



## Local implications of the extraction of ‘necessary metals’

Wies Willems  
Brussels - March 12, 2020

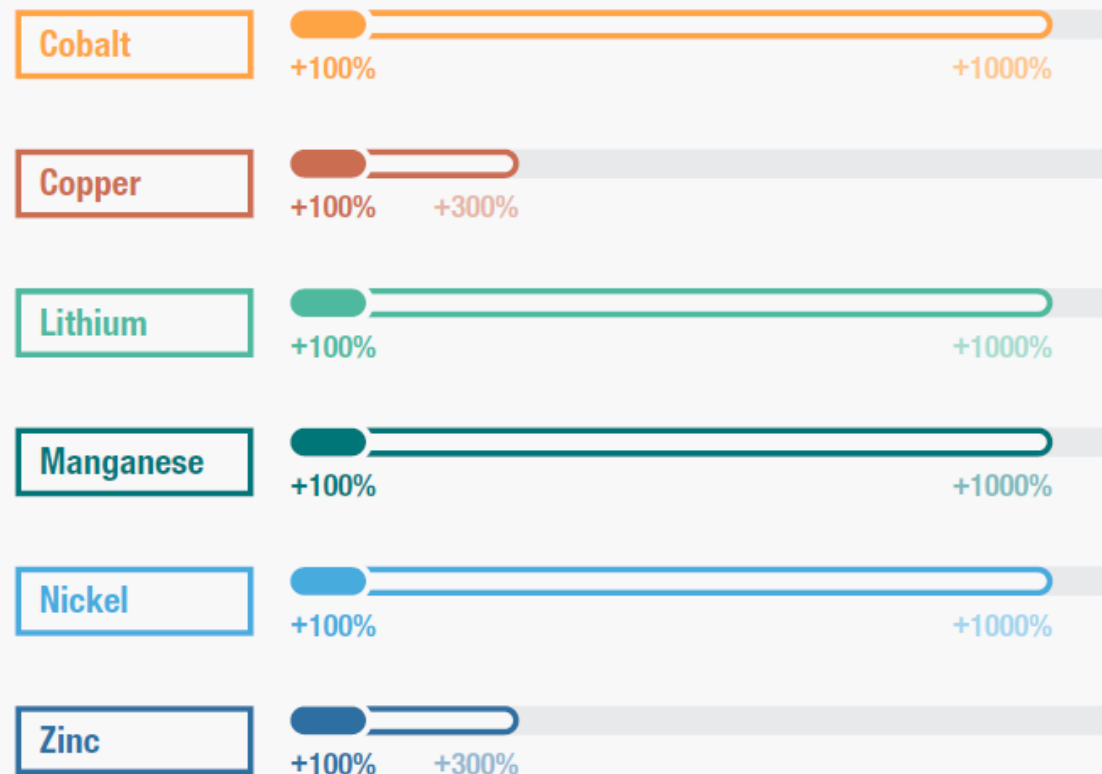


# Context: rising demand

According to the World Bank, six minerals expected to experience a significant rise in demand as the world transitions to a low-carbon economy include copper, cobalt, lithium, manganese, nickel, and zinc.

## GROWTH IN MINERAL DEMAND

○ 2°C and ● 4°C Climate Scenario



SOURCE: World Bank, *The Growing Role of Minerals and Metals for a Low Carbon Future*, Jun 2017

# Main reflections

---

- Demand will grow considerably, in any scenario
- EU heavily dependent on imports
- Green Deal: emphasis on 'strategic access'
- Rights-based perspective (producing countries) often missing
- Need for stronger corporate accountability in entire supply chain of metals

# EU import reliance

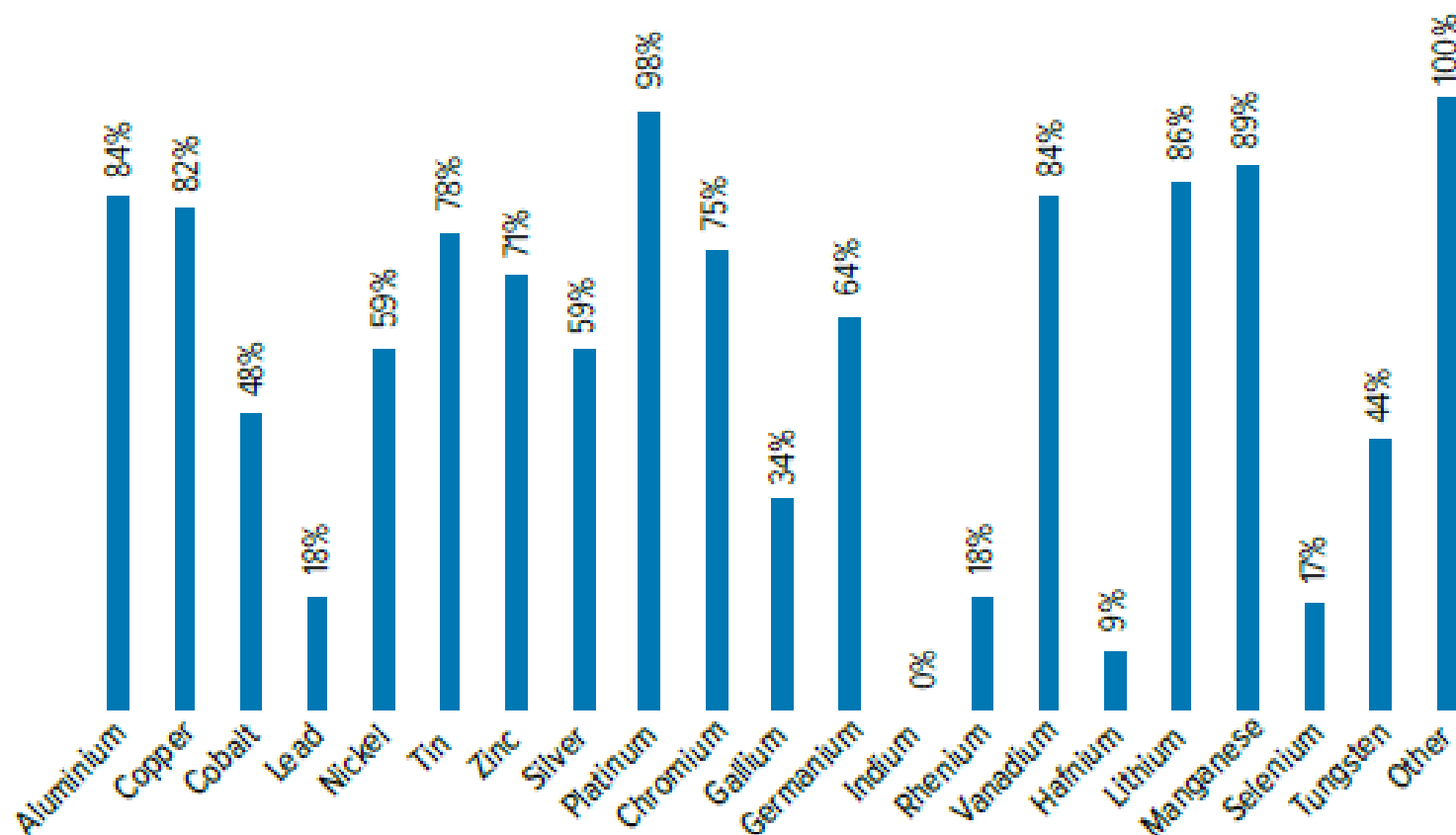
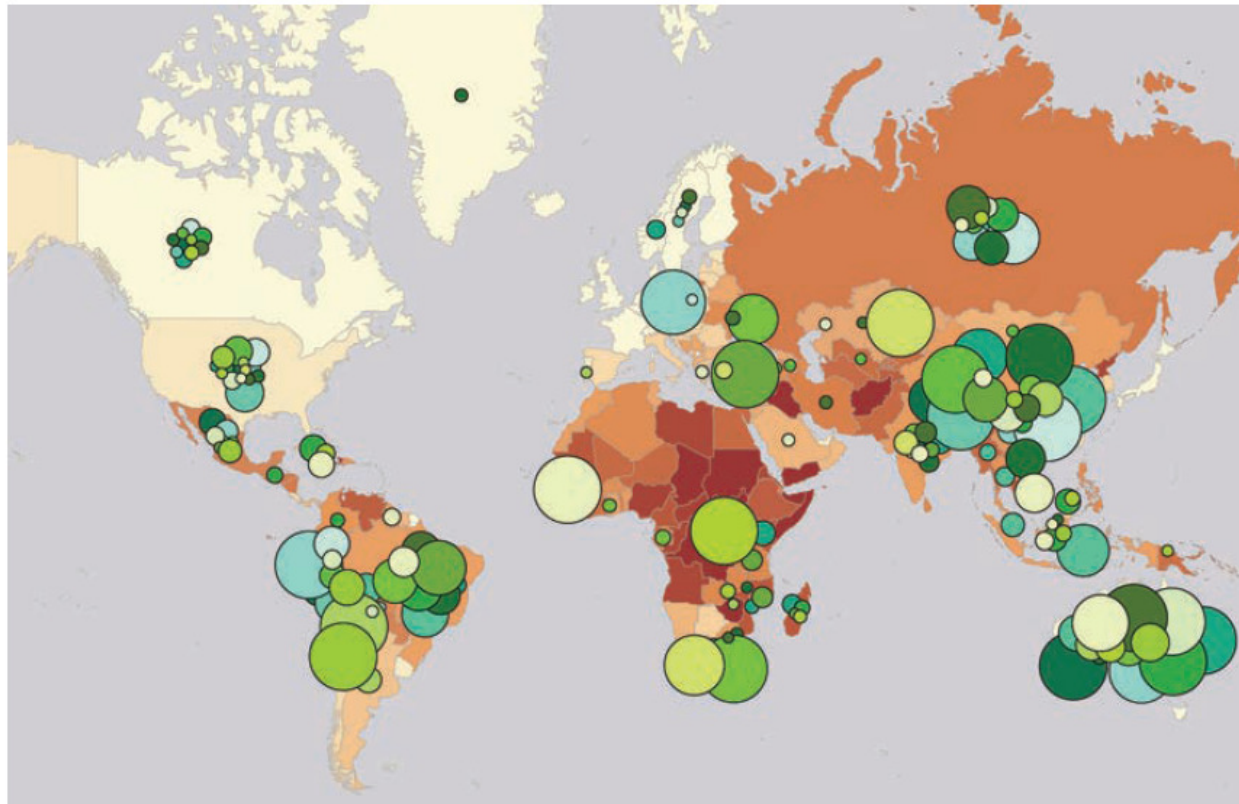


Figure 6: EU Non-Ferrous Metal Ores Import Reliance<sup>33</sup> Source: European Commission, 2018

# 'Key minerals': main concerns

- Environmental impacts
- Access to water
- Health impacts
- Indigenous peoples' rights
- Tax avoidance
- Labour rights
- Deaths
- Free, prior & informed consent

# Reserves & vulnerability to conflict



**Figure 21.** Global reserves of minerals required for green energy technologies overlaid with fragility and corruption measures<sup>6,7</sup>

*Source: Fund for Peace, 2018; Transparency International, 2017; U.S. Geological Survey, 2018*



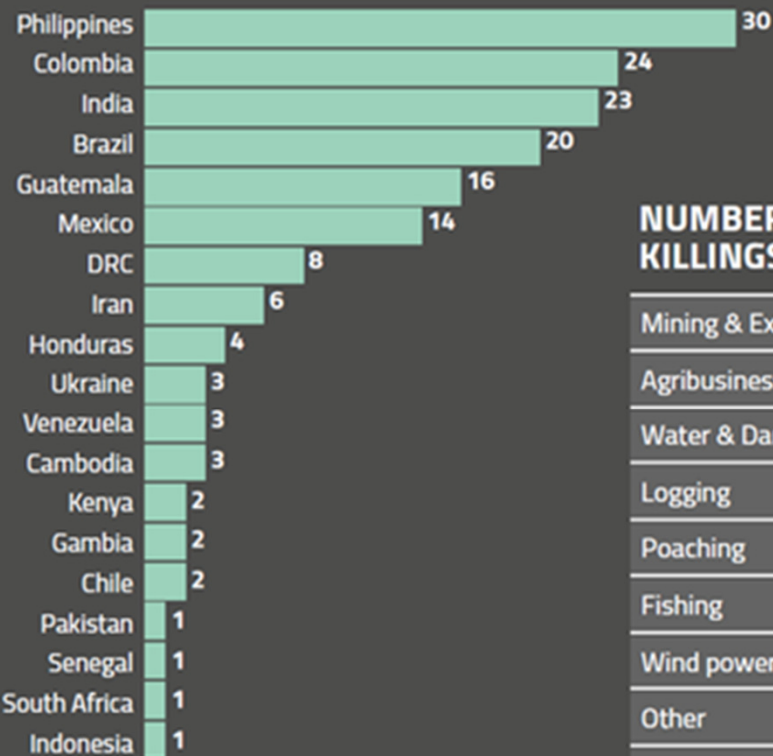
# Latin America: context

- Extractive agenda as dominant development strategy
- Resource curse
- Increase in social conflicts, complex typology
- Important reserves of 'transition minerals'
- Free, prior & informed consent?!



# Violence against defenders

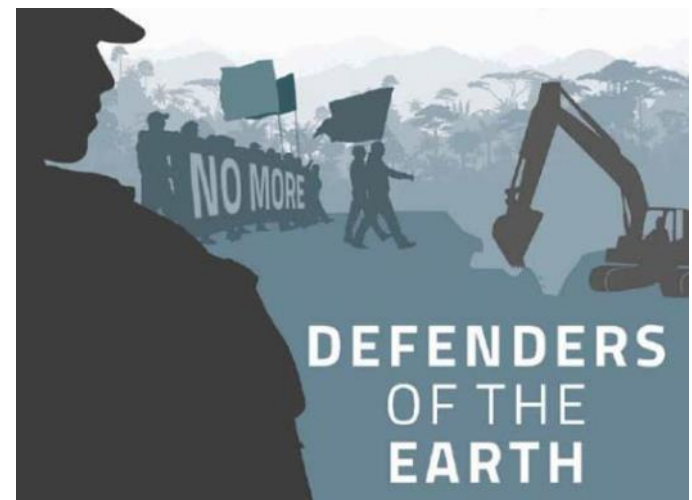
## TOTAL NUMBER OF KILLINGS PER COUNTRY



## NUMBER OF KILLINGS BY SECTOR

Mining & Extractives	43
Agribusiness	21
Water & Dams	17
Logging	13
Poaching	9
Fishing	2
Wind power	1
Other	7
No clear link to a sector	55

© Global Witness





# Policy recommendation(s)

---

In combination with sufficiency policies and CE policies, strengthen **corporate accountability**:

- Voluntary measures insufficient
- Sector-specific mandatory supply chain due diligence (responsible sourcing beyond 3TG)
- General HRDD legislation at EU level
- UN Binding Treaty on Business & Human Rights

# Thank you!

---



**Wies Willems**

Natural Resources Policy Officer

Broederlijk Delen

[wies.willems@broederlijkdelen.be](mailto:wies.willems@broederlijkdelen.be)