

Managing biodiversity

Our policies

Regardless of how carefully we monitor and manage our environmental risks and impacts, there is no denying that mining processes will inevitably have some harmful effects on the flora, fauna and natural environment around our sites. We acknowledge this reality and are committed to minimising our negative impacts as far as possible and to rehabilitating our sites to the highest levels possible.

We have a dedicated and publicly available group biodiversity policy in place, the main goal of which is for zero net negative biodiversity impacts by the time each mine closes. The biodiversity policy also commits us not to conduct exploration or mining activities on any natural world heritage sites.





To achieve net zero negative biodiversity impacts we consider and document the full spectrum of flora and fauna at the feasibility stage of any project, working with biodiversity experts to conduct baseline surveys and make detailed records.

By the time a project becomes operational, a detailed and site-specific BAP is put in place. BAPs draw on the information from baseline surveys and ESAs to detail the various habitats and fauna on site and set out plans to restore the site ecosystems to their original state or better wherever possible. Part of this includes a requirement for the development of onsite nurseries for the propagation of native trees, and provision for the accumulation and storage of topsoil needed for site restoration. We also consider biodiversity offsets to achieve our goal of net zero negative biodiversity impact.

Implementation of BAPs is regularly monitored and reported quarterly to the board-level E&S.

Once a mine is operational, we apply an impact mitigation hierarchy towards biodiversity risk management. The biodiversity mitigation hierarchy compels us to minimise biodiversity impacts through careful planning including building, pipeline and tailings placement, restore and rehabilitate impacts to the extent possible and offset any negative impacts in line with IUCN guidelines.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY THROUGHOUT THE MINE LIFE CYCLE

PROJECT STAGE	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
 Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand local biodiversity and provide guidance for site planning if project moves to operational stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial biodiversity assessment – including desk and field research and input from experts.
 New projects and expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish biodiversity baseline and clearly define biodiversity risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental and Social Impact Assessments. Satellite images of site prior to construction.
 Operational sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out actions to avoid and mitigate damage to biodiversity and restoration and rehabilitation planning. Offset unavoidable impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of site-specific Biodiversity action plans (BAPS). Annual site satellite imaging. Develop biodiversity-offset programmes.
 Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure site is restored and rehabilitated with no net loss of biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace flora and fauna based on satellite images taken prior to construction.

Our performance

During 2017, we put significant focus on reducing the overall foot prints of our operations and as shown in the *total land rehabilitated and distributed* table, we rehabilitated approximately 209 hectares of land. Over the year we planted more than 46 000 trees across all our mine sites.

We have also continued to develop and expand our exciting and innovative biodiversity offset and conservation programmes with the Garamba National Park in the DRC and the Mali Elephant project. These are explained in detail in the ‘Partnerships for protection’ case study.

TOTAL LAND REHABILITATED AND DISTRIBUTED

	2017	2016	2015
Total hectares rehabilitated	209	260	20
Total newly disturbed hectares	72	222	53