

Our Approach to Biodiversity and Reclamation



Which Teck sites does this document apply to?

All Teck sites and projects. This does not include operations in which Teck has/had an ownership interest but is not the principal operator.

Governance and Accountability

Background

Our operations are adjacent to or within areas of high biodiversity value¹, including temperate and arctic areas, forests and deserts. Effectively managing biodiversity and reclamation is a part of our commitment to responsible resource development, is integral to meeting regulatory requirements and maintains community support for our activities. We recognize that our activities have the potential to impact biodiversity and to alter ecosystems in a significant way, which can affect both individual species and the provision of critical ecosystem services that communities rely on. Indigenous Peoples in many areas also rely on the land to maintain traditional ways of life.

We work collaboratively with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples to develop integrated approaches to land use and to operate in a manner that minimizes and mitigates our impacts. Through reclamation, we can replace much of the structural and compositional diversity of the natural habitats that existed before we developed our mines, after mining is completed.

Accountability and Resourcing

The Board of Directors, through its Safety and Sustainability Committee, oversees health, safety, environment and community policies, systems, performance and auditing, including our Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) Management Standards. The Standards include specific guidance on biodiversity management and reclamation.

The following senior leaders are involved in implementing the management of biodiversity and reclamation:

- Our Senior Vice President, Sustainability and External Affairs reports directly to our CEO and is responsible for sustainability, health and safety, environment, community, and Indigenous affairs, including biodiversity and conservation
- The Vice President, Environment oversees compliance with environmental standards for projects, operations and our legacy properties, and regularly reviews environmental performance risks and strategic issues
- The Director, Environmental Legacies is responsible for leading the assessment and management of legacy environmental issues, sites and facilities as well as for the creation of new, positive legacies in biodiversity conservation and reclamation

Last Updated March 2019

¹High biodiversity value areas have features that provide essential ecosystems relied on by humans and animals, and they have an abundance of rare, vulnerable or endemic species and/or large areas of relatively intact natural habitat.

Approach to Managing Biodiversity

Policies and Standards

Our [Code of Sustainable Conduct](#) describes how we will integrate biodiversity conservation considerations through all stages of business and production activities. It also outlines our commitment to continually improve our environmental practices and ensure they are fully integrated into each of our activities.

Memberships, Partnerships and External Commitments

We work with various local, national and international organizations and programs to support biodiversity:

- **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM):** A global industry association that represents leading international mining and metals companies who are required to implement the ICMM 10 Principles, including Principle 7 on conservation of biodiversity and land use planning
- **Mining Association of Canada (MAC):** Promotes the development of Canada's mining and mineral processing industry. Through MAC, we are required to implement the Towards Sustainable Mining program, which aids in improving industry performance.
- **fRI Research:** Teck has been a long-time and continuous partner with fRI Research, a non-profit organization focused on sustainable land and resource management, including their Grizzly Bear Program
- **Vancouver Aquarium:** Our partnership with the Vancouver Aquarium includes a \$12.5 million investment to support expansion of their facility and their research, conservation and education programs related to water and aquatic life
- **Nature Conservancy of Canada:** Our partnership with this leading national land conservation organization includes collaboration on conservation projects along with financial support from time to time
- **The Nature Trust of British Columbia:** Through collaboration, Teck supports the organization's goal of conserving B.C.'s biological diversity

Respecting Protected and High Biodiversity Value Areas

Protected areas include those protected by national or regional law or designated by international organizations, including United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category Ia, Ib, II, III or IV protected areas. High biodiversity value areas have features that provide essential ecosystems relied on by humans and animals, and they have an abundance of rare, vulnerable or endemic species and/or large areas of relatively intact natural habitat.

As a member of the ICMM, we are committed to not explore or develop in UNESCO World Heritage sites. Currently, none of our operations or projects are located within areas protected by UNESCO or recognized by IUCN. The road between Red Dog Operations and the port facility, which is owned by the state-owned Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, passes through the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, an IUCN category III protected area.

We have identified protected areas, areas of high biodiversity value, and species at risk that occur within 25 kilometres of our operations and major development projects. We have used this information as an input during the development of biodiversity management plans for each operation. A summary of the results of the proximity analysis, including those prioritized by international conservation initiatives such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the World Wildlife Fund's Global 200 priority ecoregions are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Teck's Proximity to Global Conservation Priority Species

Teck Site	Type of Global Conservation Priority	Sites Overlapping with Mining Operations	Sites within 25 km of Mining Operations
Andacoll	Biodiversity Hotspot	1	
	G200-Marine	1	
	G200-Terrestrial	1	
	IUCN Category III		1
	Endemic Bird Area	1	
Cardinal River	IUCN Category Ib		2
	IUCN Category II		1
	World Heritage Site		1
Coal Mountain	IUCN Category Ia		1
	IUCN Category II		2
Elkview	IUCN Category Ib		1
	IUCN Category II		2
Fording River	IUCN Category Ia		1
	IUCN Category Ib		5
	IUCN Category II		1
Galore Creek	G200-Freshwater	1	
	G200-Terrestrial		1
Greenhills	IUCN Category Ia		1
	IUCN Category Ib		3
Highland Valley Copper	G200-Freshwater	1	
	IUCN Category Ia		2
	IUCN Category II		9
	IUCN Category III		2
	IUCN Category VI		1
Line Creek	IUCN Category Ib		2
Quebrada Blanca	Biodiversity Hotspot	1	
	G200-Freshwater		1
	G200-Terrestrial	1	1
Quintette	G200-Freshwater		1
	IUCN Category II		2
Red Dog	G200-Marine	1	
	G200-Terrestrial	1	
	IUCN Category Ib		1
	IUCN Category III	1	
	IUCN Category V		1
Relincho	Biodiversity Hotspot	1	
	G200-Marine	1	
	G200-Terrestrial	1	
	Endemic Bird Area	1	
Trail	IUCN Category II		3
	IUCN Category III		1

Achieving a Net Positive Impact

Our vision for biodiversity management is to achieve a net positive impact (NPI) on biodiversity in areas affected by our activities. This means that ecosystems and biodiversity are better off at the end of mining, prior to the start of mining activities.

Mitigation Hierarchy

The mitigation hierarchy is a key framework we use to achieve our vision of NPI on biodiversity. To track and demonstrate our net positive impacts, we develop a “ledger” to account for negative and positive impacts on biodiversity. The following principles guide our approach:

- **Avoid:** Whenever possible, we avoid biodiversity impacts. In some cases, this may require significant changes in our plans in order to protect critical areas.
- **Minimize:** At all times, we minimize impacts that are unavoidable, adopting best practices in mine operations
- **Reclaim:** On a progressive basis, we rehabilitate areas in order to re-create biodiversity values. Reclamation practices can replace much or most of the diversity of the natural habitats that existed prior to mining.
- **Offset:** For areas where it may not be possible to replace all of the important biodiversity features that our mines impact, we design and implement biodiversity offsets to move towards a net positive impact on biodiversity

See this [case study](#) for additional details on how we measure our NPI.

In addition to this framework, we consider the cumulative effects to ecosystems caused by the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities of other parties. We then plan and implement protective or restorative actions based on our potential contributions to current conditions, and adjust our actions based on ongoing monitoring and research.

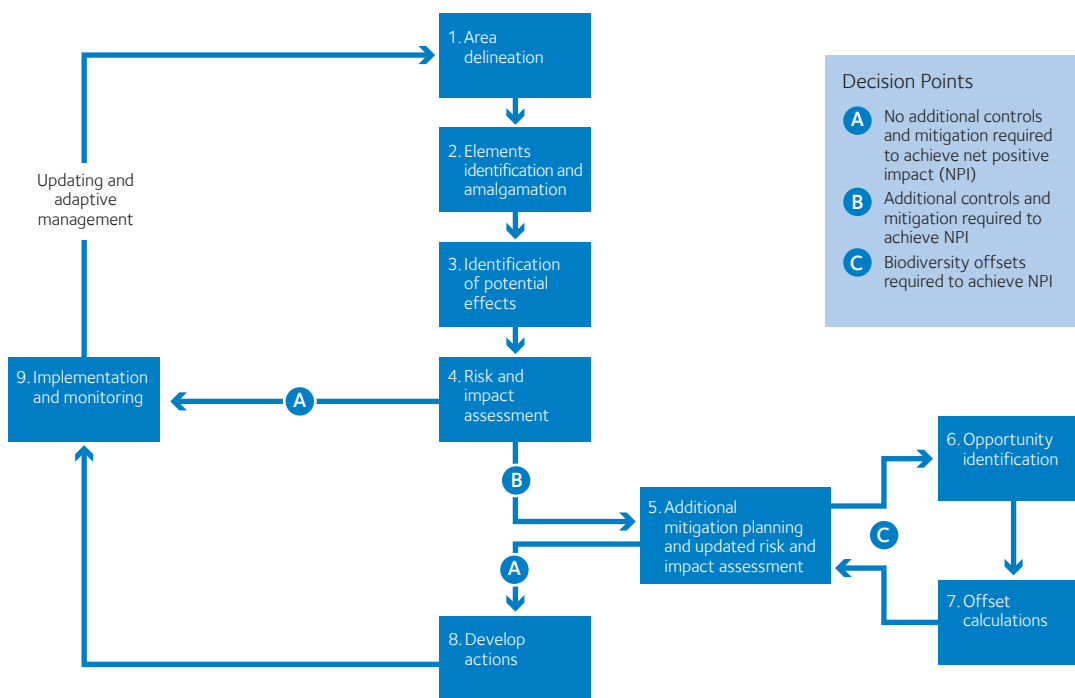
Biodiversity Management Plans

We currently have biodiversity management plans at each of our operations that set out how NPI can be achieved. Biodiversity management plans include:

- A list of ecosystems and biodiversity elements at the site
- A summary of the risks and impacts that the site and its activities pose to these elements
- A plan, developed using the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy, that demonstrates how the site will manage its impacts and mitigate risks to achieve a net positive impact for each element
- A list of activities and resources required to implement the plan

To create the biodiversity management plans, operations and advanced projects collect biodiversity information, conduct a preliminary identification of risks and existing mitigation actions, conduct gap analyses and create workplans. We identify risks, such as the viability of subsistence activities, using a register that scores risks based on biodiversity, social/community, regulatory compliance and reputational factors. These plans are reviewed internally and updated as needed annually.

Figure 1: Teck’s Approach to Developing Biodiversity Management Plans



Social Environmental and Regulatory Approvals (SERA)

Typical environmental assessments for new mines or mine extensions are similar to our biodiversity management plans, in which the ecosystems and biodiversity elements relevant to a project or operation are identified, the risks and impacts on these elements are assessed, and a mitigation plan is developed that will reduce the project’s net impacts to a targeted level.

Despite the similarities, we continue to implement our biodiversity management plans, as they are typically more expansive than the scope of an environmental assessment for the same site. Additionally, the goal of most environmental assessments is to minimize the residual impacts on biodiversity to an acceptable level; however, Teck’s goal across all sites is to achieve NPI, as described above.

Reclamation and Closure

Responsibly closing our sites and managing our legacy properties plays an important role in protecting biodiversity on the lands where mining once took place. While we are still operating at a site, we progressively reclaim portions of the mine site that are no longer required for current or possible future mining purposes. We apply the principle of “equivalent land capability” to reclaim land to the equivalent capability that will support species that live in the area, according to reclamation and land use objectives.

Our reclamation activities focused on conserving biodiversity include aerial seeding in mined-out pits and the development of diverse wildlife habitats. This is supported by monitoring, such as annual wildlife surveys, documentation of wildlife using trail cameras, and the development of tracking databases to record rare and unusual wildlife sightings.

We implement leading reclamation practices through ongoing research and maintain an internal community of practice to share this knowledge across our operations. For more information about reclamation, see the Responsible Mine Closure and Reclamation page on our website.

Reclamation Security

Many jurisdictions require mining companies to post financial security for all or part of the remaining costs associated with the mine reclamation and environmental protection. This is a precautionary measure to ensure that governments will not have to unreasonably contribute to the costs of reclamation and environmental protection of a mine site if a company is unable to meet its obligation to fully close and reclaim the site.

At Teck, we take this responsibility very seriously, and we meet all government requirements for security. We are committed to ensuring that this financial security never needs to be accessed, as we responsibly close and reclaim our mine sites, and meet all of our environmental obligations, at no cost to government or taxpayers.

Our Targets and Commitments

Our sustainability strategy outlines our goals in relation to biodiversity and reclamation at our operations.

By 2020, we will:

- Implement biodiversity management plans for each of our operations
- Integrate the consideration of biodiversity into the exploration, construction and closure stages of the mining life cycle
- Enhance our contributions to biodiversity conservation knowledge through collaboration in research, education and conservation

By 2030, we will:

- Achieve a net positive impact on biodiversity in regions where we operate through environmental management, reclamation and conservation



Biodiversity and Reclamation-Related Audits

Table 2: Biodiversity and Reclamation Audits

Type	Organization	Items Audited
External	Mining Association of Canada: Towards Sustainable Mining audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate biodiversity conservation policy, accountability and communications • Facility-level biodiversity conservation planning and implementation
External	International Council on Mining and Metals: Sustainability Report assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area reclaimed during the current year (hectares) • Total land disturbed and yet to be rehabilitated (hectares) • Biodiversity conservation reporting • Principle 7: Contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land-use planning
External	ISO 14001 External Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Components of the environmental management system at each site
Internal	Risk-based Health, Safety and Environment audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to regulatory and permit requirements • Effectiveness of controls based on risk profile

Following each of these audits, applicable management teams use the results to inform future actions and Teck's five-year planning process.

We report on our performance against these indicators and our progress towards our biodiversity and reclamation management goals on an annual basis in our [sustainability report](#).