



Searching for Sustainability

Finnish Environmental NGOs
and mining plans

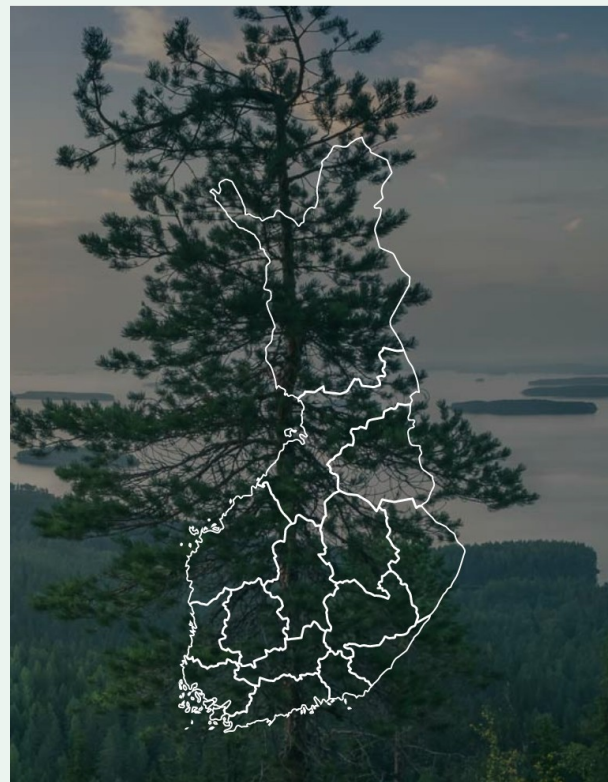
Executive Director
Tapani Veistola

Tallinn 16.9.2025

Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

- The oldest: Established **1938**
- The biggest: **30 000** members
- **148** local clubs & **15** regional offices
- Staff **60**
- **Networks** EEB, CAN, CCB, IUCN
- **Mainstream** NGO.

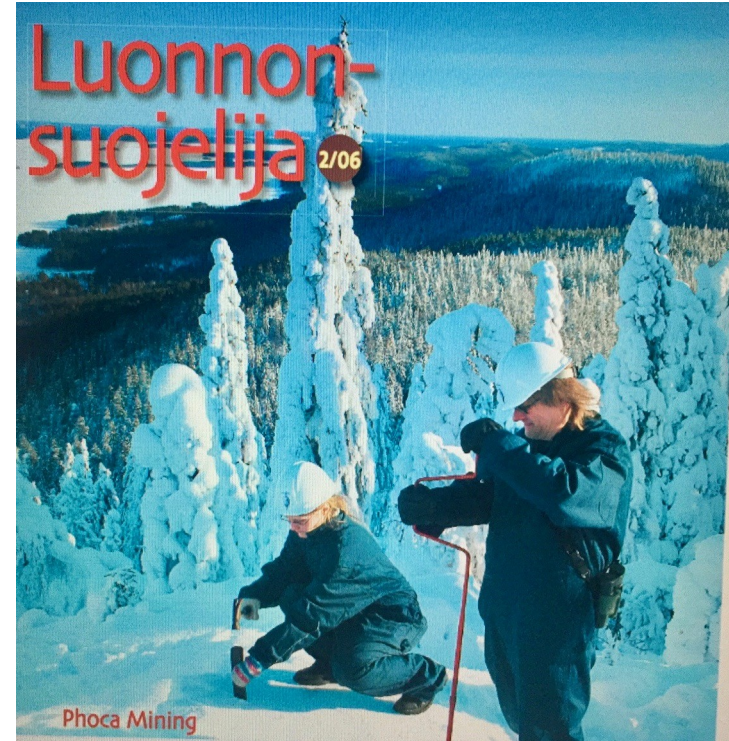
Our aim is to halt the Loss of Biodiversity and Climate Change, achieve Good Status of Waters and combat Overconsumption.



Long tradition with mining issues

Headquarters: Working Groups drafting e.g. Mineral Strategy and Mining Act.

- Local clubs and regional offices: stakeholders in local mining projects.
- Lawyers and specialists in the HQ can help clubs and regions in formal complaints.
- In the EU we are working with EEB and in the United Nations level with IUCN.
- In addition, there are many local movements and other networks working with mining cases.
- Small country: Next weekend there is a joint national conference with us and others in Outokumpu.



Old mines
(left) and
projects for
new mines
(right)
5.8.2025
(GTK).

KAIVOKSET SUOMESSA 2025

Kaivos, toiminnassa

Metallimalmi

Teollisuusmineraali

* Toistaiseksi sivukiven louhintaa

Kaivos, uudelleen avaaminen suunnitteilla

Metallimalmi

ARVOAINEET

Au – hopea

Ag – kulta

Co – koboltti

Cu – kupari

Li – litium

Ni – nikkel

Pb – lyijy

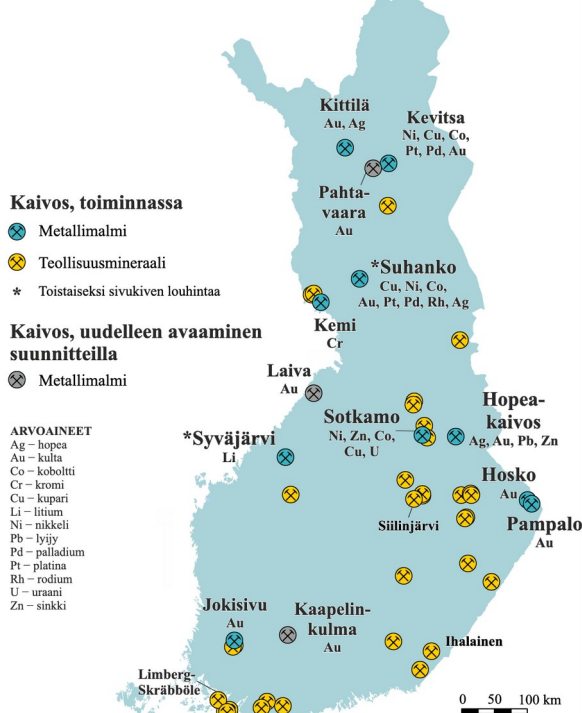
Pd – palladium

Pt – platina

Rh – rodium

U – uraani

Zn – sinkki



5.8.2025

Louhintatiedot: Tukes
Pohjakartta © Maanmittauslaitos, 2020

KAIVOSHANKKEET SUOMESSA 2025

Kaivoshanke*

Metallimalmi

Teollisuusmineraali

Rikastushiekin hyödyntäminen

ARVOAINEET

Au – kulta

Co – koboltti

Cu – kupari

Fe – rauta

Li – litium

Nb – niobium

Ni – nikkel

P – fosfori

Pd – palladium

Pt – platina

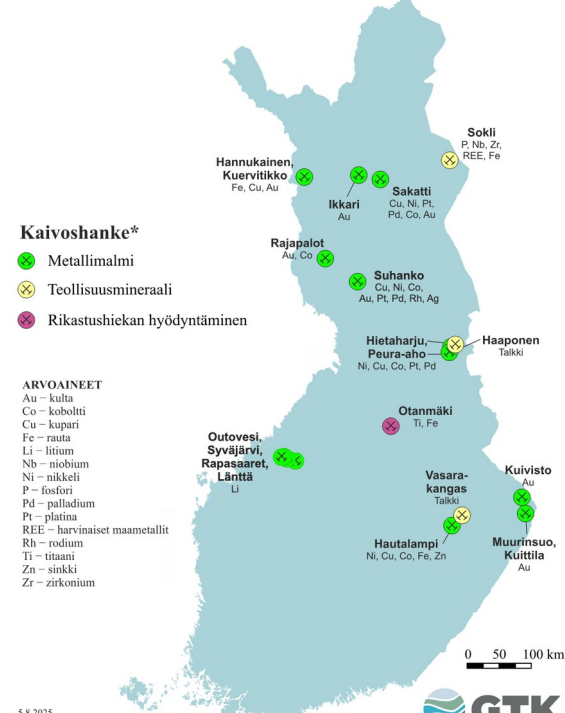
REE – harvinaiset maametallit

Rh – rodium

Ti – titaani

Zn – sinkki

Zr – zirkonium



0 50 100 km



5.8.2025

Pohjakartta © Maanmittauslaitos, 2020

*Kaivoshankkeella tarkoitetaan tässä hanketta, jota yhtyi edistää aktiivisesti kohti kaivostuotannon aloittamista ja jonka suunnittelu on edennyt niin pitkälle, että yhteysviranomainen on kuuluttanut hankkeen YVA-ohjelman.

Why Social Licence to Operate?

Usually time for public hearing is short...

- ...and processes are becoming more busy (EU CRMA etc.)
- This can cause more formal complaints
 - and more loss of time!
- There are proactive projects in Finland to develop SLO and better co-operation (e.g. Finnish Environmental Institute, Akordi, SITRA).



Some lessons learnt

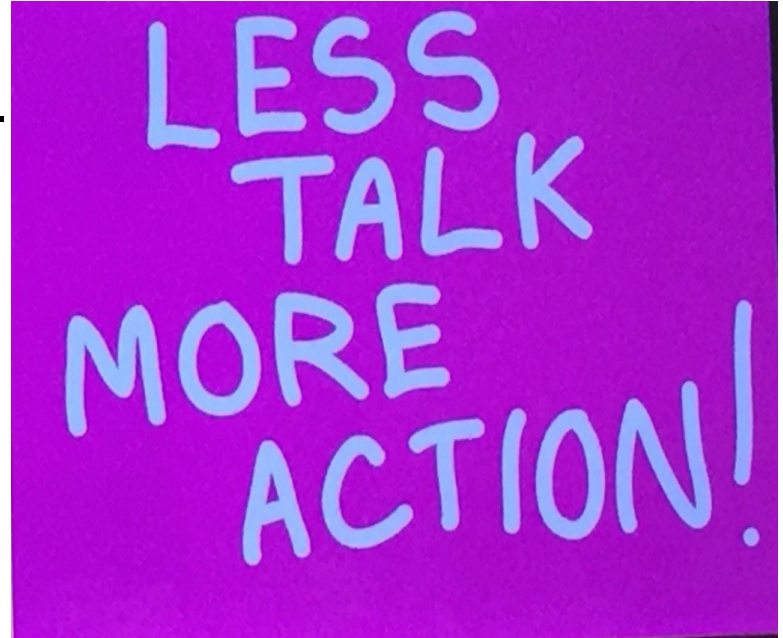
Scope: sometimes the closest village and the current project is not enough.

- Geographically areas of impact may be very large (waste → watersheds).
- Historically there may be accumulated anxiety because of earlier projects (e.g. Sami area and the burden of colonialism).
- Restarting rejected project: unfair feelings
- Time for a mine is short – impacts long.



Recommendations

- Fair share of benefits (more mining taxes).
- Use “No go” areas (e.g. Protected Areas)
- - Take also Biodiversity and Geodiversity into account.
- Study ecological compensations.
- Avoid “Dialogue washing” (cf. Greenwashing).



Thank you – let's keep on contact!

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Suomen  luonnonsuojeluliitto