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di Torino

# Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas

Gian Andrea Blengini  
Trieste, 29 marzo 2023

## Overview on CRMs by:

**Gian Andrea Blengini**

**Politecnico di Torino**  
Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering  
C.so Duca degli Abruzzi 24  
10128 - TORINO, Italy  
e-mail: [ablengini@polito.it](mailto:ablengini@polito.it)



**SHORT CV**  
(2022)

**Gian Andrea Blengini** received a Msc in Mining Engineering from the Politecnico di Torino, Italy (1994) and a PhD in Earth resources from TU Lisbon, Portugal (2006).

Presently an Associate Professor at the **Politecnico di Torino** (TU Turin, Italy) where he leads the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research group and lectures on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Resources & Environmental Sustainability at undergraduate, master and postgraduate level.

He has been a senior researcher at the **Joint Research Centre of the European Commission** in the **Land Resources Unit** from October 2013 to October 2021, with a role of **team coordinator** in projects and activities: (1) in support of EC raw materials policies, with focus on critical raw materials and monitoring of Circular Economy, and (2) targeted to the EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base, including Life Cycle Inventory data availability, coherence and quality.

## Main contributions / outcomes while at the EC:

- Revision of the Methodology for establishing the [List of CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS](#) for the EU
- Monitoring Framework for the Circular Economy, [COM\(2018\) 29 final](#) and [SWD\(2018\) 17 final](#)
- Launch of the Life Cycle Data Network, <https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/LCDN>
- US-Japan-EU trilateral dialogue on Critical Raw Materials
- The International Round Table on Materials Criticality, IRTC, <https://irtc.info>
- Revision of the List of CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS for the EU ([2020 list](#)).



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mostly based on:

<b>WPK leader</b>	Gian Andrea Blengini
<b>WPK leader backup</b>	Fabrice Mathieux
<b>Criticality experts</b>	Cristina Torres de Matos Dominic Wittmer Cynthia Latunussa Umberto Eynard Kostas Georgitzikis
Substitution & Strategic sectors	Caudiu Pavel (JRC C7) Samuel Carrara (JRC C7)



**EU Science Hub:** [ec.europa.eu/jrc](https://ec.europa.eu/jrc)



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EU Science Hub – Joint Research Centre



EU Science, Research and Innovation



[Eu Science Hub](https://www.youtube.com/EuScienceHub)

[rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu](https://rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu)  
[ec-rmis@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec-rmis@ec.europa.eu)



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# Critical Raw Materials and the EU Green Deal

The EU Green Deal recognizes **access to resources** as a strategic security question to fulfil EU's ambition towards 2050 climate neutrality



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Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)





## Critical Raw Materials Act: securing the new gas & oil at the heart of our economy | Blog of Commissioner Thierry Breton



In her 2022 [State of the European Union](#) address today, European Commission President von der Leyen recalled **some hard facts: without secure and sustainable access to the necessary raw materials, our ambition to become the first climate neutral continent is at risk.**

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[Print friendly pdf](#)

*“Lithium and rare earths will soon be more important than oil and gas. Our demand for rare earths alone will increase fivefold by 2030. [...] We must avoid becoming dependent again, as we did with oil and gas. [...] We will identify strategic projects all along the supply chain, from extraction to refining, from processing to recycling. And we will build up strategic reserves where supply is at risk. This is why today I am announcing a European Critical Raw Materials Act.”*



# Questions and Answers on the European Critical Raw Materials Act

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- Press contact

## Why is action on European critical raw materials needed?

Critical Raw Materials (CRM) are indispensable for a wide set of technologies needed for EU strategic sectors such as the net-zero industry, digital, space and defence. While the demand for such critical raw materials has never been higher, it is expected to continue to grow driven by the green and digital transitions. For instance, EU demand for lithium used in electric-vehicles batteries and energy storage is expected to increase by twelve-fold by 2030.



# Rare Earth Elements Applications

(Source: Barakos, 2021)



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# Electric vehicles:

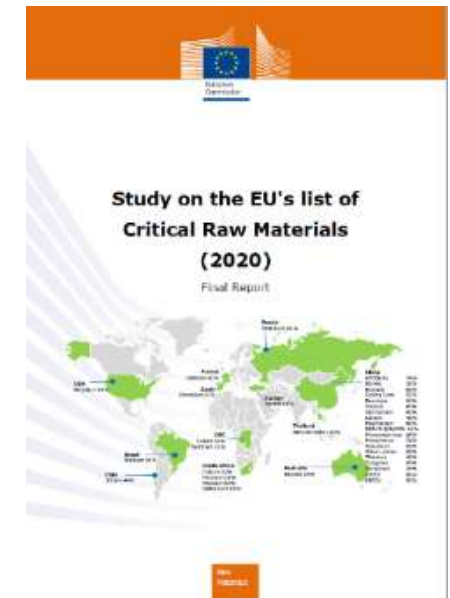
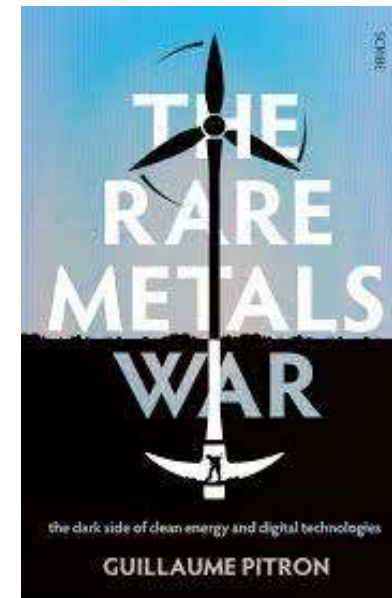
A sustainable solution for low-carbon mobility?



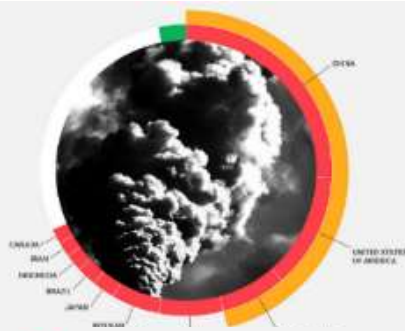
- YES
- NO
- MAYBE

Possible impacts shifts:

- From use of diesel/gasoline to electricity generation
- From use phase to production phase (battery)
- From climate change / depletion non-renewables to Critical Raw Materials (WARS?)



# Critical Raw Materials in international agendas



3%

Contribution of the 100 least-emitting countries

68%

The 10 largest greenhouse gas emitters contribute over two-thirds of global emissions

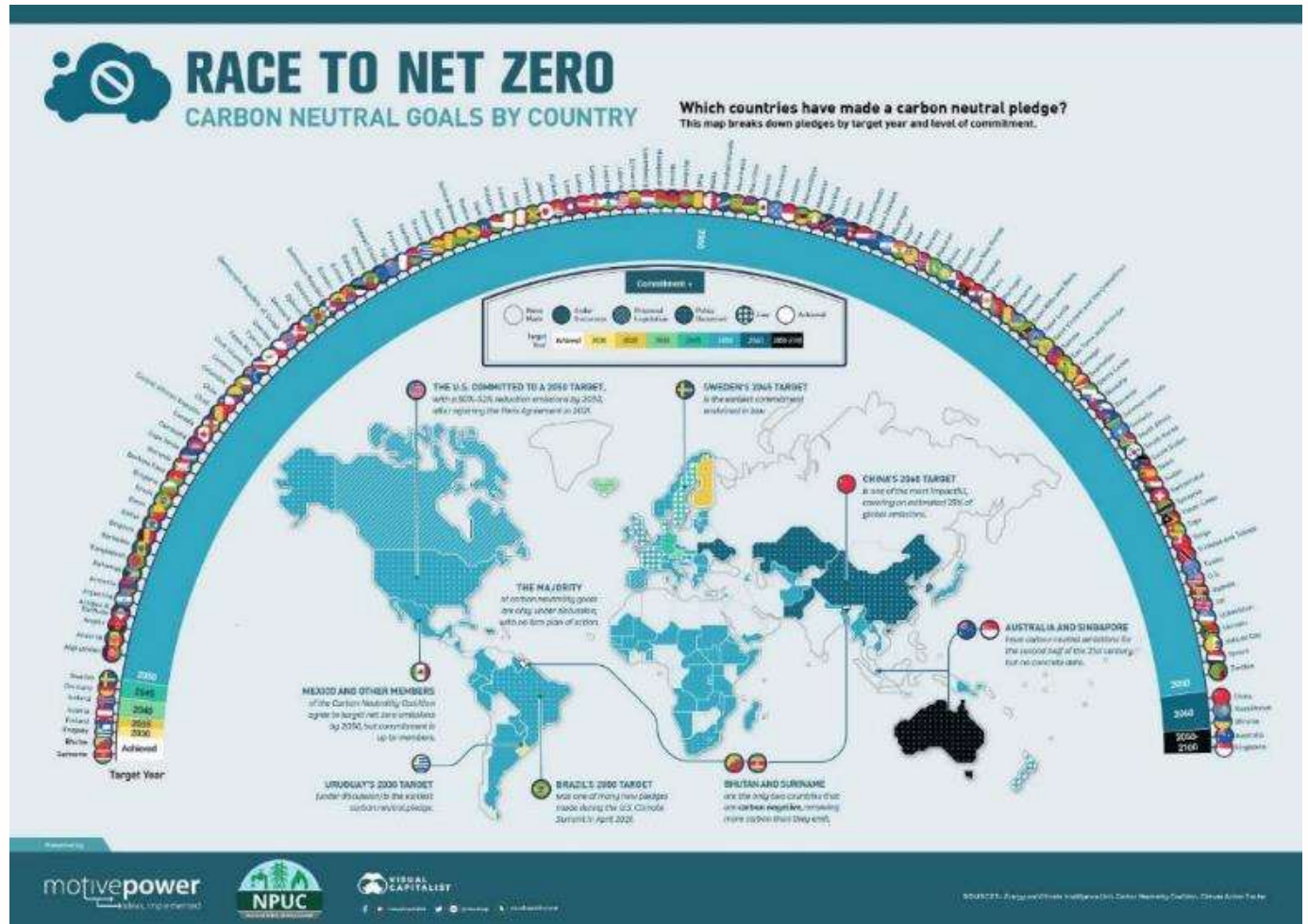
46%

The top 3 greenhouse gas emitters contribute 16 times the emissions of the bottom 100 countries



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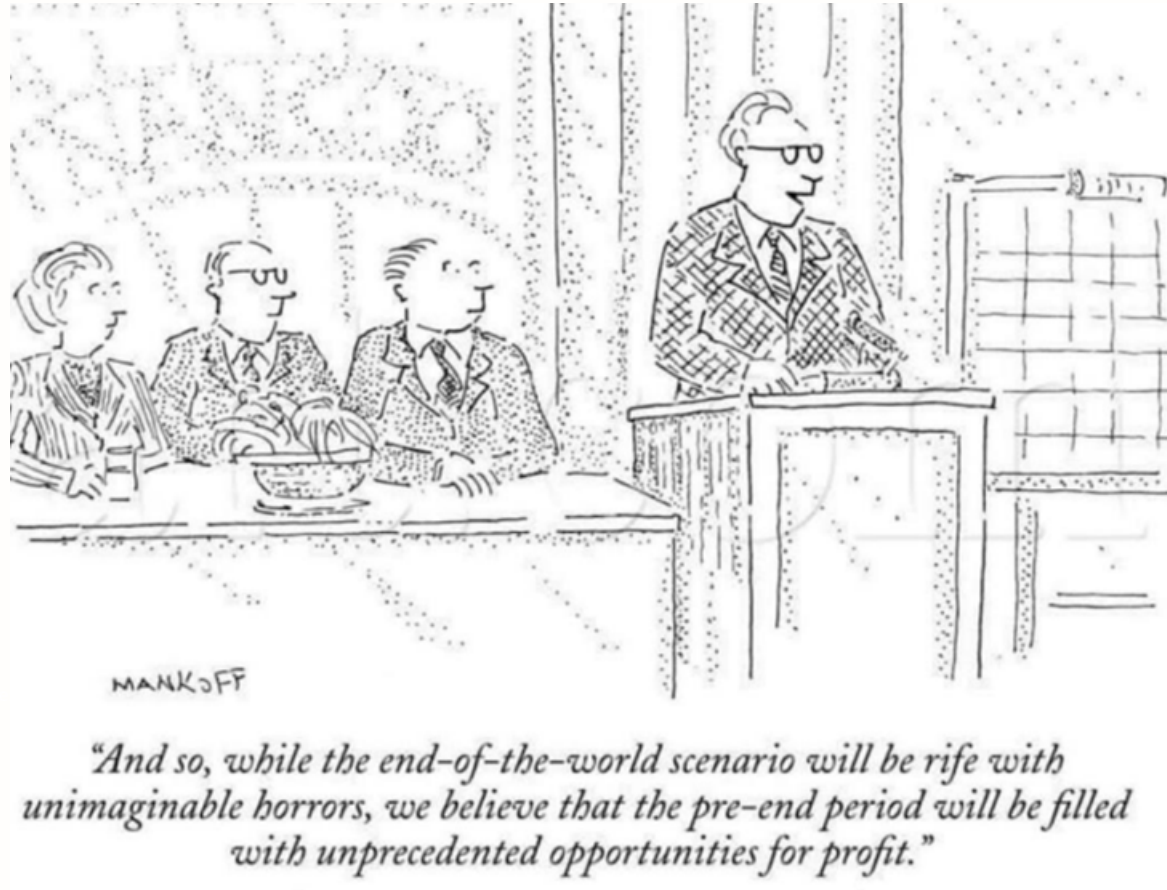
Gian Andrea Blengini



## Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)



## Critical Raw Materials in international agendas

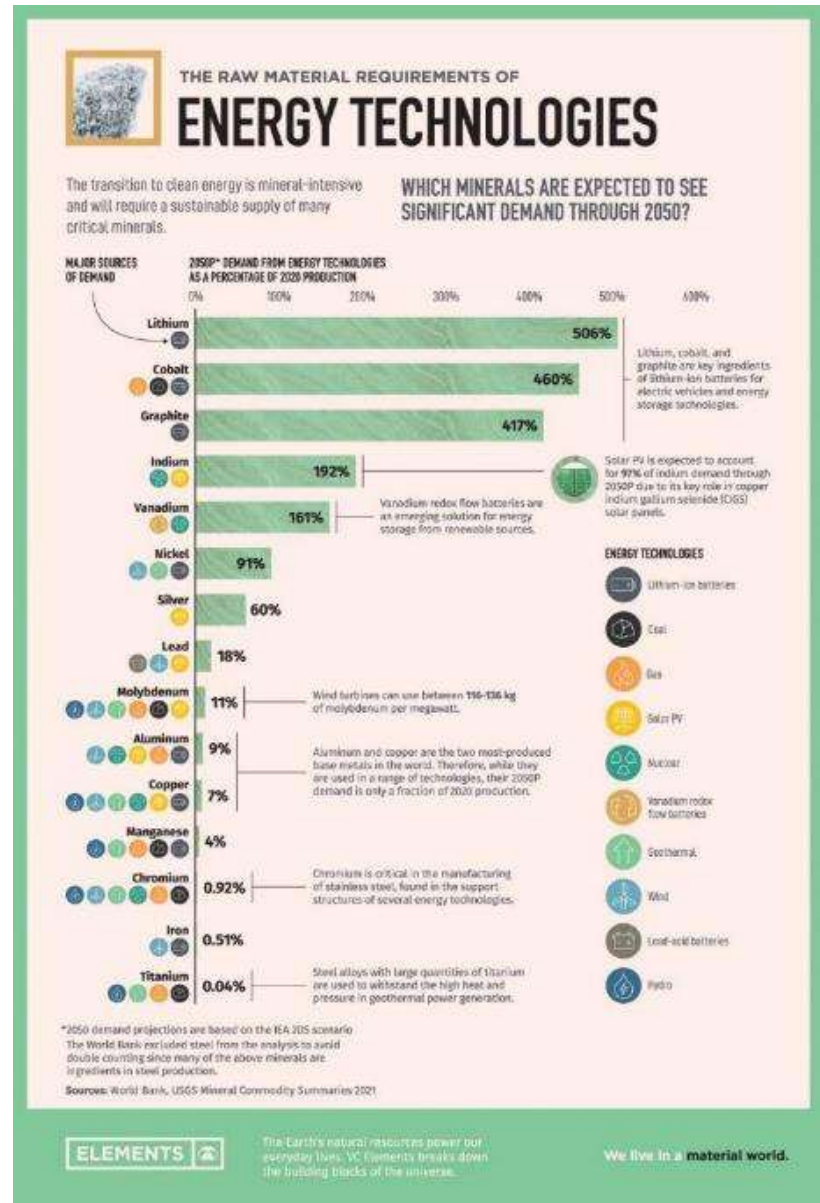


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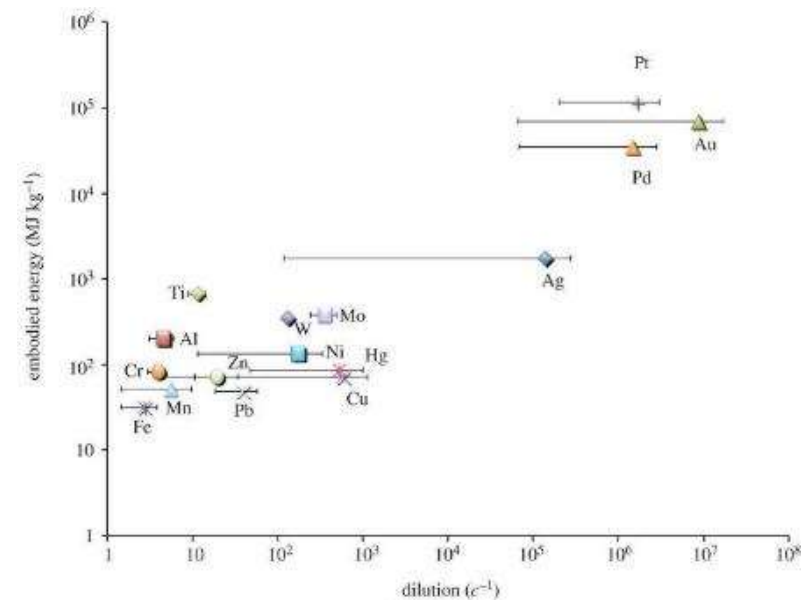
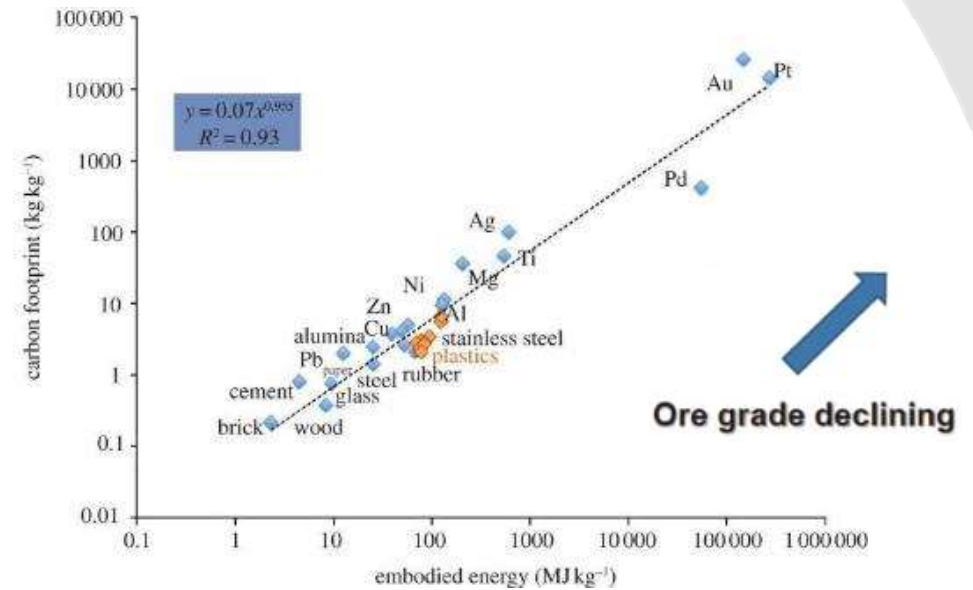
Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)

# Scale Mismatch: Not Enough **Metals** for Low Carbon **Energy** Transition



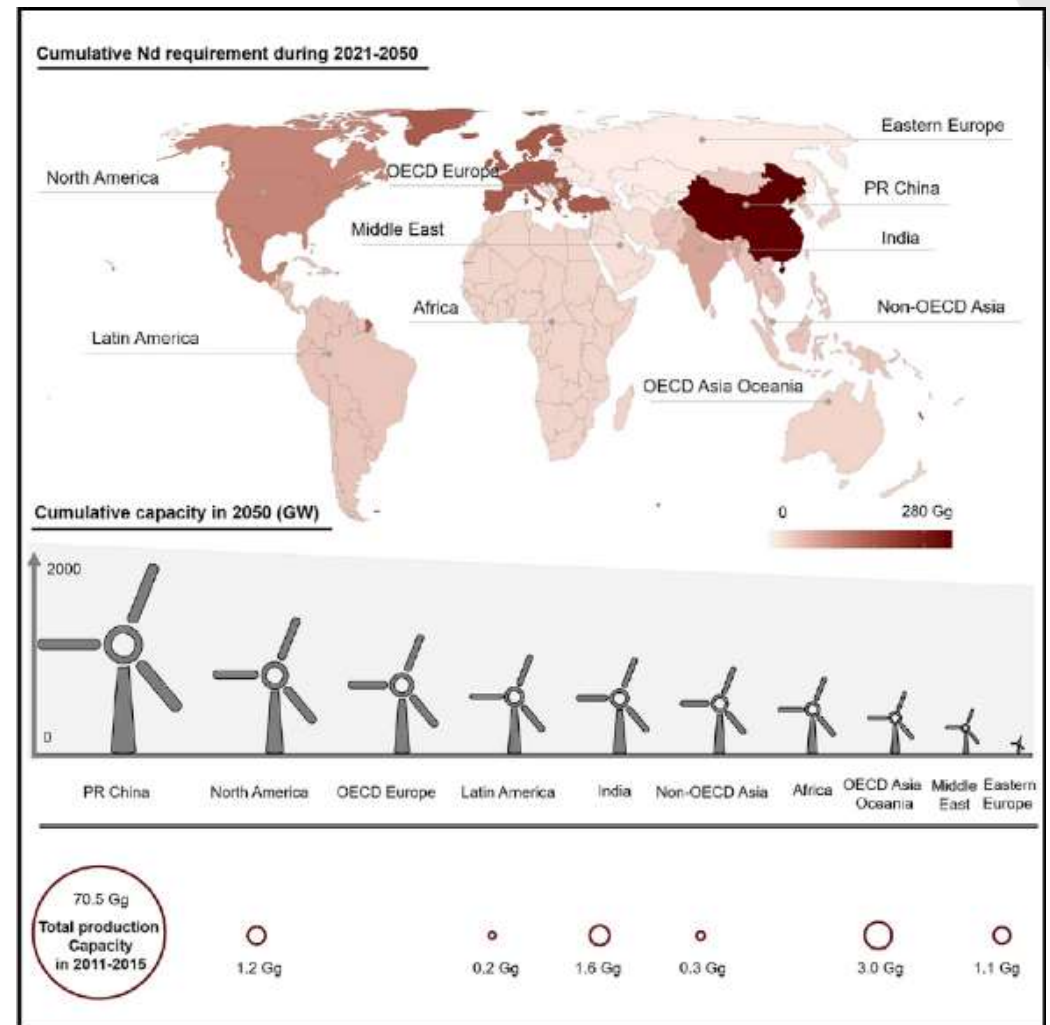


# Scale Mismatch: Not Enough Low Carbon **Energy** for **Metal** supply expansion



Source: Gutowski T G, et al. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A, 2013

# Spatial Mismatch: Regional **Metals** for Global **Energy** Transition



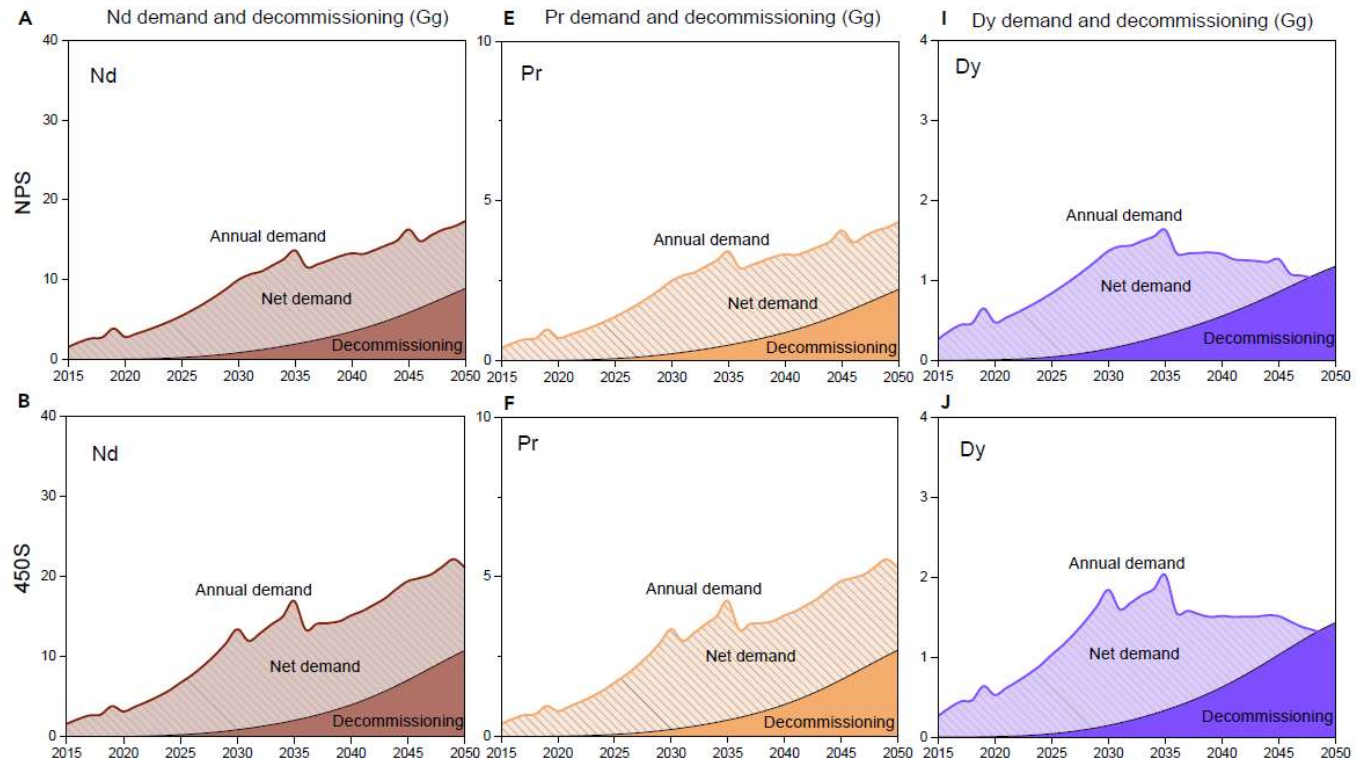
Li et al., 2020, One Earth 3, 116–125

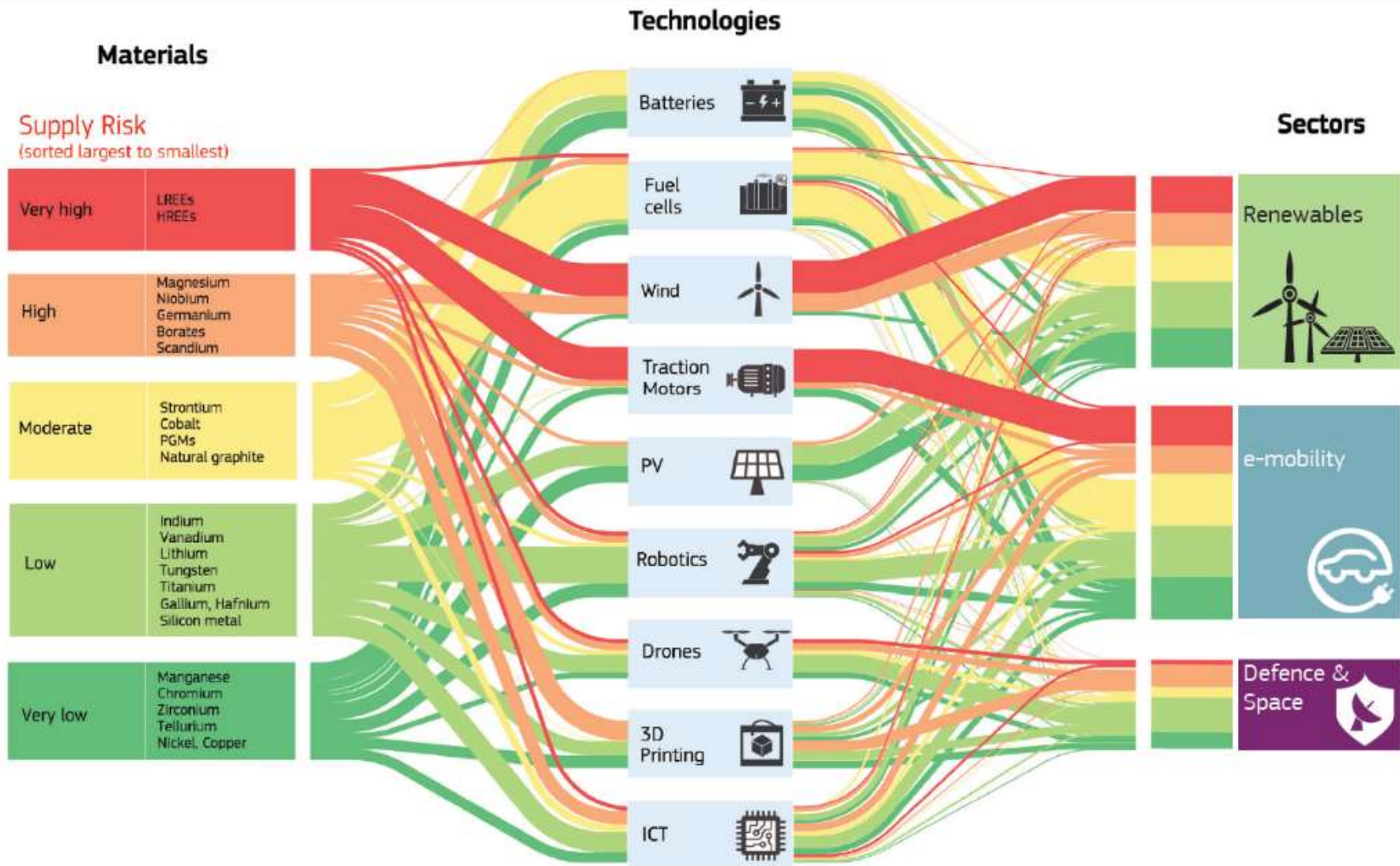
July 24, 2020 © 2020 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Inc.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2020.06.009>



# Temporal Mismatch: Can we count on Recycling?





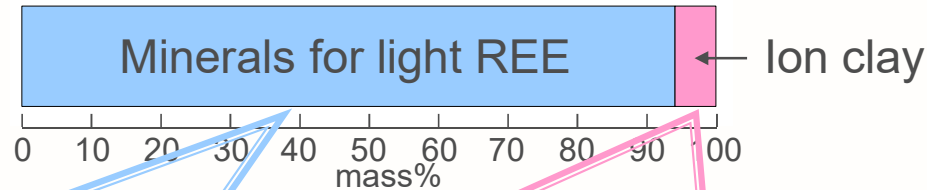
# Critical Raw Materials for a **clean** planet?



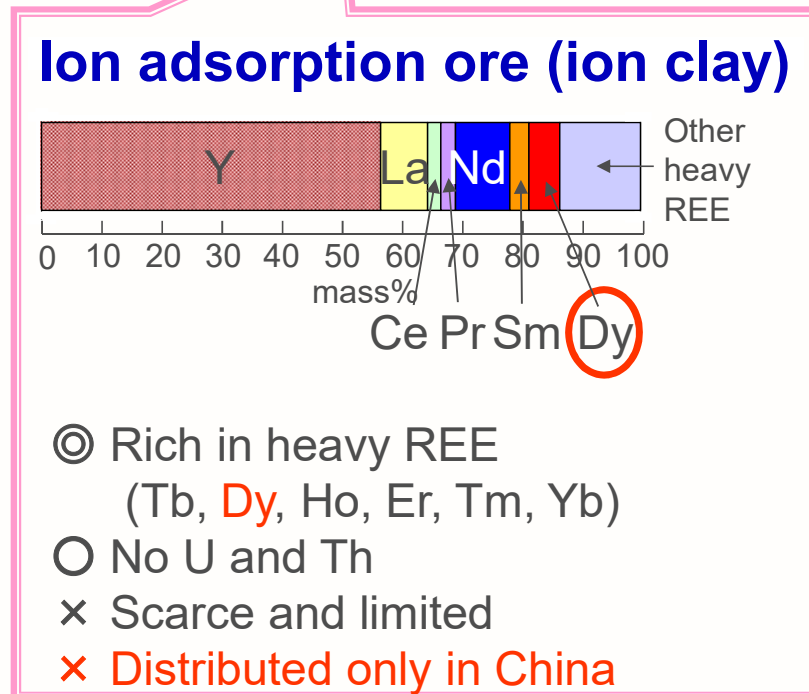
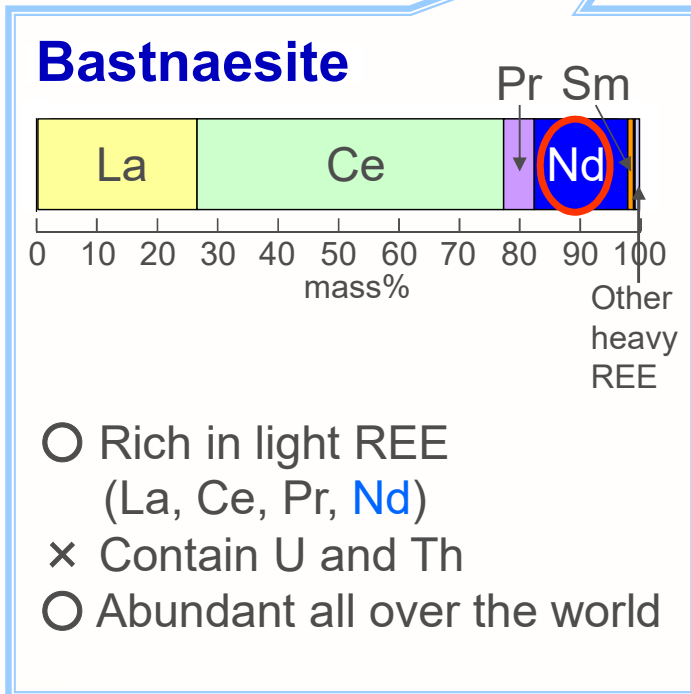


# Critical Raw Materials for a **clean** planet?

Ratio of production amount of Minerals for REE in China (oxide base)



(USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries)



## Critical Raw Materials for a **clean** plan

**Bottleneck of rare earth:**  
**Ganzhou city at Southern**  
**Jiangxi province,**  
**“famous” for Ion Clay**





<http://www.recordchina.co.jp/group.php?groupid=51816>

<http://www.asahi.com/business/intro/TKY201206030331.html>

今では、  
“レアアース 環境 汚染”  
をキーワードに  
Googleで画像検索すると、  
多くの映像が出てくる。



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## 中国南部のイオン吸着型鉱山



写真提供: [Courtesy: Prof. A. Shibayama](#)  
秋田大学大学院工学資源学研究科 柴山 敦 教授



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写真提供: Courtesy: Prof. A. Shibayama  
秋田大学大学院工学資源学研究科 柴山 敦 教授



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写真提供: Courtesy: Prof. A. Shibayama  
秋田大学大学院工学資源学研究科 柴山 敦 教授



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# Mining site of Dy from ion clay (ion adsorption ore) (China)

Environmental problem at the mining site is serious because sulfate solution is directly injected into soil for extracting Dy. Surface soil dissolution and underwater pollution are ongoing at the mining site

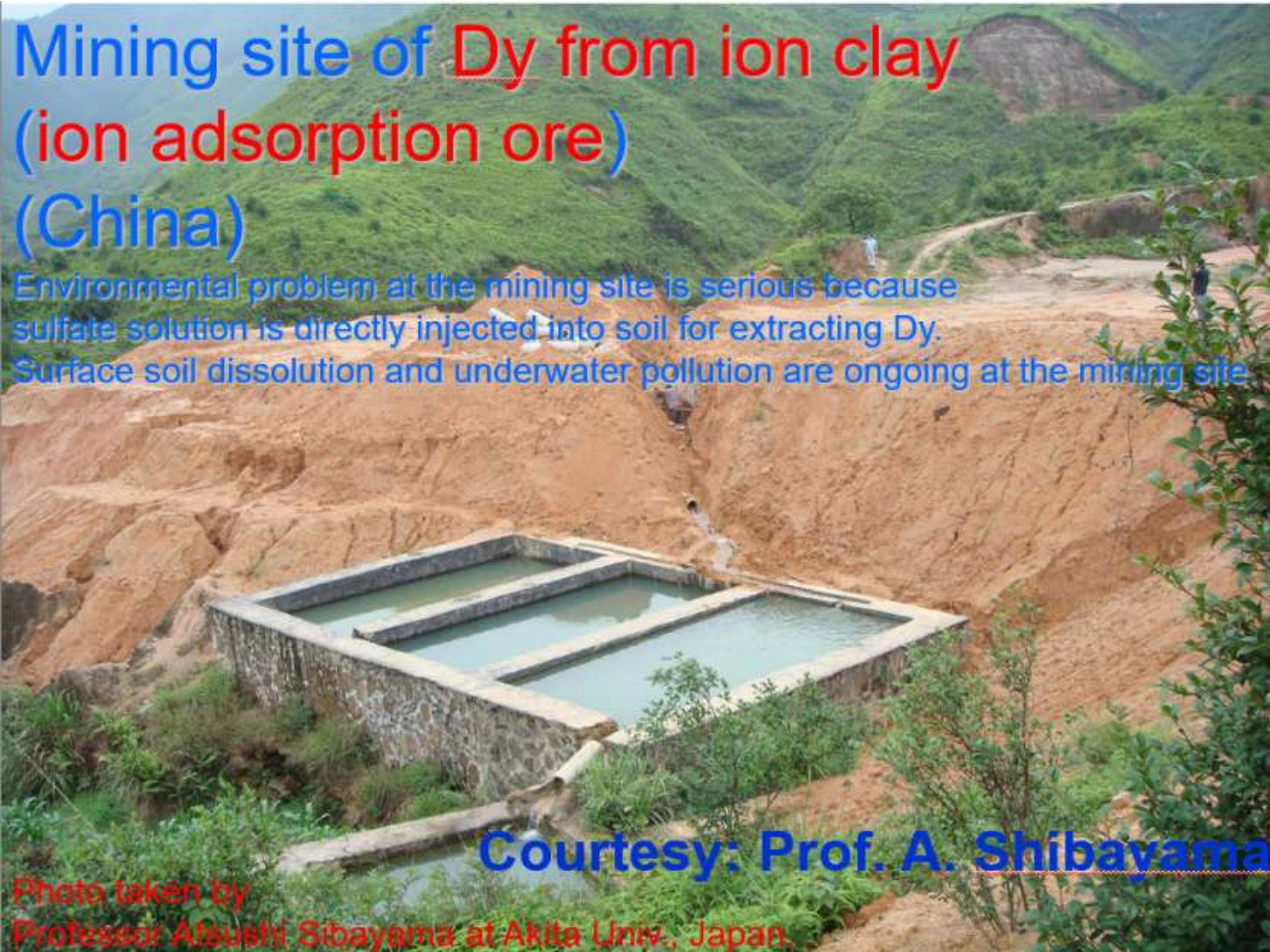


Photo taken by  
Professor Afsushi Sibayama at Akita Univ., Japan.



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## Mining site of Dy from ion clay (China)

In old days, similar problems happened in Japan...  
at the Cu, Pb, Zn mining site.



Courtesy: Prof. A. Shibayama

Photo taken by  
Professor Atsushi Sibayama at Akita Univ., Japan



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## Refining plant of Dy obtained from ion clay (China)

Recovered Dy containing solutions are concentrated and refined at the plant.

Environmental problem at the refining plant is also serious because large amount of waste solution is generated.



Photo taken by

Professor Atsushi Sibayama at Akita Univ., Japan.

Courtesy: Prof. A. Shibayama



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# Forbidden zone



部外者の  
立ち入りは  
禁止されている



Photo by Toru H. Okabe 2013.8, Ganzhou



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Pyrometallurgical refining  
→ Molten salt electrolysis

乾式製鍊  
→ 溶融塩電解

Photo by Toru H. Okabe 2013.8, Ganzhou



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## EC definition of CRM

- A **Critical Raw Material** is one with high risk of supply disruptions and, at the same time, with high economic importance.
- **High risk of supply disruption** means that supply might not be adequate to meet EU industry demand.
- **High economic importance** means that the raw material is fundamental in industry sectors to create added value and jobs, which are lost in case the raw material is not available and adequate substitutes cannot be used instead.

Moreover, the expression “adequate supply” implicitly suggests that industry concerns are linked to aspects of e.g. **quantity**, **quality**, **price** and **timing** on which different stakeholders might have different interpretations and expectations.



# CRM methodology



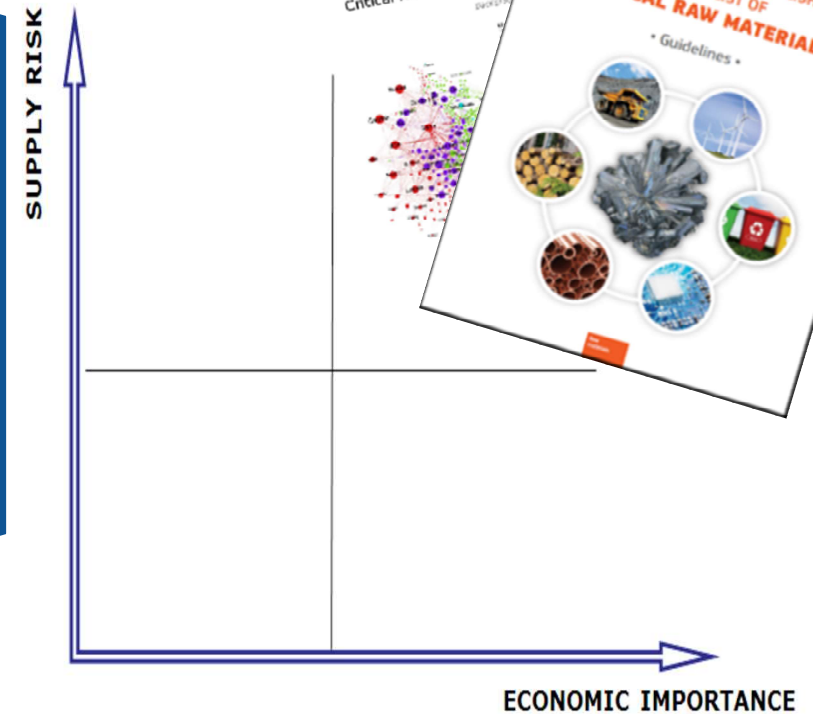
## Raw Materials Initiative EU CRM assessment 2017, 2020

### Economic importance

- Importance of a raw material per economic sector & importance of the sector in the EU economy (value added)
- Substitution (technical and cost performance)

### Supply risk

- Global supply and EU sourcing (ores/refined materials)
- Market concentration (HHI)
- Governance performance (WGI)
- Import reliance
- Trade agreements and restrictions
- End-of-Life Recycling Input Rate
- Substitution (production, criticality, co/by-production)

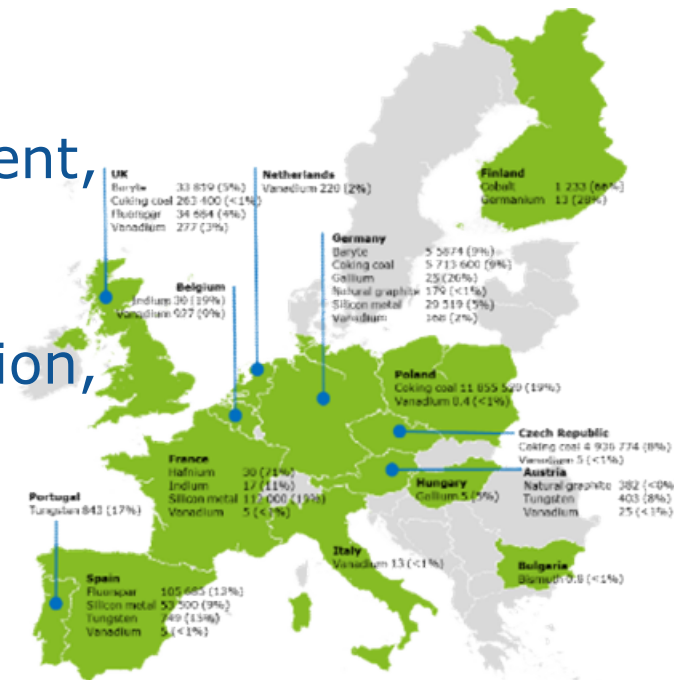


Raw  
Materials



The List of CRMs has been a valuable push for:

- ✓ Implementing the EU policies and incentivising the EU production of CRMs
- ✓ Prioritising needs and actions (R&D, investment, circular economy)
- ✓ Negotiating trade agreements, drafting legislation, challenging trade distortion measures
- ✓ National policy making
- ✓ Building the EU Knowledge base





textiles



construction



electronics



plastics



# Circular Economy Action Plan

The European  
Green Deal

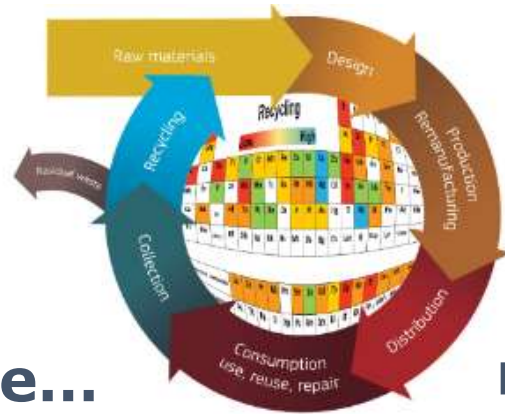
March 2020  
#EUGreenDeal

The new **Circular Economy Action Plan** presents new initiatives along the entire life cycle of products in order to modernise and transform our economy while protecting the environment. It is driven by the ambition to make sustainable products that last and to enable our citizens to take full part in the circular economy and benefit from the positive change that it brings about.





cut here...



re-industrialize

**Green Deal**

Brussels, 27.12.2014
   
 COM(2014) 98 final
   
 COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
   
 Towards a circular economy:
   
 A new waste programme for Europe
   
 (2020/0310 (Init))
   
 (2020/0411) (Init)



EN EN

Brussels, 22.03.2015
   
 COM(2015) 60 final
   
 COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
   
 Closing the loop – An EU action plan for the Circular Economy



EN EN

Brussels, 11.10.2020
   
 COM(2020) 40 final
   
 COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
   
 A new Circular Economy Action Plan
   
 For a cleaner and more competitive Europe



EN EN

2014 → 2015 → 2020



# Report on CRMs in Circular Economy

# Raw Materials Initiative Circular Economy



## Objectives:

- To help EU Member States implement the new provisions on critical raw materials in the EU Waste Framework Directive
- Provide information, data sources and identify best practices and possible further actions

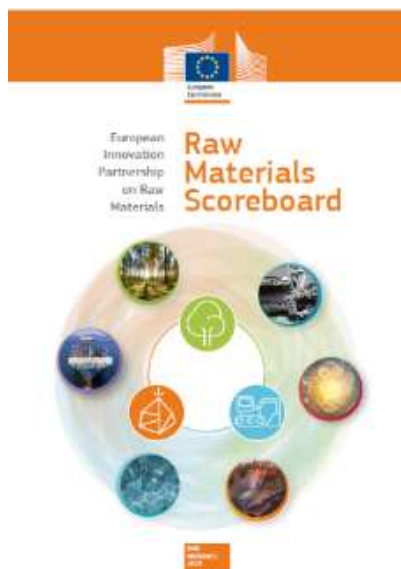
*Issued in January 2018 (SWD(2018)36), taking into account the 2017 list of 27 critical raw materials*

## Key Sectors:

- Electric and Electronic Equipment
- Automotive
- Batteries
- Renewable Energy
- Defense equipment
- Chemicals & Fertilizers

# Raw Materials Scoreboard

The role of recycling to meet demand for raw materials.



**End-of-life recycling input rate (EOL-RIR) [%]**

																		He 1%											
																		B*	C	N	O	F*							Ne
Li	Be															Al	Si	P*	S	Cl							Ar		
0%	0%															12%	0%	17%	5%										
Na	Mg	13%																					Kr						
K*	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br													
0%		0%	19%	44%	21%	12%	31%	35%	34%	17%	31%	0%	2%		1%														
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe												
		31%		0%	30%		11%	9%	9%	55%		0%	32%	28%	1%														
Cs	Ba	La-Lu <sup>1</sup>	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn												
	1%		1%	1%	42%	50%		14%	11%	20%			75%	1%															
Fr	Ra	Ac-Lr <sup>2</sup>	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo												
<sup>1</sup> Group of Lanthanide			La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu												
			1%	1%	10%	1%		1%	38%	1%	22%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%												
<sup>2</sup> Group of Actinide			Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr												
Aggregates	Bentonite	Cooking Coal	Diatomite	Feldspar	Gypsum	Kaolin Clay	Limestone	Magnesite	Natural Cork	Natural Graphite	Natural Rubber	Natural Teak Wood	Perlite	Sapele wood	Silica Sand	Talc													
7%	50%	0%	0%	10%	1%	0%	58%	2%	8%	3%	1%	0%	42%	15%	0%	5%													

\* F = Fluorspar; P = Phosphate rock; K = Potash, Si = Silicon metal, B=Borates.

European Commission

JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

Towards Recycling Indicators based on EU flows and Raw Materials System Analysis data

*Supporting the EU-28 Raw Materials and Circular Economy policies through RMIS*

Laura Talens Peiró, Philip Nuss, Fabrice Mathieux and Gian Andrea Blengini

October 2019  
EUR 29435 EN



# European Commission methodology to define the *List of CRMs for the EU*

→ 2010 first release

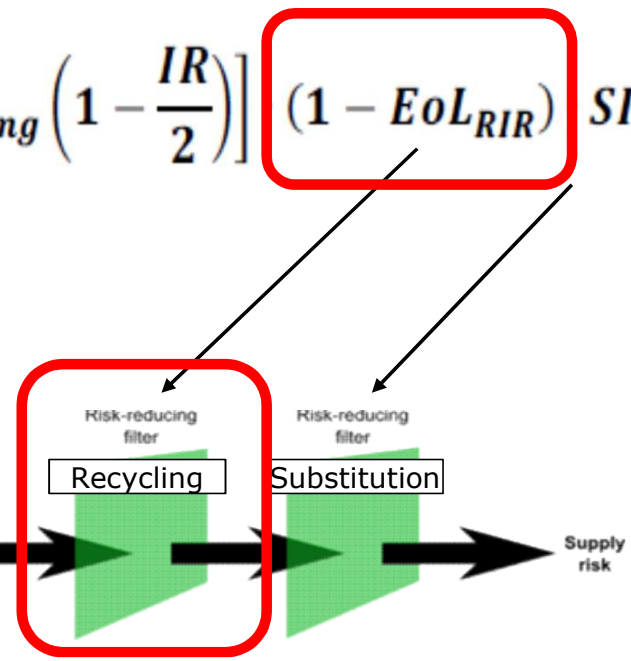
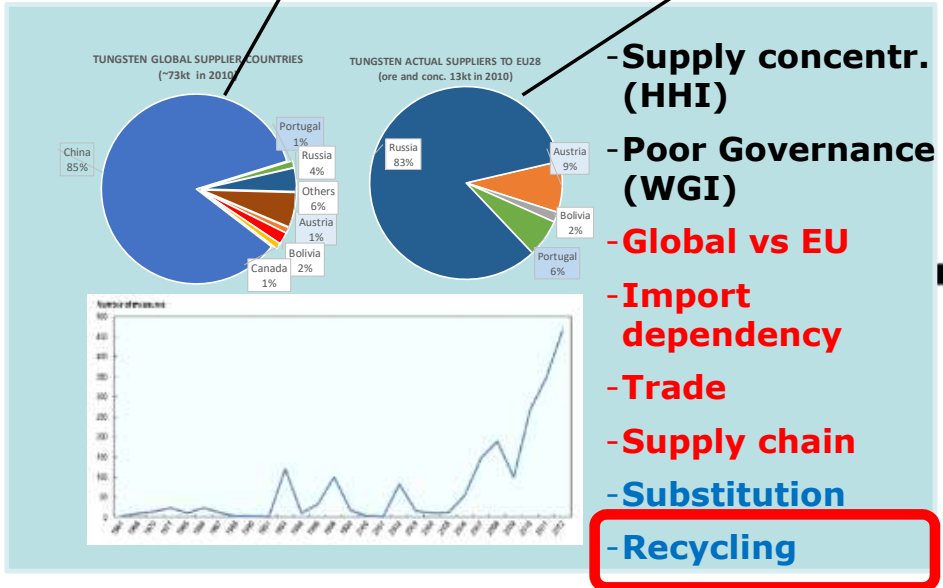
→ 2013 update

→ 2015 revision (*DG JRC*)



# SUPPLY RISK → role of circularity / recycling

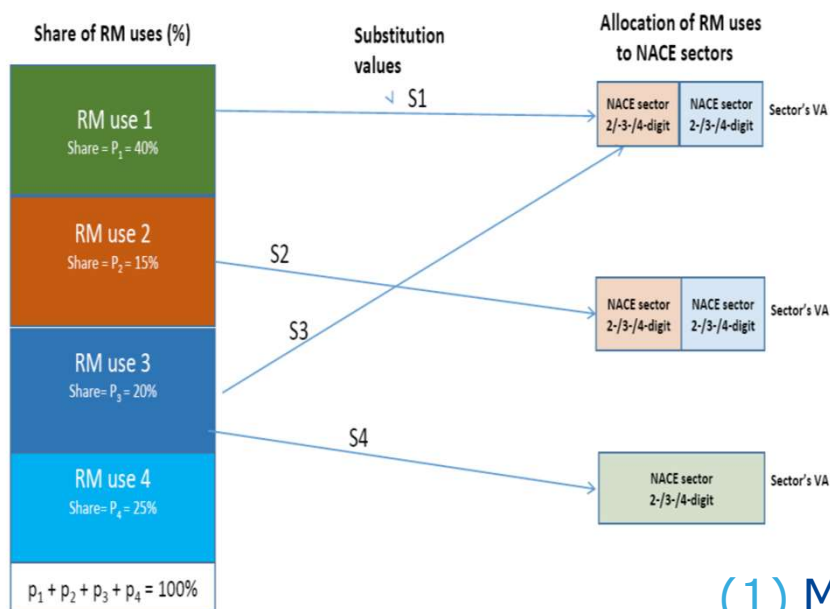
$$SR = \left[ (HHI_{WGI-t})_{GS} \cdot \frac{IR}{2} + (HHI_{WGI-t})_{EU\text{ sourcing}} \left( 1 - \frac{IR}{2} \right) \right] (1 - EOL_{RIR}) SI_{SR}$$



- Black → already in 2014
- Red → JRC introduced
- Blue → JRC improved



# ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE



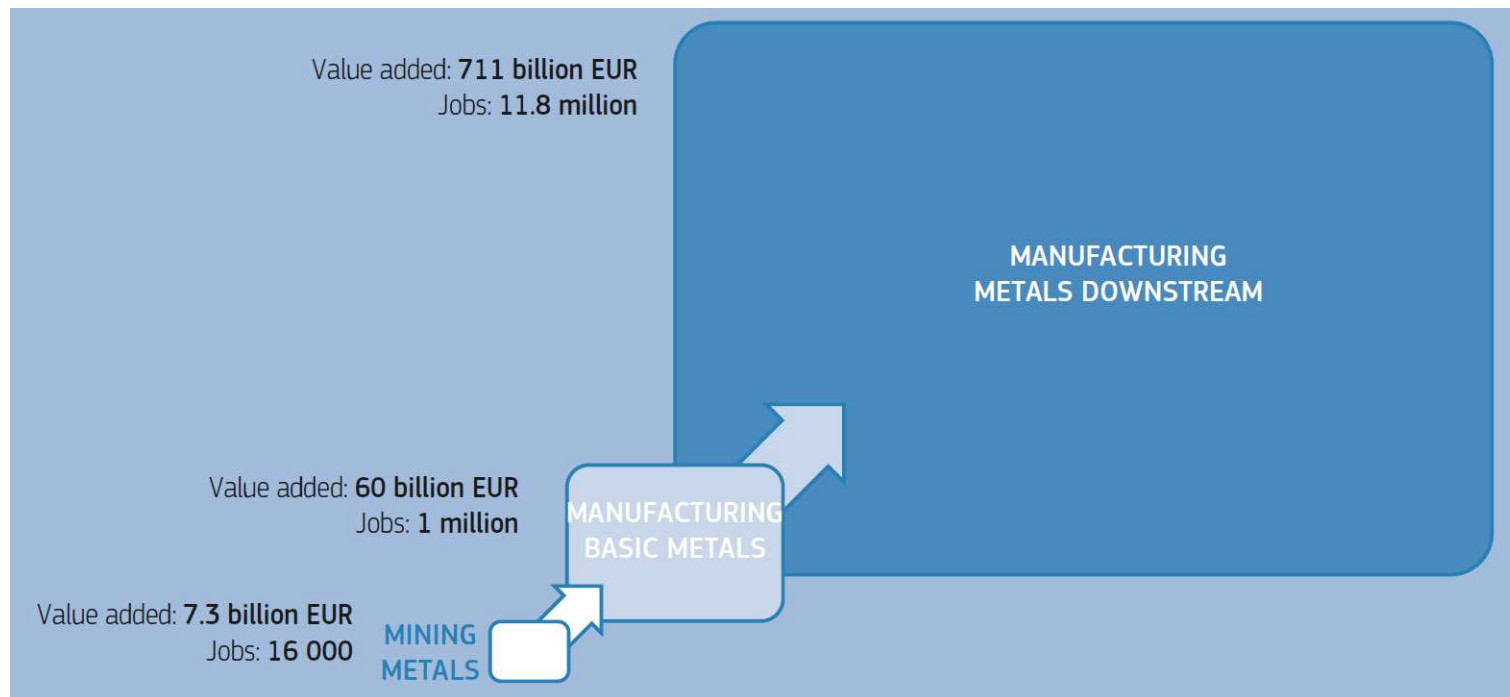
$$EI = \sum_S (A_S * Q_S) * SI$$

- (1) MEGASECTORS → NACE-2
- (2) allocation of RM uses (NACE-6)
- (3) RM-specific substitution index

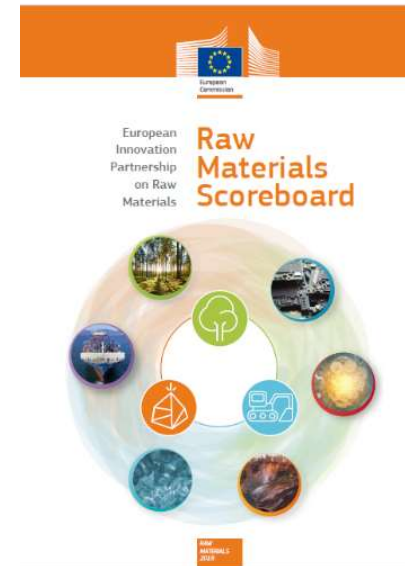


# Raw Materials Scoreboard

*More than 11 million jobs in manufacturing industries depend on the secure supply of metals*



**Figure 19: Value added and number of jobs associated with metals (mining, basic manufacture and downstream sectors) in the EU (2012)**



# JRC foresight study on CRMs in strategic sectors



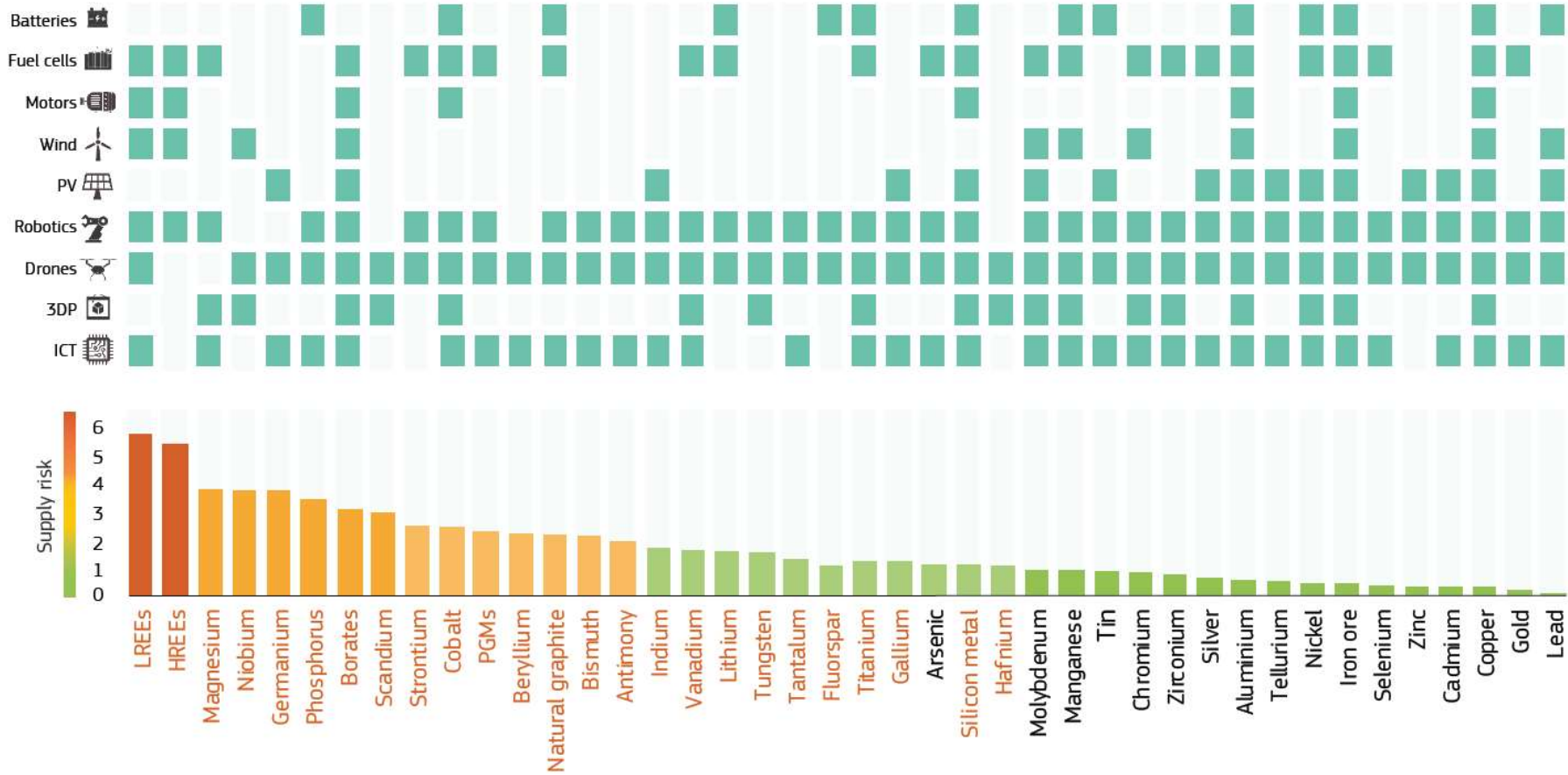
Speech | 3 September 2020 | Brussels

## Speech by Vice-President Šefčovič at the Press Conference on critical raw materials resilience in the EU

- In the world of **tomorrow**, this overreliance may become even more acute. Our **strategic foresight tells us that the demand for raw materials is only going to rise**: for example, Europe will need almost **60 times more lithium and 15 times more cobalt by 2050** for electric cars and energy storage alone. Demand for **rare earths** used in permanent magnets, critical for products like wind generators, could **increase ten-fold in the same period**.

**JRC Report:** → **up to 60** times and **up to 15** times...

# SUPPLY RISK OF RAW MATERIALS FOR KEY TECHNOLOGIES





## List of materials/groupings covered in the 2020 assessment

## Critical Raw Materials 2020

Individual materials		
Aggregates	Germanium	Phosphate rock
Aluminium	Hafnium	Rhenium
Antimony	Helium	Scandium
Arsenic	Hydrogen	Selenium
Baryte	Indium	Sulphur
Bauxite	Iron Ore	Potash
Bentonite	Lead	Silica Sand
Beryllium	Limestone	Silicon Metal
Bismuth	Gold	Silver
Boron (Borates)	Gypsum	Strontium
Cadmium	Lithium	Talc
Chromium	Magnesite	Tantalum
Kaolin clay	Magnesium	Tellurium
Cobalt	Manganese	Tin
Coking coal	Molybdenum	Titanium
Copper	Natural Graphite	Tungsten
Diatomite	Nickel	Vanadium
Feldspar	Niobium	Zinc
Fluorspar	Perlite	Zirconium
Gallium	Phosphorus	
Platinum group metals (PGMs)		
Iridium	Platinum	Ruthenium
Palladium	Rhodium	
Rare earth elements (REEs)		
LREEs	HREEs	
Cerium	Dysprosium	Lutetium
Lanthanum	Erbium	Terbium
Neodymium	Europium	Thulium
Praseodymium	Gadolinium	Ytterbium
Samarium	Holmium	Yttrium
Biotic materials		
Natural Rubber	Natural cork	
Sapele wood	Natural Teak wood	

Legend:	
Green boxes	Materials covered in 2014 but not in the 2011 assessments
Orange boxes	Materials covered in 2017 but not in the 2014 assessments
Light blue boxes	New materials covered in the 2020 assessment



Brussels, 14.10.2020  
COM(2020) 474 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS  
Critical Raw Materials: Charting a path towards greater security and sustainability

# COM(2020) 474 final

# Critical Raw Materials 2020

## 2020 Critical Raw Materials (30)

Antimony	Fluorspar	Magnesium	Silicon Metal
Baryte	Gallium	Natural Graphite	Tantalum
Bauxite	Germanium	Natural Rubber	Titanium
Beryllium	Hafnium	Niobium	Vanadium
Bismuth	HREEs	PGMs	Tungsten
Borates	Indium	Phosphate rock	Strontium
Cobalt	Lithium	Phosphorus	
Coking Coal	LREEs	Scandium	



# Critical Raw Materials 2023



## Screened raw materials in 2023 assessment (new materials in blue)

**Industrial and construction minerals**

aggregates, baryte, bentonite, borates, diatomite, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, kaolin clay, limestone, magnesite, natural graphite, perlite, phosphate rock, phosphorus, potash, silica sand, sulphur, talc

**Iron and ferro-alloy metals**

chromium, cobalt, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, niobium, tantalum, titanium, **titanium metal**, tungsten, vanadium

**Precious metals**

gold, silver, and Platinum Group Metals (iridium, palladium, platinum, rhodium, ruthenium)

**Rare earths**

heavy rare earths - HREE (dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lutetium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, yttrium); light rare earths - LREE (cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, praseodymium and samarium); and scandium

**Other non-ferrous metals**

aluminium/bauxite, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, bismuth, cadmium, copper, gallium, germanium, gold, hafnium, indium, lead, lithium, magnesium, rhenium, selenium, silicon metal, silver, strontium, tellurium, tin, zinc, zirconium

**Bio and other materials**

natural cork, natural rubber, natural teak wood, sapele wood, coking coal, hydrogen, helium, roundwood, neon, krypton, xenon



# Critical Raw Materials 2023



## 2023 CRMs vs. 2020 CRMs

aluminium/bauxite	gallium	phosphate rock	vanadium
antimony	germanium	phosphorus	arsenic
baryte	hafnium	PGM	feldspar
beryllium	HREE	scandium	helium
bismuth	lithium	silicon metal	manganese
borate	LREE	strontium	copper
cobalt	magnesium	tantalum	nickel
coking coal	natural graphite	titanium metal	<del>indium</del>
fluorspar	niobium	tungsten	<del>natural rubber</del>

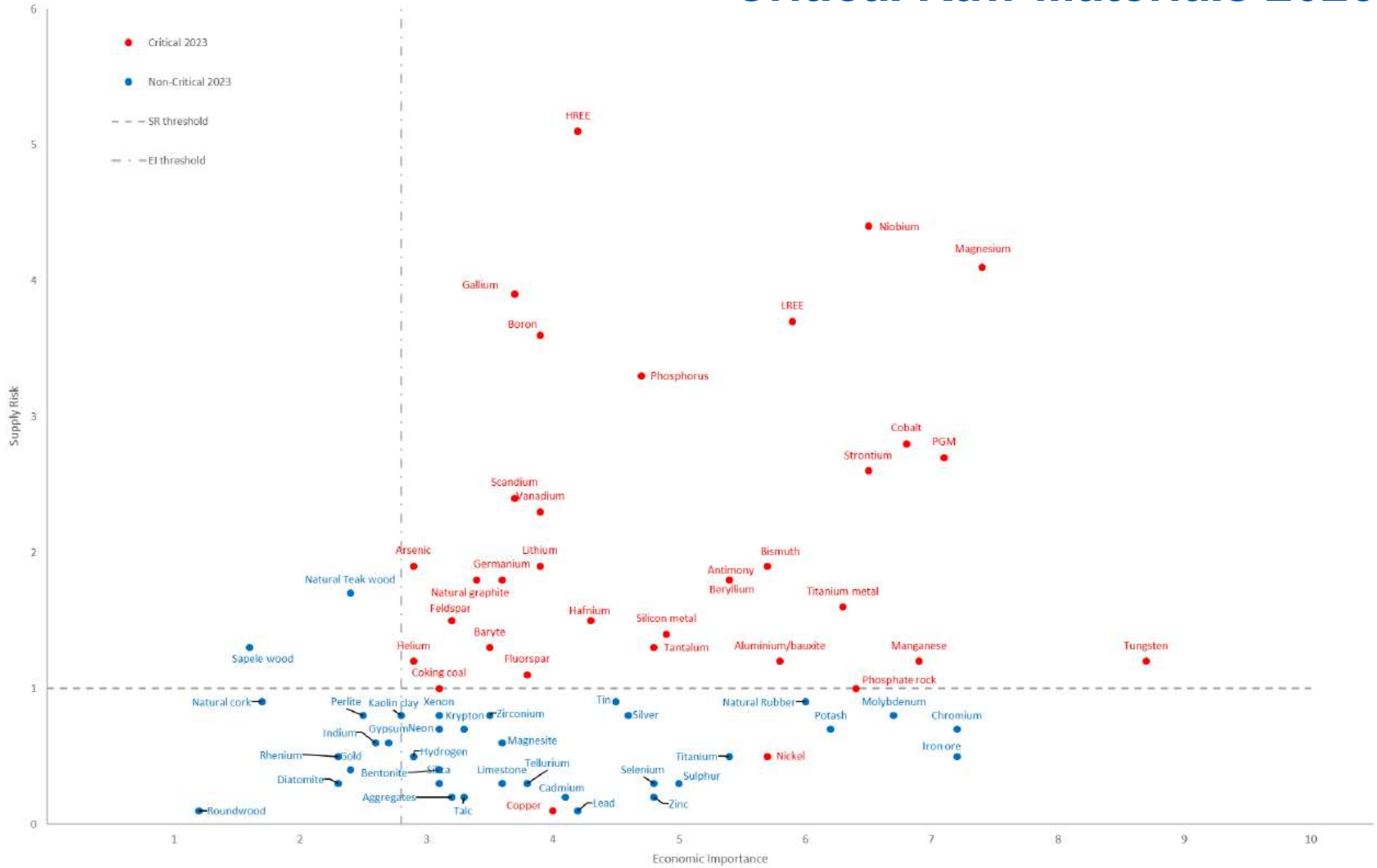
### Legend:

**Black:** CRMs in 2023 and 2020

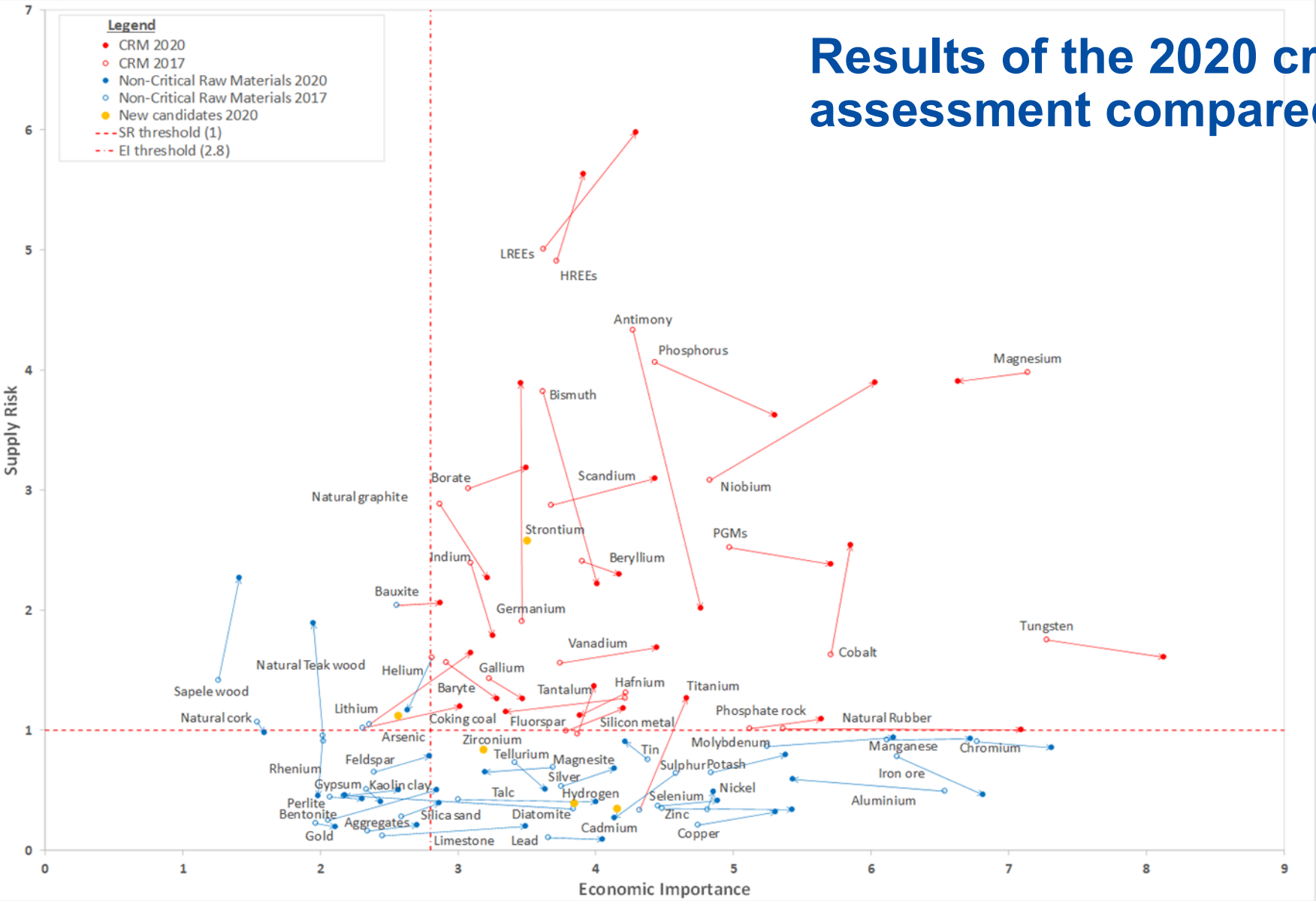
**Red:** CRMs in 2023, non-CRMs in 2020

**~~Strike:~~** Non-CRMs in 2023 that were critical in 2020

# Critical Raw Materials 2023

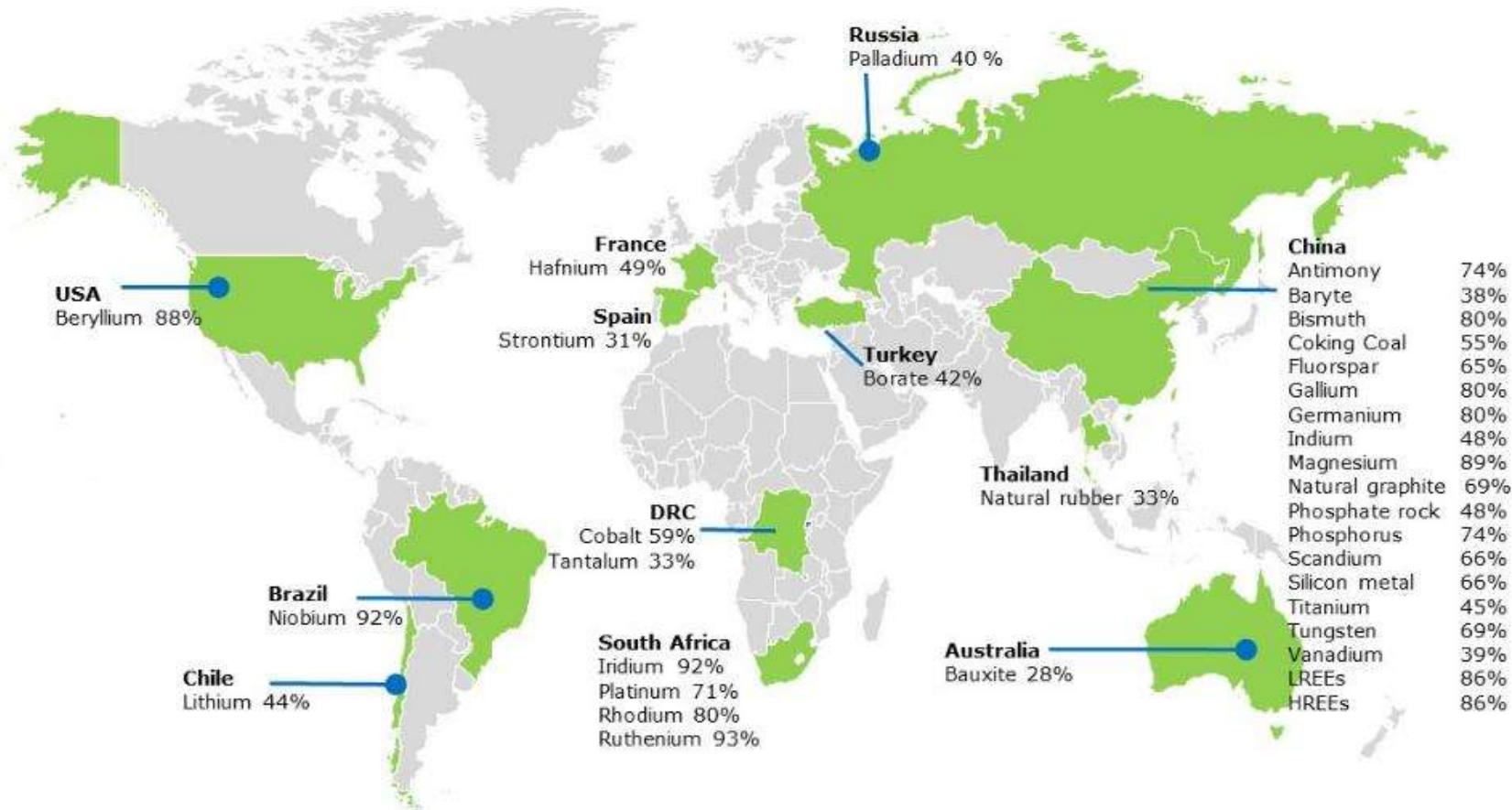


# Results of the 2020 criticality assessment compared to 2017





# Critical Raw Materials (2020 list of CRMs for the EU)



COM(2020) 474 final

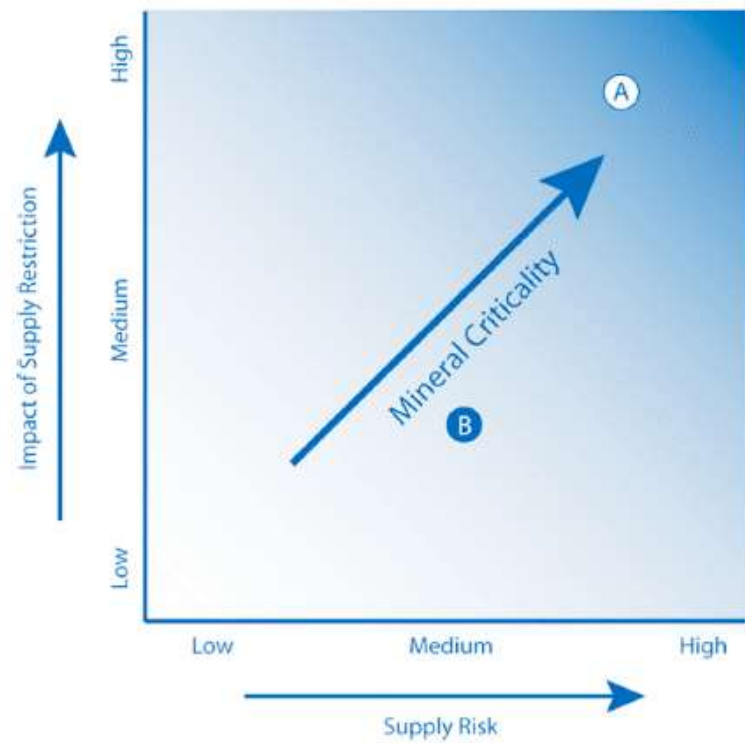


Countries accounting for largest share of global supply of CRMs

# Criticality assessment is:

- a call for attention → **not panic**
- a screening exercise
- prelude to detailed assessment

## US NRC, 2008





# IRTC, 2020

Resources, Conservation & Recycling 155 (2020) 104617

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Resources, Conservation & Recycling

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/resconrec](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/resconrec)



## A review of methods and data to determine raw material criticality

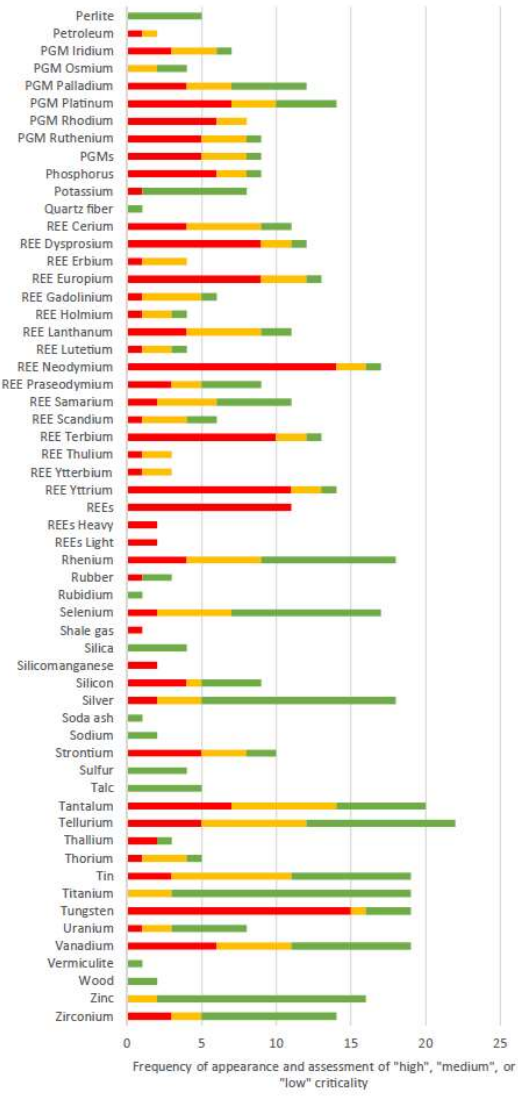
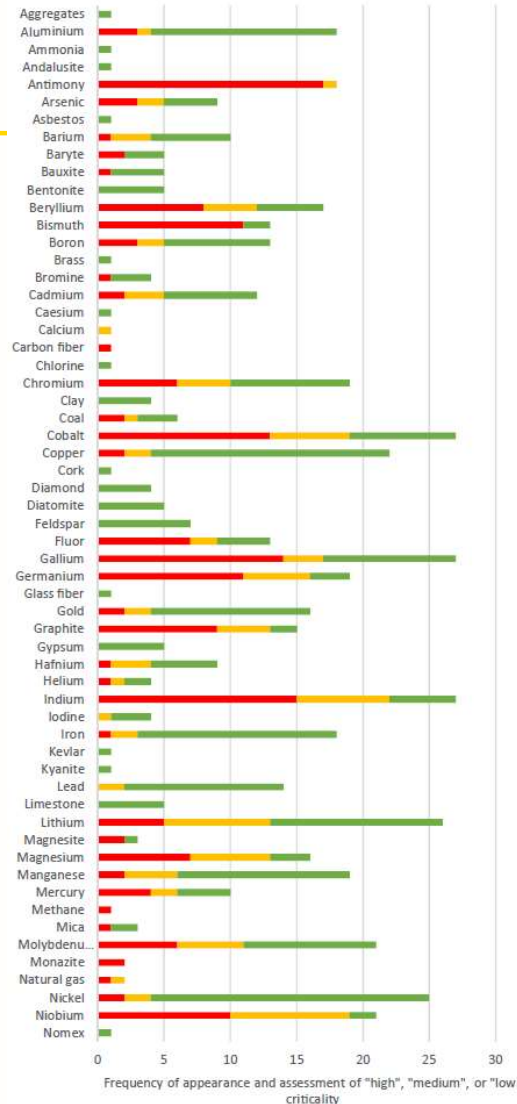
Dieuwertje Schrijvers<sup>a,b</sup>, Alessandra Hool<sup>c,\*</sup>, Gian Andrea Blengini<sup>d</sup>, Wei-Qiang Chen<sup>e</sup>, Jo Dewulf<sup>f</sup>, Roderick Eggert<sup>g</sup>, Layla van Ellen<sup>h</sup>, Roland Gauss<sup>i</sup>, James Goddijn<sup>j</sup>, Komal Habib<sup>k</sup>, Christian Hagelüken<sup>l</sup>, Atsufumi Hirohata<sup>m</sup>, Margarethe Hofmann-Antenbrink<sup>n</sup>, Jan Kosmol<sup>o</sup>, Maité Le Gleuher<sup>p</sup>, Milan Grohol<sup>q</sup>, Anthony Ku<sup>r</sup>, Min-Ha Lee<sup>s</sup>, Gang Liu<sup>t</sup>, Keiske Nansai<sup>u</sup>, Philip Nuss<sup>v</sup>, David Peck<sup>w</sup>, Armin Reller<sup>x,y</sup>, Guido Sonnemann<sup>a,b</sup>, Luis Tercero<sup>c,x</sup>, Andrea Thorenz<sup>z</sup>, Patrick A. Wäger<sup>c,z</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Univ. Bordeaux, ISM, UMR 5255, F-33400 Talence, France  
<sup>b</sup> CNRS, ISM, UMR 5255, F-33400 Talence, France  
<sup>c</sup> HBM Foundation, Austerlitzgasse 54, 3013 Bern, Switzerland  
<sup>d</sup> European Commission, DG-RES – Joint Research Centre, Sustainable Resource Directorate Unit D3 – Land Resources, Via Emerico Fermi 2749 10290, I-21027 Ispra, Italy  
<sup>e</sup> Key Lab of Urban Environment and Health, Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Science, 1799 Avest Road, Xiamen 361021, China  
<sup>f</sup> Research Group Sustainable Systems Engineering, Department Green Chemistry and Technology, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University, Campus Coupure, Building B, Coupure links 653, 9000 Ghent, Belgium  
<sup>g</sup> Division of Economics & Business, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO 80402, USA  
<sup>h</sup> Dept. University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Architectural Engineering and Technology, Building 8, Dept. University of Technology (TU Delft), Julianenlaan 134, 2628BL, The Netherlands  
<sup>i</sup> IFF RawMaterials GmbH, Europe Center, Tautenhainstr. 11, 10789 Berlin, Germany  
<sup>j</sup> Grants Design/AMTS, Route House, 52 Culture Road, Cambridge, CB3 7EG, UK  
<sup>k</sup> Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L2G1, Canada  
<sup>l</sup> Umicore AG & Co KG, Biedersteiner Chaussee 4, 43467 Hennef, Germany  
<sup>m</sup> Department of Electronic Engineering, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, United Kingdom  
<sup>n</sup> Mediworth Consulting Hygiene, Chemin Jean Perinckel 14, 1009 Pully, Switzerland  
<sup>o</sup> German Environment Agency (UBA), Welterstr. 101, 120844 Dessau-Roßlau, Germany  
<sup>p</sup> BRGM, 3 avenue C. Guillemin, 45060 Orléans, France  
<sup>q</sup> European Commission, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, BB7Y 07/045, 1049 Brussels, Belgium  
<sup>r</sup> NICE America Research, 2001 Starlin Ct, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA  
<sup>s</sup> Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH), 156 Guseong-ro, Yuseong-Gu, 21599 Incheon, Republic of Korea  
<sup>t</sup> SDU Life Cycle Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology, and Environmental Technology, University of Southern Denmark, 5230 Odense, Denmark  
<sup>u</sup> National Institute for Environmental Studies, 16-2 Ohtsuka, Tsukuba 305-8505, Japan  
<sup>v</sup> German Environment Agency (UBA), Unit II.1 – Institutional Aspects, Sustainability Strategies and Services, Sustainable Energy Div., Welterstr. 101, 06844 Dessau-Roßlau, Germany  
<sup>w</sup> Institute for Materials Resource Management/Resource Lab, Universitätsstr. 1a, University of Applied, 86159 Augsburg, Germany  
<sup>x</sup> Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Information Research ISI, Business Unit Systems Risk, Fraunhofer Straße 4, 76130 Karlsruhe, Germany  
<sup>y</sup> Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Technology & Society Laboratory, Lerchenfeldstrasse 5, CH-9014 St. Gallen, Switzerland  
<sup>z</sup> Corresponding author.  
 E-mail address: [alessandra.hool@emf.fondazione.org](mailto:alessandra.hool@emf.fondazione.org) (A. Hool).

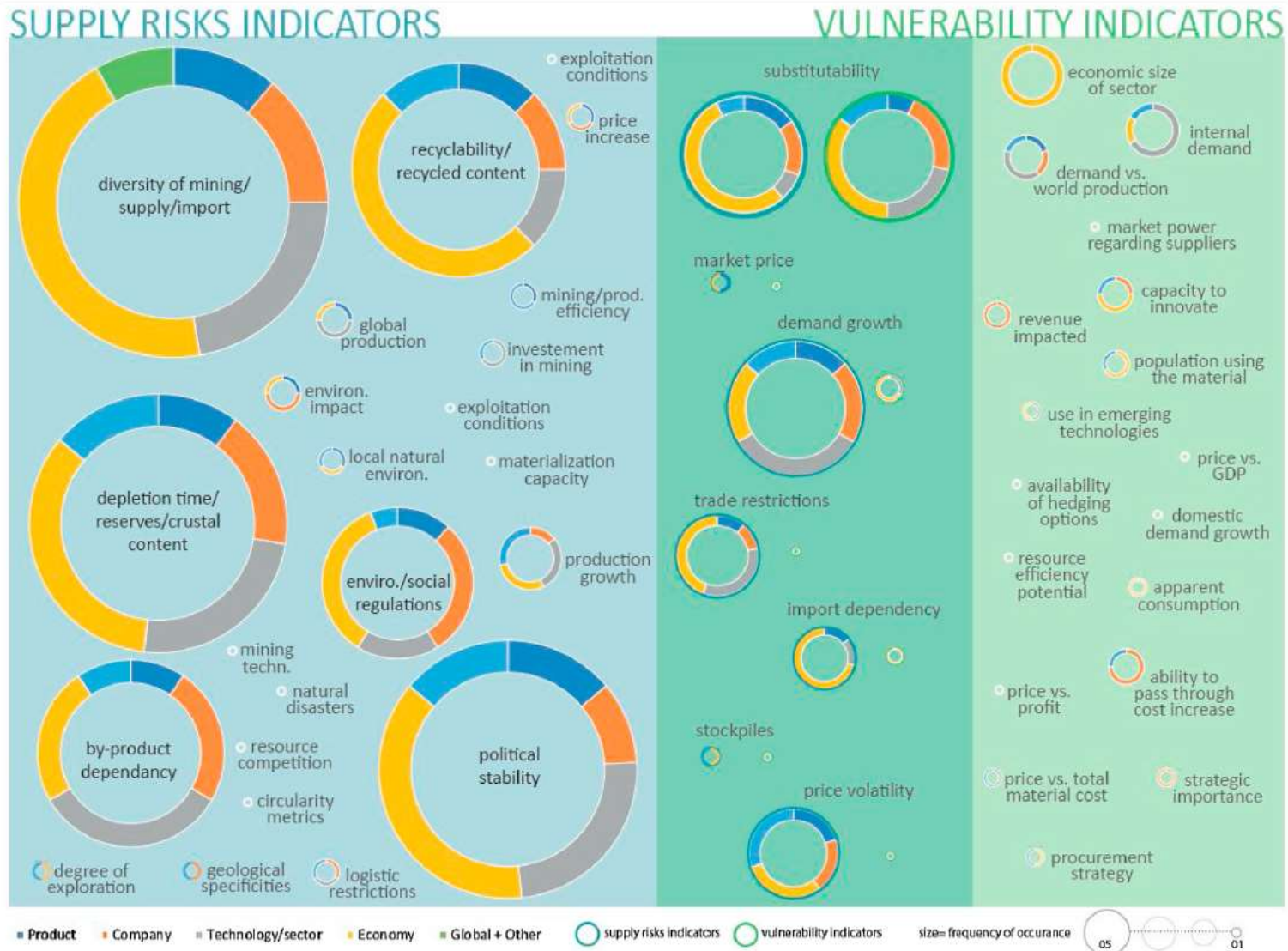
Abbreviations: BGS, British Geological Survey; BRGM, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières; CHM, Critical Raw Materials; EC, European Commission; Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology; EIT, European Institute of Innovation & Technology; EU, European Union; GE, General Electric; HED, Human Development Index; HHI, Herfindahl-Hirschman Index; ICIRIC, Instituto Universitario Investigaciones Científicas Universidad Zaragoza; INSEAD, Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires; IIRC, International Round Table on Materials Criticality; ISO, International Organization for Standardization; KIAM/KITECH, Korea Institute for Future Materials/Korea Institute of Industrial Technology; LCA, Life Cycle Assessment; NEDO, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development; NIES, National Institute for Environmental Studies; NRC, National Research Council; NSTC, National Science and Technology Council; OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; OEL, Oekodine Hoheits; PGM(s), Platinum Group Metal(s); PPI, Policy Perception Index; REE(s), Rare Earth Element(s); SDU, University of Southern Denmark; SI, Supplementary Information; USA, Umweltbundesamt; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, UN Environment Programme International Resource Panel; US DOE, United States Department of Energy; USGS, United States Geological Survey; VDI, Verein Deutscher Ingenieure; WGI, Worldwide Governance Indicators.  
 \* Corresponding author.  
 E-mail address: [alessandra.hool@emf.fondazione.org](mailto:alessandra.hool@emf.fondazione.org) (A. Hool).

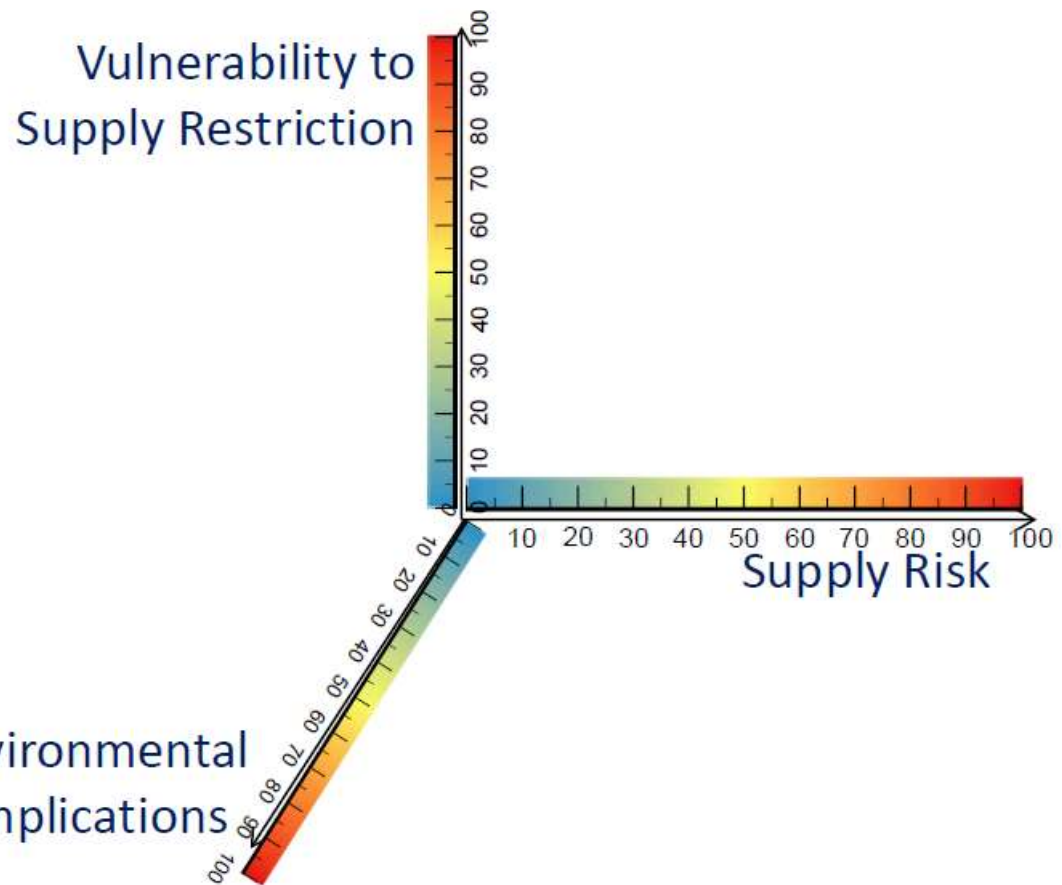


**POLITECNICO DI TORINO**  
 Gian Andrea Blengini



## Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)





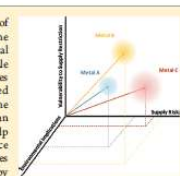
Methodology of Metal Criticality Determination

T. E. Graedel, Rachel Barr, Chelsea Chandler, Thomas Chase, Joanne Choi, Lee Christoffersen, Elizabeth Friedlander, Claire Henly, Christine Jun, Nedal T. Nassar,\* Daniel Schechner, Simon Warren, Man-yu Yang, and Charles Zhu

Center for Industrial Ecology, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511, United States

Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** A comprehensive methodology has been created to quantify the degree of criticality of the metals of the periodic table. In this paper, we present and discuss the methodology, which is comprised of three dimensions: supply risk, environmental implications, and vulnerability to supply restriction. Supply risk differs with the time scale (medium or long), and at its more complex involves several components, themselves composed of a number of distinct indicators drawn from readily available peer-reviewed indexes and public information. Vulnerability to supply restriction differs with the organizational level (i.e., global, national, and corporate). The criticality methodology, an enhancement of a United States National Research Council template, is designed to help corporate, national, and global stakeholders conduct risk evaluation and to inform resource utilization and strategic decision-making. Although we believe our methodological choices lead to the most robust results, the framework has been constructed to permit flexibility by the user. Specific indicators can be deleted or added as desired and weighted as the user deems appropriate. The value of each indicator will evolve over time, and our future research will focus on this evolution. The methodology has proven to be sufficiently robust as to make it applicable across the entire spectrum of metals and organizational levels and provides a structural approach that reflects the multifaceted factors influencing the availability of metals in the 21st century.



INTRODUCTION

Metals are vital to modern society. Indeed, it is difficult to think of a facet of human society that does not incorporate metals in one form or another. Human reliance on metals is not a new phenomenon, of course. What is new is the rate at which humans are extracting, processing, and using metals. The growth of materials use during the 20th century is such that overall global metal mobilization increased nearly 19-fold from 1900 to 2005, with aluminum increasing over 1000-fold.<sup>1</sup> Not only has the quantity of metals utilized by human societies increased, but so too have the number and variety of metals. In the 1980s, for example, computer chip manufacturing required the use of 12 elements. Today that number has increased to around 60—a sizable fraction of the naturally occurring elements.<sup>2</sup>

The exponential increase of metal utilization witnessed over the past century has led to a marked shift of metal stocks. Historically, all available stocks have been in Earth's crust. Now a significant portion resides above ground in the anthroposphere. This shift, coupled with ever-decreasing ore grades,<sup>3</sup> raises important questions such as whether we should be concerned about the long-term availability of metals and whether it is possible to recycle our way to sustainability.

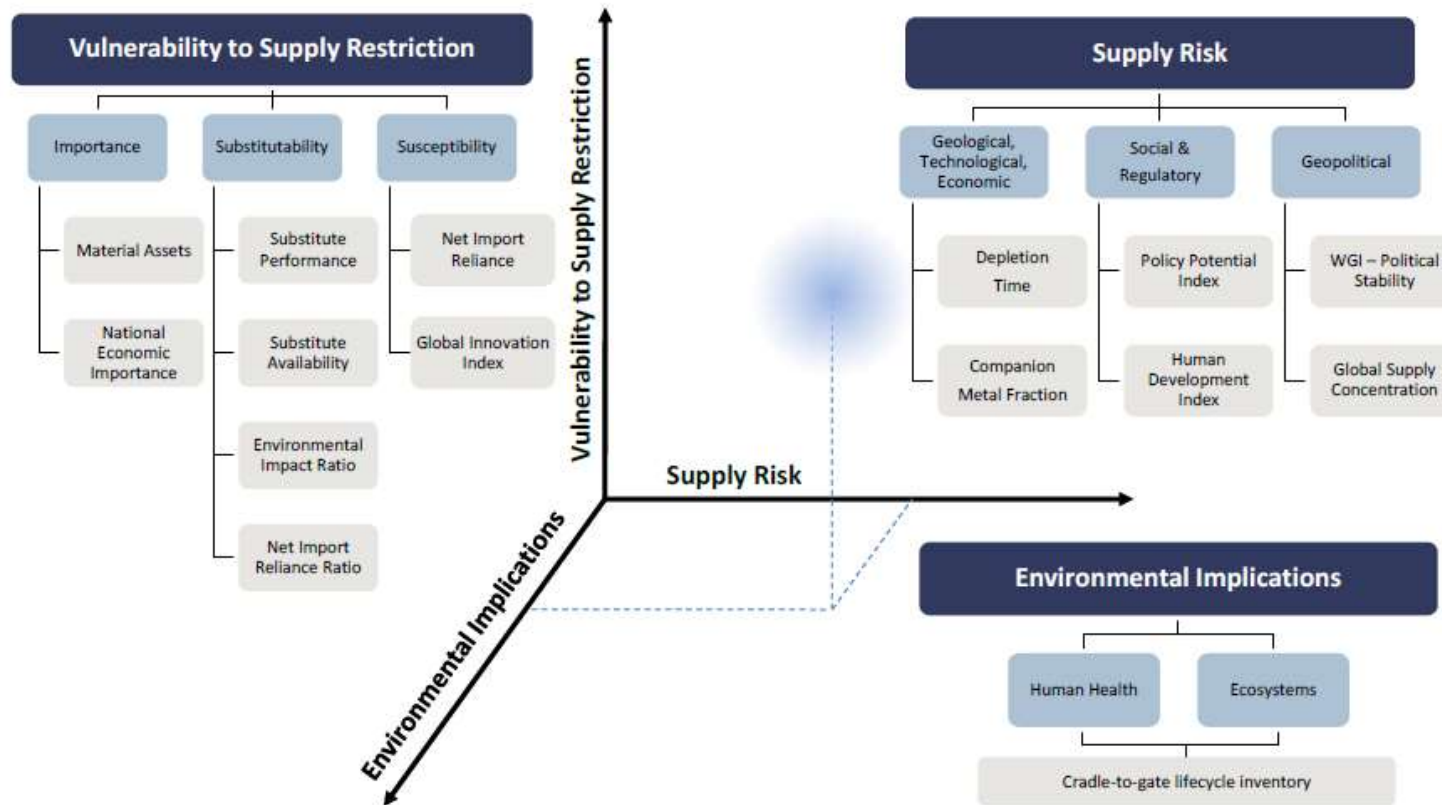
In 2006, the United States National Research Council (NRC) undertook a study to address the lack of understanding

and of data on nonfuel minerals important to the American economy. The report, titled *Minerals, Critical Minerals, and the U.S. Economy*,<sup>4</sup> defined the criticality of minerals as a function of two variables, importance of uses and availability, effectively communicated by a graphical representation referred to hereafter as the criticality matrix in which the vertical axis reflects importance in use and the horizontal axis is a measure of availability (for more details, see the Supporting Information).

The NRC committee carried out preliminary criticality analyses for several metals. Of those surveyed, a number fell within the region of danger—rhodium, platinum, manganese, niobium, indium, and the rare earths. Copper was considered not critical, not because of a lack of importance of use (termed "impact of supply restriction" by the committee) but because supply risk was judged to be low. A number of other elements were located between these extremes. The evaluations were regarded as very preliminary, but served to point out the potentially great differences in criticality among a number of the metals.

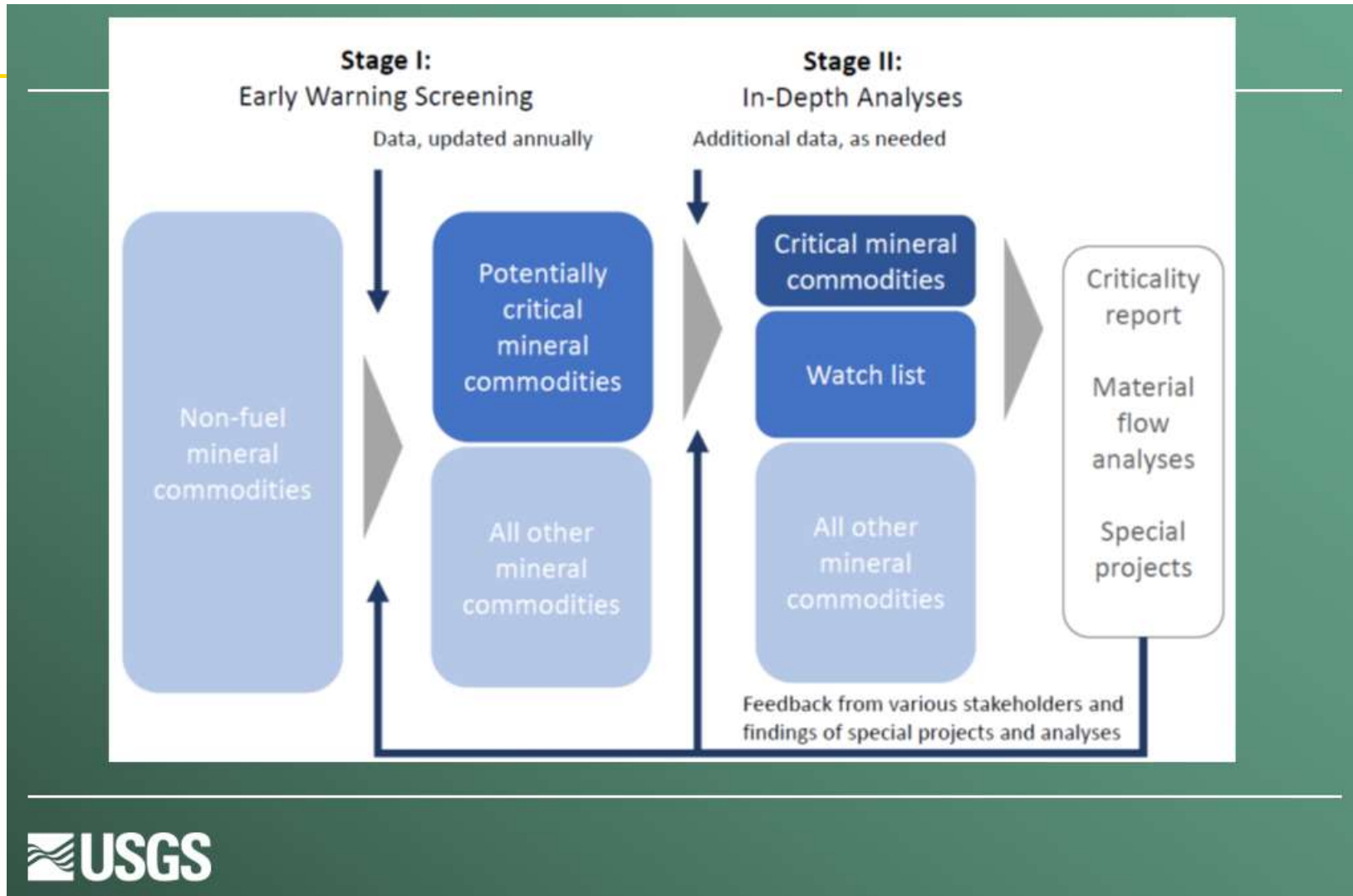
Received: October 5, 2011  
 Revised: December 9, 2011  
 Accepted: December 13, 2011  
 Published: December 13, 2011





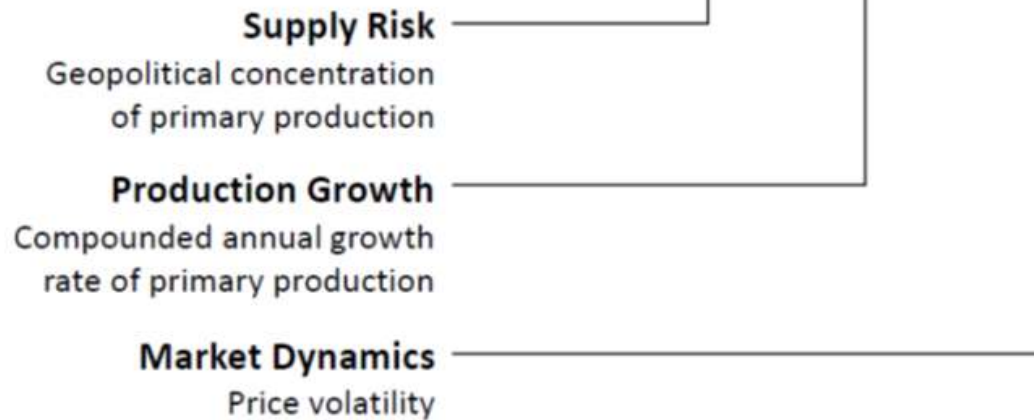
Graedel et al. (2012)

Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)



Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)

$$C = \sqrt[3]{R \cdot G \cdot M}$$



- Key concepts**
- Indicators aim to capture and counterbalance different aspects of criticality
  - Selection was informed with data availability in mind
  - Results are normalized on a 0 (low criticality) to 1 (high) scale





# US list of CRMs – 2018

**Early Warning Screening Results**

**ASSESSMENT OF CRITICAL MINERALS: SCREENING METHODOLOGY AND INITIAL APPLICATION**

Subcommittee on Critical Minerals of the Committee on Natural Resources of the U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Strategic and Critical Materials Operations Report To Congress**

Operations under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act during Fiscal Year 2016

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

January 2017

**ASSESSMENT OF CRITICAL MINERALS: UPDATED APPLICATION OF SCREENING METHODOLOGY**

Subcommittee on Critical and Strategic Mineral Supply Chains of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 2018

**Presidential Documents**

Executive Order 13817 of December 20, 2017

**A Federal Strategy To Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order the following:

**Section 1. Finding.** Certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity are currently limited by our dependence on foreign sources, and the potential for supply disruptions poses a significant risk to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. It is the policy of the United States to ensure secure and reliable supplies of these commodities, to identify and develop new sources, and to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of these commodities. It is the policy of the United States to ensure that the Nation's security and economic prosperity are not threatened by shortages of these commodities, and to ensure that the Nation's security and economic prosperity are not threatened by shortages of these commodities.

**Section 2. Definitions.** The Secretary of the Interior shall identify and designate as critical mineral commodities those mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity, and that are currently limited by our dependence on foreign sources, and the potential for supply disruptions poses a significant risk to the Nation's security and economic prosperity.

**Section 3. Policy.** It is the policy of the United States to ensure secure and reliable supplies of critical mineral commodities, to identify and develop new sources, and to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of these commodities.

(a) Identifying new sources of critical mineral commodities.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of the Secretary**

[178D0102DM, DS6CS00000, DLSN00000.000000, DX.6CS25]

**Final List of Critical Minerals 2018**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals. Pursuant to Executive Order 13817 of December 20, 2017, "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals," the Secretary of the Interior on February 16, 2018, presented a draft list of 35 mineral commodities deemed



Result: 35 CRMs



Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)



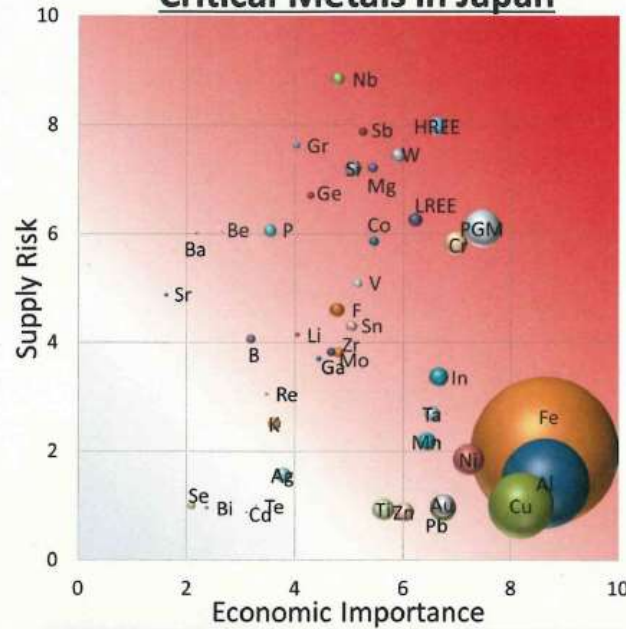
# JAPAN

## A study of a stable supply of mineral resources

JOGMEC, Metal strategy division, Ariga Daisuke



### Critical Metals in Japan



#### Abstract

As Japan is heavily dependent on mineral resources from abroad, it is critical for Japan to secure a stable supply of them. Therefore, the Japanese government and companies have been working on exploration development, stockpile, and recycle of the mineral resources. In this report, the degree of importance of mineral commodities in Japan in terms of economic importance and supply risk for 41 mineral commodities is evaluated based on the method for evaluating criticality of raw materials, which was released by the European Commission in 2010, in order to contribute to secure stability of mineral resources.

#### Criticality

Economic Importance	Supply Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ End uses of metals</li> <li>✓ Gross value added (GVA)</li> <li>✓ Price</li> <li>✓ Quantity of domestic demand</li> <li>✓ Quantity of world demand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Import partner countries</li> <li>✓ Producing countries</li> <li>✓ Uneven distribution of reserve</li> <li>✓ Substitutability</li> <li>✓ Recycle</li> <li>✓ main product/by-product</li> </ul>

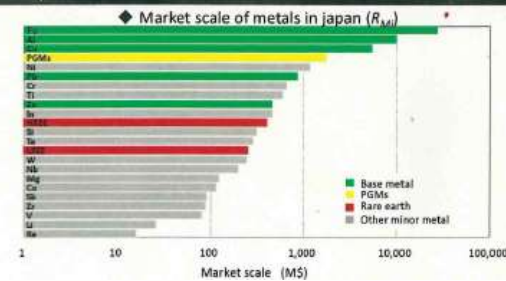
#### Critical Metals in Japan

##### [Economic Importance]

$$El_i = \frac{\log R_{MSi}}{GDP} \sum_s A_{is} Q_s$$

$$R_{MSi} = \frac{V_i D_i}{\sum V D}$$

El: economic importance  
 GDP: gross domestic product  
 A: the ratio of consumption in sector s  
 Q: gross value added  
 R<sub>MS</sub>: market scale  
 i: commodity  
 s: economic sector  
 V: average import price  
 D: quantity of domestic demand



## Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)



POLITECNICO DI TORINO

Gian Andrea Blengini

# Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition Overview

## Observatory

Collect data that help **understand scarcity and potential supply shortages** that may affect the energy transition in the coming decade

## De-risking supply

Develop and apply **strategies to de-risk supply**

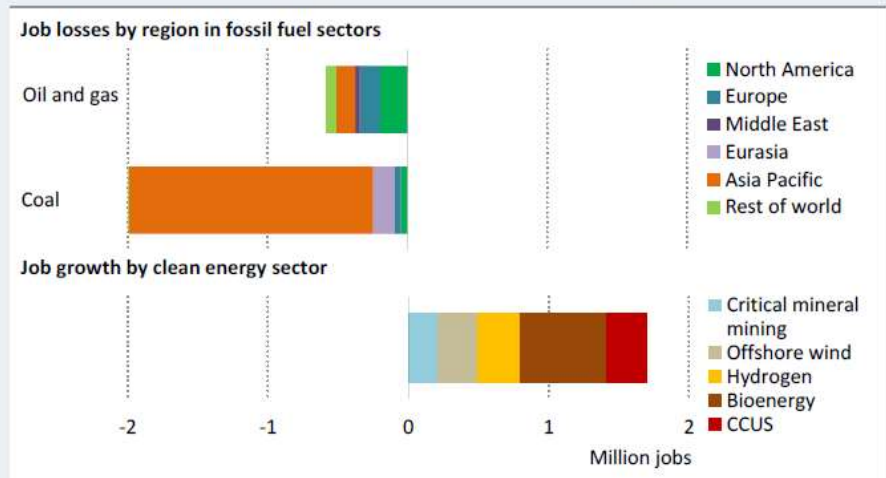
## ESG & mining

Develop strategies to **raise acceptance for new mining projects**



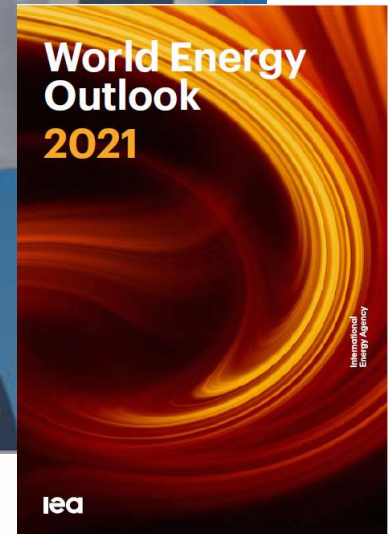
The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions

**Figure 1.18** > Changes in fossil fuel employment and energy areas with overlapping skills in the Announced Pledges Scenario to 2030



IEA. All rights reserved.

*Skilled fossil fuel workers have opportunities to transition to clean energy jobs, though the options are not a direct match for most coal sector jobs lost in Asia*



# DERA

The German Mineral Resources Agency (DERA) is the national information and consultancy platform for mineral raw materials.



DERA was established in 2010 by decree of the [Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action \(BMWK\)](#) and is part of the [Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, BGR](#). Hence, DERA builds on many years of expertise and a wide scientific and technical infrastructure.

# OFREMI



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE  
Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité

Géosciences pour une Terre durable  
**brgm**

SERVICE GÉOLOGIQUE NATIONAL

Accueil / Conférence / Lancement de l'OFREMI - Observatoire français des ressources minérales pour les filières industrielles

CONFÉRENCE

## Lancement de l'OFREMI - Observatoire français des ressources minérales pour les filières industrielles

**Le 29 novembre 2022 - Paris**

## Comment garantir la disponibilité et l'accès aux ressources stratégiques de nos grands secteurs industriels pour les prochaines décennies ?

Suite aux recommandations du rapport Varin, le BRGM, le CEA, l'IFPEN, l'Ademe, l'IFRI et le CNAM créent, avec le soutien du CSF Mines et Métallurgie, l'Observatoire Français des Ressources Minérales pour les Filières Industrielles (OFREMI), une cellule d'intelligence économique réactive, prospective et pérenne, en appui aux pouvoirs publics et à l'industrie.





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■ **THANKYOU**

**Gian Andrea Blengini**

**Politecnico di Torino**

**Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24 - 10129 Torino, Italy**

**[blengini@polito.it](mailto:blengini@polito.it)**

**tel. +39 011 090 7715**



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DI TORINO**

Gian Andrea Blengini

Critical Materials in the EU and international Agendas (2022)