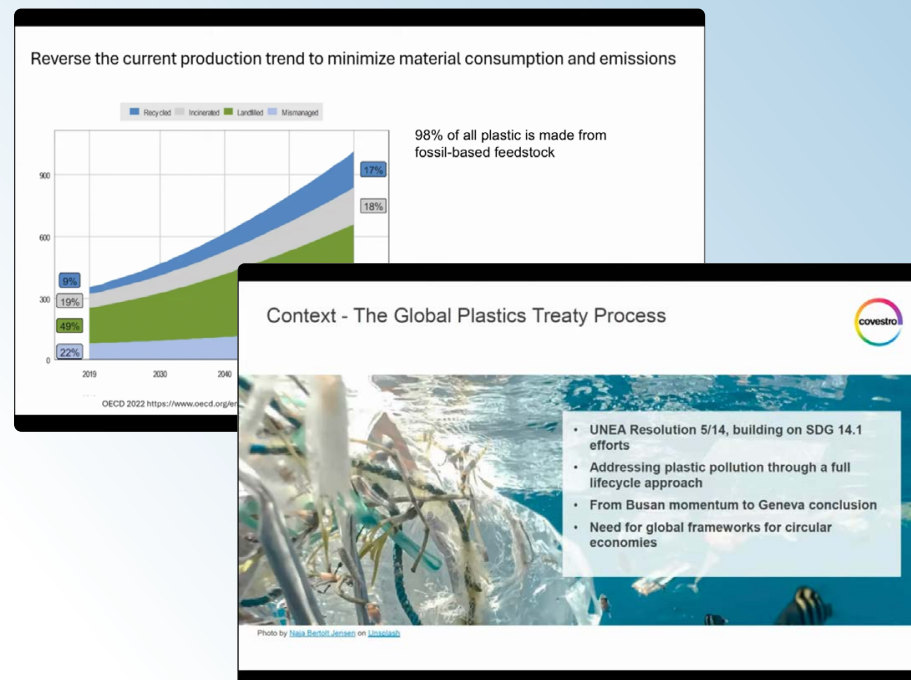
Towards a Meaningful Plastics Treaty: Priorities and Challenges Ahead of INC-5.2 (organised by ETH Zurich | SusTec)

In 2022, the international community launched a historic process to develop a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution. Since then, five rounds of negotiations, held under the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), have brought countries, experts, and stakeholders together to shape the future of plastics governance. With the final round of negotiations (INC-5.2) set to take place in Geneva this August 2025, now is a critical moment to reflect on what's been achieved and what still needs to happen to deliver a meaningful outcome. This WRF25 online side event brought together diverse global voices to explore the current state and future direction of the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

Speakers:

- Dr. iur. Karine Siegwart, IUCN
- Amanda Finger, FOEN, Switzerland
- Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi, EnviroHealth Consult, Ghana
- Prof. Dr. Kristian Syberg, Roskilde University
- Marian Frances Ledesma, Greenpeace Southeast Asia
- Dalia Fernanda Márquez Añez, Women's Major Group UNEP
- Jodie Roussell, Nestlé
- Ralph Schneider, Covestro
- Ricarda Fieber, SusTec, ETH Zurich

WATCH WEBINAR



Events

Our contribution to international events:

Solutions for POPs in Plastics from End-of-Life Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries BRS COP Side Events | Geneva, Switzerland

At the BRS COP in Geneva (April 2025), WRF presented practical solutions for sustainable waste management in the Global South. Adrien Specker presented "Managing POPs in End-of-Life Vehicle Plastics – Côte d'Ivoire Solutions" (UNECE side event), showcasing practical strategies where infrastructure is limited: staff training, dismantling systems, POP identification for recyclers, and markets for quality recycled plastics. Federico Werner presented Colombia's National Cross-Sectoral Strategy for Used Lithium-Ion Batteries (ULIB), developed through WRFA's six-month co-creation process under GIZ's Go Circular programme.



■ Adrien Specker presenting at the BRS COP in Geneva



From Waste to Resources: Circular Solutions for People and Planet 8th Paris Peace Forum | Paris, France



At the 8th Paris Peace Forum, Bruno Oberle, WRF President and Global Council for Responsible Transition Minerals member, joined a panel on “From

Waste to Resources: Circular Solutions for People and Planet.” The session highlighted pioneering initiatives from Benin, Nepal, and Ukraine that transform waste, invasive plants, and industrial by-products into compost, artisanal goods, safe playgrounds, and cleaner industrial processes – creating green jobs, empowering communities, and restoring ecosystems. Besides, Bruno Oberle also participated in a partner-led discussion organised by the OECD, Global Witness and the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, on establishing a new global order for transition minerals, emphasising justice, community consent, and environmental integrity.

Spotlight on Circularity | Geneva Dialogues on Mineral and Metal Resources UNECE Resource Management Week | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Resources Forum contributed to the Geneva Dialogues on Minerals and Metals during UNECE Resource Management Week 2025 with a side event exploring the role of circularity in addressing the rapidly growing demand for critical minerals and metals. The discussion brought together leading experts to examine how circular economy approaches, including material efficiency, reuse, recycling, and responsible mining practices, can help reduce the environmental and social impacts associated with increased mineral extraction while strengthening supply security. Our Emanuele Di Francesco highlighted the need to integrate circular strategies across the entire lifecycle of minerals and metals, from design and production to recovery and recycling, while also strengthening international cooperation, governance frameworks, and innovation.

[WATCH THE SESSION](#)

Mining's Shift to Circular Economy as a Critical Minerals Necessity: Unlocking a Sustainable Future Resourcing Tomorrow | London, UK

At Resourcing Tomorrow 2025 in London, our Managing Director Mathias Schluep contributed to a high-level discussion on the mining sector's role in the circular economy. Speaking on the panel, Mathias highlighted the need to rethink the traditional perception of mining as merely the starting point of a linear value chain. Instead, he argued that the sector holds unique knowledge and decision-making power over raw materials, positioning it to play a central role in enabling circular value chains for critical minerals. The discussion brought together senior representatives from industry and trade associations to explore how mining can support a more resilient and sustainable resource future. [Listen to the event podcast.](#)



PODCAST

**Mining the Future |
Sustainability and Circularity
beyond ESG**

Our Projects



Collaboration and Partnerships



Capacity and Solutions



Informed Decision-Making

In 2025, WRFA launched and secured three new projects:

* NEW PROJECT *

Promoting Circularity and Resource Efficiency in the Electronics Value Chain across Southern African Countries

Topic: Circularity and resource efficiency in the electronics value chain

Funded by: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

In progress (2026-2030)

The goal of this project is to advance circularity and resource efficiency in electronics value chains across southern African SADC countries. Led by UNEP with Africa Institute and UNITAR SCYCLE execution, it targets POPs, uPOPs, and heavy metals impacts on health and environment throughout electrical and electronic equipment lifecycles. Key strategies include policy frameworks, circular standards, business pilots, informal sector integration, sustainable finance mechanisms like EPR schemes, and gender-responsive safeguards.

LEARN MORE

Outcomes:



* NEW PROJECT *

Improving Management of E-waste and Healthcare Waste to Reduce Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPS)

Topic: Sustainable e-waste management and recycling in Egypt

Funded by: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

In progress (2026-2027)

As part of the larger GEF-funded project on improving e-waste and healthcare waste management, WRF contributes to two pillars focused on strengthening e-waste systems in Egypt. The first pillar supports the development of clear policies, regulations, and practical procedures for sustainable e-waste management. The second pillar provides assessment and technical assistance to recyclers, promotes the integration of informal workers, and supports start-ups and small businesses. Through these activities, WRF helps improve governance, strengthen recycling practices, and reduce environmental and health risks linked to improper e-waste handling.

Outcomes:



* NEW PROJECT *

Circular Electronics Initiative (CEI)

Topic: Improving circularity for resource-intensive material flows (e-waste)

Funded by: Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

In progress (2025-2029)

The Circular Electronics Initiative (CEI) is an international cooperation initiative aimed at improving how electronic waste (e-waste) is managed in Egypt, Ghana, and South Africa. Building on previous efforts, it helps governments and key stakeholders to create and strengthen a framework – including clear policies, rules, and technical guidelines – for handling e-waste responsibly. CEI encourages proper collection and recycling, supports the inclusion of informal workers, and promotes shared standards and monitoring across the entire electronics value chain. By fostering knowledge exchange between countries, the programme aims to recover valuable resources, reduce environmental harm, and protect public health while advancing circular economy practices.

FACTSHEET

LEARN MORE

Outcomes:



DiliCHANCE

Focus area: Resource Extraction

Topic: Transparency in raw materials value chains

Keywords: due diligence, mining, mobility, electronics, energy, traceability, assurance

Funded by: European Union. WRFA's work is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

In progress (2024-2027)

<https://www.dilichance.eu>

DiliCHANCE unites business, science, and civil society partners to support mineral supply chain companies in mastering Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD). It develops a comprehensive digital One-Stop Shop, which should address policy gaps, strengthen corporate expertise, and foster collaboration through tools, self-checks or webinars. This supports responsible sourcing, transparency, and reduced societal and environmental harm across mobility, renewables, and electronics value chains.

Highlights:

- Official launch of the DiliCHANCE **One-Stop Shop** at WRF25: Introduces new tools, including a self-check tool for companies in minerals supply chains (free but registration required).
- Article: **From Gaps to Solutions: Advancing Due Diligence Implementation in Raw Material Supply Chains**

Outcomes:



ENKORE – Eco Healthcare

Focus area: Resource Circularity

Topic: Sustainability in the Healthcare Sector

Keywords: reuse of medical devices, packaging, hospitals, circularity

Funded by: European Union. WRFA's work is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

In progress (2025-2028)

<https://enkoreecohealthcare.eu>

ENKORE unites public and private partners to boost environmental sustainability in European healthcare. It develops eco-design solutions for single-use medical devices and packaging, tackling their major environmental footprint. Through demonstrative use cases across healthcare systems, ENKORE accelerates circularity while navigating sterility and safety regulations. The project drives innovation in design, use, and end-of-life management.

Highlights:

- ENKORE Brochure
- ENKORE Fact Sheet

Outcomes:



Resource Impact Dashboard

Focus area: Resource Extraction

Topic: Local impacts of mining activities

Keywords: community engagement, mine site, responsible sourcing

Funded by: r4d programme, a joint initiative of the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

In progress (2024-2026)

<https://www.resource-impact.org/en/#/home>

WRFA is collaborating with ETH NADEL, to advance and scale up the Resource Impact Dashboard (RID). The RID is a tool that enables stakeholders to monitor the effects of resource extraction on local development at the mine site level. By integrating the perspectives of both communities and companies, it provides a foundation for open dialogue and evidence-based policy-making. This project is a key part of our ongoing efforts in responsible sourcing and mining, contributing to enhanced transparency and governance in natural resource extraction.

Highlights:

- Implementation in Ghana: Baseline study [Ewoyaa Lithium Project](#)

Outcomes:



European Topic Centre (ETC) Circular Economy and Resource Use – European Environmental Agency

Focus area: Resource Circularity

Keywords: raw materials supply chain, indicators, plastics, built environment

Funded by: European Environment Agency. WRFA's work is co-funded by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

In progress (2022-2026)

<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-ce>

The ETC CE is a consortium of European organisations in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA), which aims to inform decision-makers and the public by presenting reliable, evidence based and comparable data and information on circular economy and industrial transformation, the implementation of EU waste legislation and material flows and sustainable resource use in Europe.

Highlights:

- Publication: [Potential environmental gains from service models](#)
- Publication: [Environmental impact of material's supply chain disruption – The cases of Aluminium and Lithium](#)
- Circularity Metrics Lab: Update of the [Certifications to the European Ecolabel](#), Development of the metric [Competitiveness of secondary polyethylene plastic](#), and [Supply risk evolution for CRMs](#).

Outcomes:



DiCE - Digital health in Circular Economy

Focus area: Resource Circularity

Keywords: digital health, circular economy, Social LCA

Funded by: European Union. WRFA's work is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

In progress (2022-2026)

<https://circulardigitalhealth.eu>

DiCE aims to develop and demonstrate novel, circular and environmentally sound solutions to design, collect, directly reuse, refurbish, remanufacture and recycle digital health devices, contributing to enabling a circular transition in the digital health sector. Solutions will be implemented, tested, and demonstrated through pilots in Norway, Belgium, Slovenia, Spain and Germany.

Highlights:

- [DiCE circularity dashboard](#)
- [DiCE glossary](#)

Outcomes:



Scaling Circular Solutions: Supporting the Lithium battery recycling sector in Colombia

Focus area: Resource Recovery

Topic: Circularity of lithium-ion batteries

Keywords: batteries, circular economy, e-waste, recycling

Funded by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ

Concluded (2024-2025)

As part of GIZ's global "Go Circular" initiative, this project helps implement Colombia's regulation on end-of-life lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles and solar systems. Led by WRFA in collaboration with Öko-Institut, it strengthens take-back schemes, reuse, and recycling capacities. Through stakeholder engagement, field visits, and workshops, the project develops a cross-sectoral strategy and technical guidelines to support circular, environmentally sound battery management under Colombia's EPR framework.

Highlights:

- Publication: [Management of used lithium-ion batteries in Colombia](#)
- Publication: [Recommendations for a sectoral strategy for the Management of used lithium-ion batteries in Colombia](#) (only in Spanish)

Outcomes:



■ TULIB testing by measurement and computerized analysis of performance data

AfricaMaVal – Building EU-Africa partnerships on sustainable raw materials value chain

Focus area: Resource extraction

Keywords: responsible sourcing, critical raw materials, investments, artisanal and small-scale mining

Funded by: European Union. WRFA's work is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Concluded (2022-2025)

<https://africamaval.eu>

AfricaMaVal aims to develop an EU-Africa partnership for responsible mineral resource sourcing, with a focus on strategic and critical raw materials (CRM) for the European industry. The project's goal is to promote sustainable local co-development and to create a long-term and productive business environment for both European and African companies.

Do not miss:

- Publication: [Curriculum and training material for in-country short courses](#)
- [Country case study analysis and factsheets](#) of Morocco, Gabon, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
- [Podcast 'Pardon my Planet' special series](#) about the AfricaMaVal project: e.g. 'Fostering responsible extraction in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining sector' ([Spotify](#) / [Apple Podcasts](#))

Outcomes:



uPOPCI – Sound management of unintentional persistent organic pollutants and brominated flame retardants in Côte d'Ivoire

Focus area: Resource Recovery

Topic: Safe and sustainable management of e-waste

Keywords: POPs, e-waste

Funded by: Global Environment Facility

In progress (2020-2024, extended until end of 2026)

This project addresses the issue of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) stemming from e-waste and end-of-life vehicles in Côte d'Ivoire. Addressing more than 90,000 tons of POP containing waste materials, the project is expected to prevent the open burning of 130 tons of plastic and avoid the emission of 13 metric tons of toxic substances, such as brominated flame retardants.

Outcomes:



Knowledge

WRF25 Insights Report

Output type: Report

The [WRF25 Insights Report](#) synthesises the discussions and conclusions emerging from the Forum's plenaries, sectoral sessions, and scientific programme. It presents a set of **high-level messages** on the governance of global resource systems, including the need to strengthen rule-based and transparent international cooperation in minerals and metals trade, improve data and traceability across resource value chains, and recognise that sustainability and supply security must be pursued together rather than treated as competing objectives.

The report also provides **sectoral deep dives** into three key resource hotspots discussed at the Forum: the extractive sector, the built environment, and consumer and industrial goods. These sections highlight concrete strategies discussed by participants, such as strengthening responsible sourcing and community engagement in mining, mobilising finance and innovation to accelerate low-carbon and circular construction, and redesigning products and value chains in sectors such as electronics and plastics to enable repair, reuse, and material recovery.

In addition, the report features thematic sections on emerging debates and initiatives presented at WRF25, including **responsible sourcing** in artisanal and **small-scale mining**, governance challenges related to **deep-sea mining**, the role of **science-based targets** for **material use**, and efforts to build trust and accountability in **circular economy** systems. Together, these insights provide readers with a structured overview of the key policy questions, technological solutions, and governance approaches shaping the global resource transition.



ISO 59014 Implementation

Output type: Publication series

Related project: Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI)

Focus: Sustainable recycling and circular resource use

This series of publications presents the latest insights on implementing ISO 59014, the new global benchmark for sustainability and traceability in recycled materials. It provides guidance for organisations seeking to align with international standards and strengthen circular resource management.

The series includes:

- **Comparison with International WEEE Standards** – Analyses ISO 59014 alongside CEN 50625, R2v3, and e-Stewards, highlighting its holistic approach to sustainability and traceability.
- **Feasibility Study** – Reports on four pilot cases across Asia, South America, Africa, and Europe, demonstrating the standard's applicability in diverse contexts and its potential for transparent and responsible recycling.
- **Pilot Testing at E[co]work (India)** – Shows how a small WEEE recycler achieved 76% alignment with ISO 59014, illustrating key operational challenges and opportunities for improvement.

These publications, developed under the Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) Programme, provide practical guidance, case studies, and comparative insights to support the uptake of ISO 59014 worldwide.



MOOC on Tackling the Global E-Waste Challenge

Output type: Online training programme

Related project: Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI)

Focus: Sustainable e-waste management

This free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) empowers learners worldwide to address the growing **global e-waste challenge**. Developed by the **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions** in partnership with **EIT RawMaterials – Academy, KU Leuven, ITU, WHO, and WRFA**, the

course is available in English and Spanish and targets students, researchers, policymakers, recyclers, and industry practitioners. Structured into five mini-courses, WRF's main contributions are to Course 4, **"Inclusive and Sustainable E-Waste Recycling,"** and Course 5, **"E-Waste Management: Standardisation & Conformity Assessment,"** where participants learn practical approaches for responsible recycling and the role of standards and audits in environmental protection.



Courses available:

- 1. The E-Waste Challenge
- 2. E-Waste and Children's Health
- 3. Reducing E-waste By Design, Standards, Business & Policy
- 4. Inclusive and Sustainable E-Waste Recycling: Global Solutions for a Growing Problem
- 5. E-Waste Management: Standardisation & Conformity Assessment

SRI Online Training on E-Waste Management

Output type: Online training programme

Related project: Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI)

Focus: Sustainable e-waste management

This online training offers a comprehensive, structured learning experience designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and address e-waste. Adapted from in-person trainings developed by SRI country teams and international experts, this modular course covers key aspects of e-waste management, from fundamental definitions to **advanced recycling technologies, policy frameworks, and auditing practices**.



ACCESS THE FREE TRAINING

Curriculum and Training Materials for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Africa

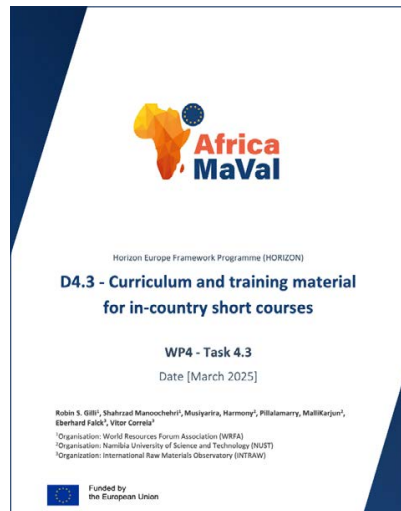
Output type: Training curriculum

Related project: AfricaMaVal

Focus: Capacity-building curriculum for responsible artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa

This report consolidates the curriculum and training resources developed under the AfricaMaVal project to strengthen **artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)** across Africa. Drawing on capacity-building programs in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and Zambia, the materials promote **responsible mineral extraction** and equip local actors to address **environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges**. Designed in close collaboration with local experts, the curriculum covers **six key topics**, including **regulatory frameworks, responsible sourcing, mining techniques, environmental and**

social management, business skills, and access to finance. Interactive exercises and practical modules ensure participants can apply knowledge directly within their communities. By providing adaptable, country-specific resources, this publication supports sustainable ASM development, fosters resilience among local miners, and reinforces inclusive, responsible value chains in Africa's mineral sector.



[DOWNLOAD THE CURRICULUM](#)

Entrepreneurial Spirit, Collaboration and Women's Leadership: Voices from the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Madagascar

Output type: WRF publication

Related project: AfricaMaVal

Focus: Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector in Madagascar

This report offers an in-depth look at **artisanal and small-scale miners in Madagascar**, highlighting their **innovation, cooperative practices**, and the pivotal role of **women leaders**. Produced through WRFA's AfricaMaVal capacity-building programme, it amplifies voices that are often missing from policy debates and international conversations. Based on interviews conducted during the August 2024 ASM capacity-building activity, the publication focuses on **three themes**: tackling challenges with an **entrepreneurial mindset, fostering collaboration** within communities, and women's leadership in ASM. It demonstrates how miners navigate regulatory, financial, and market constraints while creating local value and opportunities for empowerment. The report calls for a broader recognition of ASM as a dynamic sector of resilience and opportunity, where entrepreneurial and female leadership can drive sustainable and inclusive mineral value chains.



[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

Responsible Mining Index+ 2025 & Stakeholder Engagement Report

In 2025, the World Resources Forum published the latest edition of the [Responsible Mining Index RMI+ Report 2025](#), continuing the legacy of the Responsible Mining Foundation in assessing the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance of major mining companies. The report provides an evidence-based evaluation of 25 large mining companies based on publicly available information, analysing how they disclose and implement policies related to economic development, business conduct, project lifecycle management, community wellbeing, working conditions, and environmental responsibility. By benchmarking companies against these criteria, the index aims to strengthen transparency, highlight leading practices, and identify gaps in how the mining sector manages the social and environmental impacts associated with growing demand for minerals.

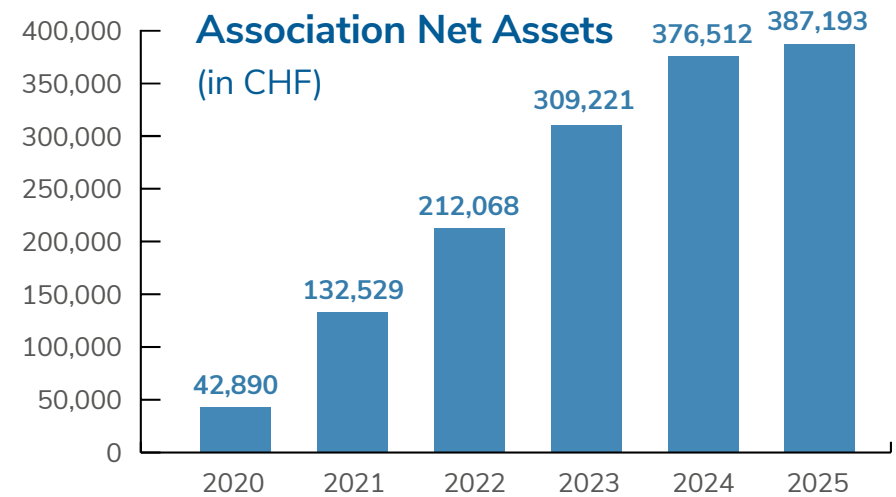
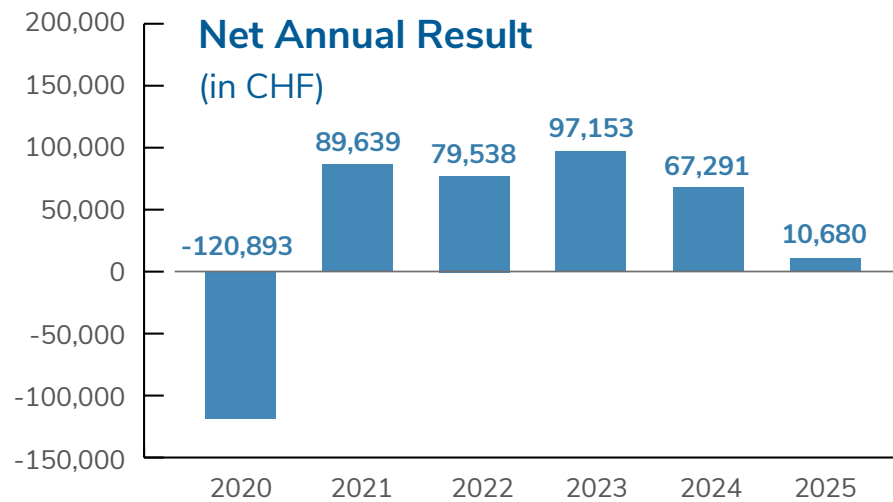
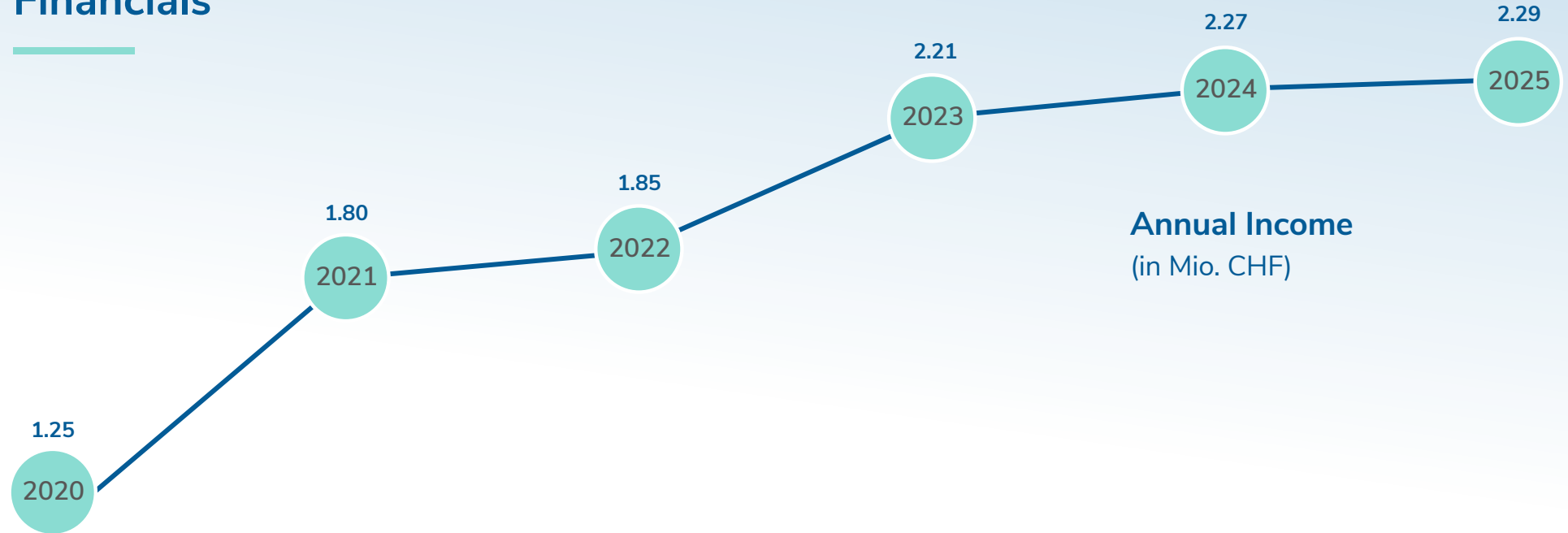
The findings show that while companies increasingly report commitments on sustainability and ESG policies, significant gaps remain in demonstrating how these commitments translate into concrete action and measurable outcomes. This “commitment-effectiveness gap” raises important questions about the readiness of the sector to responsibly manage the expected surge in demand for critical raw materials linked to the global energy and digital transitions.

Alongside the main assessment, a complementary report based on [stakeholder engagement dialogues](#) at selected mine sites provides additional insights into how company policies are experienced on the ground by local communities and workers. Together, these publications contribute to more informed dialogue among policymakers, investors, civil society organisations, and industry actors, supporting efforts to ensure that the expansion of mineral extraction for the energy transition takes place in a transparent, responsible, and socially inclusive manner.





Financials



What Working at WRF Looks Like ...



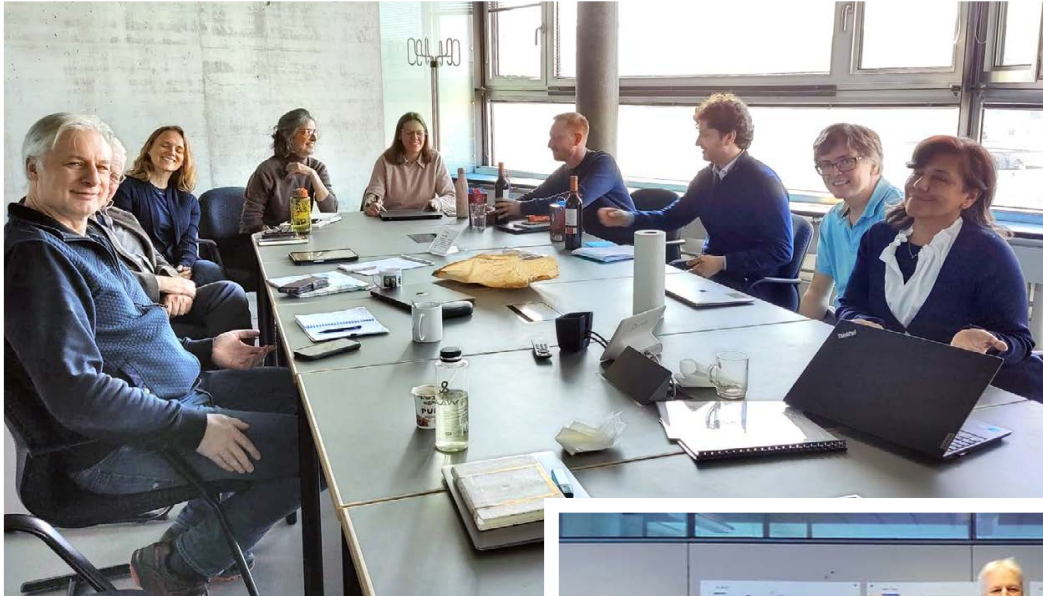
■ WRF team members at a project meeting in the Netherlands.



■ WRF25 organising team at the end of the conference.



■ Post-conference team dinner in Geneva.



■ Last WRF team meeting in St. Gallen.



■ Celebrating a birthday at our new office in Winterthur.



■ Welcoming the arrival of a new family member of a colleague.

WRF Team in 2025



■ Back row, from left to right: Robin Gilli, Luz Donozo, Federico Werner, Shahrzad Manoochehri, Elisa Gazzaniga, Nicole Nussbaumer, Adrien Specker. Front row, from left to right: Mathias Schluep, Sonia Valdivia, Emanuele Di Francesco, Ben Ellis, Rebecca Suhner, Bruno Oberle. Missing: Xaver Edelmann, Aravind Edamanakunnel Soman

Annex

Partners

AfricaMaVal:

French Geological Survey (BRGM) | DMT GmbH, DMT South Africa | HCF International Advisor | EIT Raw Materials | Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) | Association of Women in Mining in Africa (AWIMA) | LGI Sustainable Development | INTRAW, South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry NPC | Minerals Africa Development Institute (MADI) | National Laboratory of Energy and Geology (LNEG) | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies | Namibia University of Science and Technology | Geological Survey of Europe (EGS) | Levin Sources | Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association | Zimbabwe Association of Women in Mining Associations | Zimbabwe School of Mines

DiCE:

Janssen Pharmaceutica NV | Johnson & Johnson Medical BV | Universiteit Gent | WEEE Forum | Recupel | Ecolec | LiCaLab | Technische Universiteit Delft | Game Solutions Lab | GRIN | Ruhr University Bochum | Philips Electronics Nederland | Fundacion Intrac; Regionalna Razvojna Agencija | Copenhagen Business School | Ekosij | Institute for Ecology in Industrial Areas | Mirec

European Topic Centre (ETC) Circular

Economy and Resource Use:

VITO | Check Environment Information Agency (CENIA) | Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) | Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth of the National Research Council of Italy | Swedish Environmental Agency (IVL) | NORION Consult | Sustainable Environmental Economics and Dynamics Studies (SEEDS) | German Environment Agency (UBA) | Technical Research Center of Finland (VTT) | Wuppertal Institut (WI)

Sustainable Recycling Industries

Programme (SRI):

Empa | National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI) | Center for Environment and Development of the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) | Peru Ministry of Environment | Egypt Ministry of Environment | Colombia Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Ghana Ministry of Environment | Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) | Egypt Ministry of Communications and Information Technology | StEP Initiative | Ghana Environmental Protection Agency | Mountain Research Institute | Sofies | Swiss Association for Standardization (SNV) | Öko-Institut e.V.

ENKORE:

Universidad Politecnica de Madrid | Medtronic Iberica SA | Sofradim Production SASU | Predictby Research and Consulting S.L. | Universita Campus Bio Medico di Roma | Universiteit Leiden | Politechnika Poznanska | Institoyto BioiatpikhE Texnologias | Charite – Universitaetsmedizin Berlin | Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Campus Bio Medico | Uniwersytet Medyczny w Lodzi | Consorcio Mar Parc de Salut de Barcelona | TWI Ellas Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia | Fundacion Universidad Francisco de Vitoria | Samenwerkende Topklinische Opleidingsziekenhuizen | Osai Automation System SPA Societa' Benefit | Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale | European Regional and Local Health Authorities ASBL | Naucnoistravivacki Institut Verlab za Biomedicinski Inzinjering Medicinske Uredaje i Vjestacku Inteligenciju | Enosi Asthenon Elladas | Sterimed Holding | Servicio Madrileno de Salud | Multimed Engineers SRL | Idryma Technologias kai Ereynas | Happy Mondays Communication SL | Pfizer Inc | Novo Nordisk A/S | Eli Lilly and Company | John-son & Johnson Medical GmbH | Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG | Fresenius Medical Care Deutschland GmbH | DuPont de Nemours (Luxembourg) SARL | Boehringer

Ingelheim International GmbH | International Solid Waste Association | Forum des Patients Europeens | Baxter R and D Europe | Active Ageing Association | UDG Alliance | World Resources Forum Association | Pfizer Limited | Pfizer R&D UK Limited | Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals | Pfizer Manufacturing Deutschland GmbH mit Sitz Illertissen | Pfizer Italia s.r.l. | Eli Lilly and Company Ltd | Lilly Deutschland GmbH | Eli Lilly Danmark A/S | Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co KG | Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | DePuy International Limited | Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc. | Technovative Solutions Ltd

DiliCHANCE:

Vienna University of Economics and Business | EIT RawMaterials | Levin Sources | Statik | WWF | Solidaridad Europe | BRGM | KPMG | Solidaridad Latin America | Association of Women in Mining Africa

Circular Electronics Initiative (CEI):

African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) | DSS Sustainable Solutions Switzerland SA (dss+) | Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre (GNPCPC) | Empa, Mountain Research Institute (MRI) | Öko-Institut Consult GmbH, Sustainability and Innovation Hub | Volutio GmbH

Project 'Improving Management of E-waste and Healthcare Waste to Reduce Emissions of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants': DSS Sustainable Solutions Switzerland SA (dss+) | Apex Consulting

Project 'Promoting circularity and resource efficiency in the electronics value chain across southern African countries': United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Africa Institute | UNITAR SCYCLE

STEP Initiative: Empa, WEEE Forum | Closing the Loop | Boku University | RLG by Reconomy | ITU | The Basel | Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | DRZ Demontage- und Recyclingzentrum | African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) | National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER) | United States Environmental Protection Agency | E-Titanium Inc. | Mountain Research Institute | S2S Dynamics

GIZ Go Circular:

Öko-Institut Consult GmbH

Resource Impact Dashboard:

ETH NADEL – Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development | Africa Centre for Energy Policy | Institute for Social Research in Africa (Ifsra) | Universidade Lúrio

Forum & knowledge partners:

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland | Republique et canton de Genève | Geneva Convention Bureau | Empa – Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology | International Resource Panel (IRP) | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | United Nations Economic Commission for

Europe (UNECE) | Glencore | International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) | Club of Rome | Chatham House | International Organization for Standardization (ISO) | CREE Buildings | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) | ETH Zurich, SusTec | International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | World Wildlife Fund (WWF) | Geneva Environment Network | University of Queensland (UQ) | Responsible Mining Index (RMI) | Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI project) | CIRAN Project | AfricaMaVal Project | STEP Initiative | DILICHANCE Project | CDP | Water Witness International | Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) | Resource Impact Dashboard (RID) | Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) | TESS Forum | Copper Mark | Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy | ContainerGrid | LC3 | Futuram project | L'Atelier Enchanté | Guixot de 8 | RWTH Aachen – Institute of Mineral Resources Engineering | Building Excellence – Switzerland Innovation Park Central | Genereso | iTSCi | Swiss Better Gold Association | The Blended Capital Group | Alliance for Responsible Mining | Capitals Hub Canada | Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) | Aix Marseille Université | Centre de recherche et d'enseignement des géosciences de l'environnement (Cerege)