Our Approach

We are committed to taking meaningful action to prevent biodiversity loss and support healthy ecosystems throughout the lifecycle of our mines.

RELEVANT POLICIES

→ Environment and Climate Change Policy

Our Environment and Climate Change Policy outlines our commitment to protecting the species and habitats of the areas in which we operate and promoting the conservation of local biodiversity. We carefully adhere to all local and federal regulations related to biodiversity protection and go beyond these mandated duties by implementing additional voluntary standards. These include the RGMPs for Biodiversity, Land Use and Mine Closure and the TSM Biodiversity Conservation Management Protocol.

We operate in proximity to several important ecosystems including the Amazon Preservation Area in Maranhão, Brazil and the Caatinga region in Bahia, Brazil; the Zopilote Gorge near our operations in Guerrero, Mexico; and the Mojave National Preserve in California, USA and the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Nevada, USA. We carefully manage our activities to minimize and mitigate both immediate and long-term adverse impacts on the flora and fauna in these locations, and we give special consideration to locally threatened species and critical habitats. All of our sites monitor the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species as well as locally legislated protected species lists so we can adapt our activities to reflect urgent conservation needs.

A Comprehensive Approach

We take a multi-pronged approach to biodiversity conservation.

- Before we undertake any activities that could disturb the land, we develop a baseline inventory of flora and fauna to identify the biota of both ecological and cultural significance.
- Based on this inventory, we conduct biodiversity impact assessments to understand our site's characteristics, allowing our local teams to ensure that identified native fauna and significant flora elements can be relocated during clearing procedures.
- We then develop biodiversity management plans for each mine. These plans detail our actions to mitigate or eliminate harm where possible and include monitoring and reclamation of habitats for local protected species. We update the plans as necessary to reflect evolving circumstances and the stages of mining development.
- Before we begin construction and operations, our local teams salvage and relocate any native fauna and significant flora elements.
- We maintain plant nurseries at our sites (where applicable) with plants salvaged during the clearing process or grown from locally sourced seed that can be used to replant areas as they are reclaimed.
- When undertaking reclamation, we set vegetation density and species targets that mirror the surrounding natural area so we can monitor the success of our reclamation activities.
- We collaborate with local communities, NGOs, government agencies and academic institutions to achieve positive biodiversity outcomes in the areas where we work.

Since we work in a variety of ecosystems, each site's biodiversity plans and activities are tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the area. For example:

- In Mexico, our Los Filos Mine is implementing a soil regeneration project on waste dumps to understand how these areas can be used for agriculture by the local communities in the future.
- In Brazil, as required by law, we create conservation areas by purchasing undisturbed land to protect natural ecosystems. We safeguard these conservation areas from development, hunters, poachers and illegal small-scale mining activity, and also document the biological wealth of these areas and their importance to the maintenance of regional biodiversity. Efforts at our individual mines include:
  - At the RDM Mine, characterized by savannah-like vegetation, we are focused on forest restoration, including planting and direct seeding in large clearings, or enrichment planting to revitalize flora and soil in smaller clearings. We also have an active wildlife rescue program to minimize loss of wildlife and relocate animals when required.
  - At the Fazenda Mine, which has a unique ecosystem due to very arid conditions, our onsite team is working with forest restoration specialists to ensure guidelines for the degraded areas recovery plan for this special ecosystem are incorporated into our mine closure program.
  - At our Aurizona Mine, located in the Amazon biome with its distinct tropical rainforest, we are safeguarding the flora, fauna and ecosystems in legal reserve areas and are working with academic groups to protect the biome, including conducting biodiversity surveys, collecting and producing native seedlings, and assisting with wildlife rescue programs.
  - At the semi-arid Santa Luz Mine, we monitor flora and fauna conditions at two protected habitat areas outside the mine boundaries and work to enhance local vegetation and wildlife preservation.
- In California, USA, our Castle Mountain Mine team has supported biodiversity research and restoration programs to fortify the vulnerable Joshua tree species (see case study below) and protect local Bighorn Sheep and Golden Eagles. We have also taken measures to protect the threatened Desert Tortoise by fully fencing our operational areas with 'tortoise-proof' mesh and enforcing access road speed limits to reduce risk from vehicles. Employees are trained to identify and report tortoises found onsite and trained biologists are employed to identify tortoise dens, so the tortoises can be relocated to suitable habitat outside the mine boundary.