

5.5 Biodiversity

Why it Matters to Orla

Mines can have potentially adverse impacts on biodiversity. Such impacts can occur when land or water bodies are disturbed, wildlife is displaced, or habitats are contaminated through mining processes like acid rock drainage. It's therefore important that mining companies take meaningful steps to protect and support biodiversity. Mining operations may also be subject to laws protecting endangered species and/or ecologically sensitive areas across the entire mining life cycle (including once mining is completed).

Our Approach: Path To Nature Positive Operations

Orla has environmental management plans at each of our sites to ensure we protect biodiversity and comply with permit conditions and regulatory obligations. These plans cover the different stages of project lifecycles and address risks to biodiversity. For our current operational phase at Camino Rojo, our plans include monitoring wildlife, plants, and species, with a focus on species at risk that have been identified through the environmental baseline studies. These plans address risks to various biodiversity elements and ensure that we comply with permit conditions, regulatory obligations, and protections.

Orla is committed to following the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, minimization, restoration, and offsetting to reduce any negative impacts on biodiversity from our mining development as much as possible. We perform studies during the environmental permitting phase to gather sufficient knowledge about local ecosystems and habitats. We also submit Change of Land Use Plans and Environmental Impact Assessments to regulatory authorities for review and approval prior to commencing mine operation.



Cerro Quema site

We minimize the size of land we occupy for mining. Orla understands that mining is a temporary land use, and by minimizing the size of our disturbance, we save time and money when it comes to the inevitable reclamation of the site. This approach has other efficiencies, such as shorter haul distances and less fuel burned. Prior to any land disturbance, we salvage soils and any protected plants, such as cactus species, to ensure that we have the materials necessary for the reclamation stage.

With respect to restoration, we have a progressive reclamation policy. Once disturbed land is at its final designed landform, we perform reclamation activities and, where necessary, we consider offsetting by protecting areas of similar or greater habitat quality in other parts of the region in which we operate. Orla manages 13.49 ha of protected land to ensure these ecosystems and their biodiversity components are not impacted by our activities or other activities. Our Camino Rojo site maintains a nursery to grow both culturally and environmentally significant plants that are to be used in reclamation activities to enhance the ecosystems we reinstate.

Orla maintains a closure plan that addresses the final landform, vegetation types and densities and habitat qualities. These are agreed to by government officials and are discussed with local communities. Under Mexican regulations by SEMARNAT, Orla maintains a guarantee closure bond that assures money is available for proper guarantee of our site in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

2022 Highlights



25.70 hectares
of land reclaimed

454,699.6 m³
rich soil recovered and stored for future
remediation activities

303.54 ha
total footprint of the Camino Rojo mine
operation at the end of 2022

2022 Highlights

- Over the past two years, 2021 and 2022, our plant nursery at Camino Rojo produced 10,701 plants, of which 5,051 were grown from local seed stock. These plants will be maintained and used to replenish lands impacted by our mining activities.
- Our site teams rescued 13,586 plants with protection status during 2020 and 2021, and relocated 272 animals that were similarly protected.
- Demonstrating our commitment to progressive reclamation, during our first year of operation in 2022, we reclaimed 25.70 ha of land, previously used for exploration activities.
- In 2022, Camino Rojo updated its Closure and Environmental Restoration Plan including a review of its budget estimation.
- In 2022, we announced a multi-partner collaboration in Zacatecas, Mexico, to conserve and protect ecologically significant lands near our Camino Rojo mine. These types of partnerships are a key part of our approach to being a good steward of the ecosystems we are part of and to sustainably using and protecting natural resources.

2023 Focus

- Continue to develop multi-stakeholder initiatives and collaborate with local communities, ejidos, conservation groups, and private partners to protect unique ecosystems and species around our mining properties.