

April 15, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: Summary of findings and request for response: report on environmental and human rights impacts of the nickel industry in Halmahera, Indonesia

Dear Jonas Bruenig, Britta Grundke, and Shane Senecal-Tremblay,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the human rights dimensions of the climate crisis. We will soon publish a report on the continuing human rights, environmental, and climate harms associated with nickel mining and smelting at and near the Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park (IWIP). This report follows our "[Nickel Unearthed](#)" report, which we published in January 2024 and previously discussed with you.

Our forthcoming report, which is based on interviews with local community members and company, media, and NGO reports, finds that community members living near IWIP continue to face serious human rights and environmental harms due to industrial mining and mineral processing operations. As mining and mineral processing activities continue to expand, those impacts are worsening. There is also no evidence that those whose lands have been taken by the nickel industry have been fully compensated, or that there has been accountability for the human rights and environmental harms community members have suffered.

We want to ensure that our report accurately reflects the views, policies, and practices of relevant authorities and companies, and we hope that you or your representatives will respond to the following questions, outlined below. Any responses will be reflected in our reporting as appropriate, and we may publish your responses at our discretion and when appropriate, either in full or in part.

1. What steps, if any, has Volkswagen taken to mitigate and address the human rights and environmental impacts related to nickel mining and/or processing in its supply chain?
2. What steps, if any, has Volkswagen taken to increase transparency and traceability of its downstream suppliers?
3. Please provide more information about the "on-the-ground partnership project in Indonesia" referenced in Volkswagen Group's 2023 Responsible Raw Materials Report.
4. Has Volkswagen conducted any audits of mines and facilities where nickel and other critical minerals are mined and refined to ensure that suppliers are in compliance with Volkswagen's Supplier Code of Conduct? If so, please share information about where those audits were conducted and their findings.

5. Has Volkswagen made any commitments to decarbonize its mineral supply chain, in line with its 2050 net-carbon-neutrality goal? If so, please provide any relevant documentation.

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in the report if we receive them by April 30, 2025. Please reply in English at [REDACTED] copying [REDACTED]. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

I would also welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to arrange a meeting or video conference.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Brad Adams
Executive Director, Climate Rights International

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