

Towards Sustainable Mining Framework

Mining and Biodiversity Conservation

The conservation of biodiversity¹ is a commitment in MAC's Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Guiding Principles. MAC members recognize that access to land and a company's social license depend upon responsible social, environmental and economic practices and that there is a strong business case for supporting biodiversity conservation. MAC members believe that mining, conducted in consultation with communities of interest, can co-exist with biodiversity conservation. MAC members accept that a corporate commitment to biodiversity conservation is essential and have agreed to the following commitments:

1. MAC members will positively contribute to the conservation of biodiversity through all stages of the mining life cycle.
2. MAC members will work with key communities of interest² to develop and implement responsible policies and practices to:
 - a. integrate the importance of biodiversity conservation, including respect for critical habitat, into mining and land-use planning and management strategies, including considering the option of not proceeding with a project.
 - b. assess and monitor the state of biodiversity throughout the project cycle.
 - c. avoid, minimize, mitigate and/or compensate for significant adverse biodiversity effects.
 - d. enhance, through research, information sharing and/or partnerships, the industry's understanding of and contribution to biodiversity conservation, science and traditional knowledge.
 - e. establish, finance and implement comprehensive reclamation plans that, wherever practicable, return mine sites to viable and diverse ecosystems that will serve the needs of post-mining use, recognizing that mining can permanently alter landscapes and that other desirable land uses may be considered in reclamation plans when justified by site-specific circumstances.
3. MAC members are committed to transparency and public reporting on issues related to mining and biodiversity conservation.
4. MAC members, recognizing that protected areas can contribute to biodiversity conservation, will comply with the requirements of legally-designated protected areas and are committed to working with key communities of interest to develop transparent, inclusive, informed and equitable decision-making processes for the establishment of protected areas.

¹ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity's defines biodiversity as: "The variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."

² Such as, for example, governments, Aboriginal governments and communities, other local communities and conservation organizations.

5. MAC member companies undertake not to explore or develop mines in World Heritage sites. All possible steps will be taken to ensure that pre-existing operations in World Heritage sites as well as existing and future operations adjacent to World Heritage sites are compatible and co-exist with biodiversity goals.
6. MAC and its members will demonstrate leadership by informing others of this Mining and Biodiversity framework and encouraging its adoption.

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