

## Aurizona Wetland Protection and Seedling Nursery

Our Aurizona Mine is located near wetlands that are part of the Brazilian Amazon biome. These wetlands are host to an extraordinary diversity of plants and animals and are fundamental to the conservation of global biodiversity and protection of the Amazon ecosystem.

We have programs in place to monitor the health and diversity of flora and fauna in the region, including a partnership with the Ecos de Gaia Institute. This partnership includes flora and fauna relocation and rescue programs, monitoring the health of local ecosystems and relocating native plant and animal species to increase diversity in areas that have been reforested.

As part of our commitment to environmental protection and progressive site reclamation, Aurizona rehabilitates areas that have been previously used for exploration or mining activities. To support its reforestation efforts, Aurizona has a seedling nursery for native species with the capacity to produce more than 18,000 seedlings a year from a native seed bank. Since 2018, nearly 9,000 seedlings have been planted in areas surrounding the mine, beginning the reforestation process across more than 118,540 m<sup>2</sup> of land.

This program has been aided by a committed composting effort by site employees. Every day our employees separate compostable material from other waste streams in our meal rooms. During 2021, almost 39,000 kilograms of food waste was diverted to composting, making useful fertilizer from waste.

Aurizona also donates seedlings to neighbouring communities and its employees, which helps to support reforestation efforts and also provides community education on the importance of biodiversity and environmental protection, to ensure the long-term health of the Brazilian Amazon biome.

## Progressive Reclamation at Los Filos

During 2016-2021, progressive reclamation at Los Filos has been carried out to ensure the physical and chemical stability of the waste rock piles. To control erosion, the team reshapes the slopes, constructs water diversion channels and installs mats of biodegradable material. Other work to maintain physical stability includes hydroseeding with grasses and reforestation with species native to the region, with about a 90% success rate. Finally, we incorporate findings from environmental studies to achieve soil restoration efforts and re-establishment of native flora and fauna so the area can revert to its natural ecosystem.

In total 121 hectares of waste rock have been reshaped and 84 hectares have been hydroseeded, reforested and had structures installed to guard against wind and rain erosion. Successful re-establishment of vegetation has resulted in a noticeable increase of biological activity in the reclaimed areas. Our monitoring programs show that many species of insects, birds, mammals and reptiles have established themselves or have used reclaimed areas to move from one habitat to another.



April 2017



May 2021

## 2021 Performance

During 2021, all Equinox Gold operations carried out progressive reclamation activities at our mine sites, reclaiming a total of 114 hectares of land.

## What's Next

In 2022, Equinox Gold operations will carry out progressive reclamation activities and we will continue to align our practices, systems, and standards with the RGMP on Biodiversity, Land Use and Mine Closure. We will also ensure closure plans are reviewed and updated for all sites.