

Our Approach to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



After completing our materiality assessment and reviewing feedback from our stakeholder survey, we have identified four priority SDGs that are most relevant to our business and stakeholders. Focusing our ESG actions and strategic investments on these SDGs helps us to identify the actions and programs that will contribute the most to sustainable improvements in the regions in which we work, and also the activities required to mitigate potential adverse impacts. In 2022, we will create strategies to address the following four SDGs.



SDG3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

Equinox Gold is committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of our workforce and our local communities. We have therefore:

- Established a rigorous health and safety culture
- Carefully considered quality of life in our workforce lodgings
- Implemented health monitoring for our workforce
- Implemented proactive COVID-19 safety protocols and supported COVID-19 education campaigns and vaccination programs in host communities
- Established thorough systems to identify and monitor potential risks from our operations to air, water and land, and established effective incident management protocols

Beyond our own operations, health and wellbeing is a focus for our community investments. We make significant investments in local health care and regularly partner with local government and other organizations for health promotion and road safety campaigns. During the COVID-19 pandemic we ensured our sites implemented protocols to reduce the risk of infection in our workforce and local communities by routinely testing our workforce, even if they did not show symptoms, to identify potential carriers before they inadvertently passed the virus to others. We also invested in community health by donating essential medical equipment, supplies and funds for medical services and health care facilities, and working with local health authorities to run COVID-19 prevention

campaigns and promote vaccination programs. Across the Company, we regularly carry out health education programs for the workforce and local communities across a range of preventable illnesses.

More information on how we work to reduce adverse impacts and enhance our contributions to good health and wellbeing is provided in *Health and Safety*, in *Community Engagement and Development* and in *Environment and Climate Change*. In addition, our Environment and Climate Change Policy summarizes our commitments to environmental management and our Health and Safety Policy summarizes our commitments to excellence in health and safety management.



SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

We invest significant resources to ensure we do not have a negative impact on water quality or availability in the regions in which we operate. Our sites comply with all required effluent discharge and prescribed water quality standards, although most of our sites are zero-discharge, which means water impacted by operations is either stored on site for later use or evaporated. All of our operations monitor water sources in the region to ensure water quality is within permitted limits.

Beyond responsibly managing our own operations, we have also supported community water infrastructure. In 2021, Equinox Gold made significant investments to improve water quality for the village near our Aurizona mine in Brazil, repairing and extending the water distribution network, in partnership with the municipality, and installing a new water treatment plant that will more effectively serve the community's water needs. At our Los Filos mine in Mexico, we have established a water quality community monitoring program and are working with one community to upgrade their distribution system.

Water is an important resource for mining and a critical resource for local communities, agriculture and the ecosystems surrounding our mines. As a member of

the Mining Association of Canada, we are implementing the Towards Sustainable Mining Water Stewardship protocol at all of our mine sites.

Our Environment and Climate Change Policy commits our operations to understanding and addressing water-related risks and impacts at the local catchment level. More information on how we work to reduce adverse impacts and enhance contributions to clean water and sanitation is provided in *Water Management*.



SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

Equinox Gold is committed to promoting economic growth and opportunities in the communities surrounding our operations and to providing meaningful work to our employees and contractors. To contribute to this SDG target, Equinox Gold:

- Hires locally as much as possible, providing quality direct employment to local communities and catalysing indirect and induced employment through support business opportunities
- Drives economic development with local procurement, and actively distributes information about opportunities and requirements to encourage engagement with local businesses
- Participates in the Young Apprentice Program in Brazil
- Runs training programs at all of our sites so community members can obtain the skills required to work with our Company

We are proud that at all of our sites, the majority of workers come from the local communities and regions where we work. Our Social Responsibility and Human Rights Policy commits our sites, business partners and suppliers to creating opportunities for local procurement, employment and skills development, as well as local economic development. More details on our efforts to provide meaningful work and promote economic growth can be found in *Community Engagement & Development*.



SDG15 – Life on Land

Equinox Gold is committed to preventing or mitigating the impact of mining activities on habitat and species loss and promoting conservation of local biodiversity. Beyond adherence to all local and federal regulations, we follow additional voluntary standards and have created management systems to prevent or mitigate any adverse impact to the regions in which we operate. Special consideration is given to fragile ecosystems, local threatened species and critical habitats.

We are committed to progressive site remediation where possible, including replanting with native species. At Los Filos, progressive reclamation has included the use of biodegradable materials as erosion and water management controls on reclaimed waste rock piles. At all of our sites we have created nurseries with locally sourced native plants that can be transplanted as we reclaim certain areas, and have established seed banks that will be used to reseed disturbed land when operations cease.

We promote conservation of local biodiversity and seek to partner with local communities, NGOs, government or academia to achieve positive biodiversity outcomes in the areas in which we operate. At Castle Mountain, we partnered with the Searchlight Township to transplant Joshua trees throughout the community, an initiative that protects the Joshua trees and also expands green spaces in the community. At Mercedes, our efforts have focused on the protection of threatened bat species, while in Brazil, we purchase extensive areas of undisturbed land and protect these areas from development, hunting and poaching.

Our Environment and Climate Change Policy commits our operations to preventing and mitigating negative impacts to biodiversity through effective land management processes, performing progressive reclamation during operations and regularly updating closure plans to take into consideration the interests of host communities. More details on how we manage our impacts on biodiversity and the ecosystems surrounding our operations, as well as our approach to reclamation and closure, are available in *Biodiversity and Reclamation and Closure*.