

OUR APPROACH

Environmental Compliance & Incident Management

Equinox Gold operates under strict regulations and high stakeholder expectations. We are compliant with the environmental mining standards applicable to our operations. Compliance isn't just a requirement – it's a responsibility we take seriously to maintain trust, reduce environmental risk and support the long-term viability of our operations.



Why This Topic Matters to Us

Our Company's activities are guided by many environmental laws, regulations and standards that govern the full life cycle of mining, from exploration to mining operations to end-of-mine closure and reclamation. Mine operators must comply with significant regulatory requirements around environmental protection, and we must meet our stakeholders' expectations. Our ability to maintain productive, uninterrupted business operations depends on cooperation with stakeholders, including the governing authorities that grant or control our permits, licenses and agreements.

DISCLOSURES

[GRI 3-3](#)[GRI 2- 27](#)

A Commitment to Environmental Performance

We follow a formal [Environment and Climate Change Policy](#) that summarizes our expectations for our workforce and suppliers and our commitment to strong environmental performance.

We apply international standards and industry best practices to avoid, wherever possible, or mitigate the environmental impacts of our activities. To ensure compliance with our environmental performance and permitting obligations, we maintain an environmental management system (EMS) based on the ISO14001:2015 framework that tracks the standards Equinox Gold operations must satisfy. The EMS tracks and documents external and internal communication requirements set by organizations in which Equinox Gold is a member, including the Mining Association of Canada and the World Gold Council, and reflects international reporting frameworks, including the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). During 2024, the EMS was updated to improve and standardize our environmental management practices.

Managing Environmental Permits and Licenses

Site teams track compliance with all environmental permits and licenses and work closely with mine planners to identify any additional permits that may be required to support continuity of operations.

The teams also coordinate the efforts of internal departments and external consultants to conduct the studies required to understand potential environmental impacts and develop appropriate mitigation strategies as part of the permit application process. This proactive approach to permitting is intended to de-risk potential impacts to site operations by ensuring necessary permits are received in a timely manner. Site permitting teams engage regularly with regulators and local communities in advance of, and during, the permitting process to ensure timely responses to requests for additional information as a means of streamlining the permitting process.

Emergency Response

Emergency response is managed under the Company's Corporate Crisis Management Plan, which outlines a crisis management framework including emergency communications. The corporate office and mines are aligned using the Incident Command System, which is a standardized international system that allows for proper communication and documentation of any incident. Each mine also has its own Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that outlines the appropriate response at a site level and includes documented triggers for incident notification to escalate issues across the organization as needed.

All our sites have completed risk assessments to understand the types of emergency events that may be encountered. Scenario-specific response plans are developed (e.g., fire, cyanide spill) and included in the site-level ERPs, which outline actions to be taken during an emergency including community and local stakeholder communications. Sites perform emergency drills annually to simulate their response to different emergencies documented in the ERPs, and use the lessons learned from each exercise to improve operational readiness. Emergency response team members also receive training specific to their role to ensure they are adequately prepared.

Managing Environmental Incidents

We use detailed incident reporting, comprehensive investigations and a number of indicators to track our environmental risks and performance, so that trend analyses can be completed to highlight areas for improvement. All our mining and exploration projects report, investigate and remediate environmental incidents in compliance with Equinox Gold's Incident Reporting Guidelines so we can investigate these events and develop new strategies and procedures to improve. The Board Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee receives quarterly reports on our environmental performance.

We use a five-tier rating system that classifies incidents as 'low,' 'minor,' 'moderate,' 'major' or 'catastrophic.' Incidents classified as moderate or above are considered 'significant' and include:

- Cyanide spills outside of normal containment area
- Multiple wildlife deaths due to cyanide
- Death of species with special protection status according to local jurisdiction

- Environment-related regulatory non-compliance that triggers regulatory reporting and fines
- Spills that trigger regulatory reporting and fines
- Confirmed abnormal monitoring results detecting cyanide outside of a cyanide facility

Mine Closure

In recognition of the potential economic, social and environmental impacts our operations could have on local communities, Equinox Gold develops and maintains extensive mine closure plans for each of our sites to prepare for the future end of operations and transition to closure and reclamation activities. These plans, which are often required by federal, state and local authorities before issuing mine operating permits and licenses, are scrutinized by governing agencies to ensure the plans are adequate to meet our commitments when a mine closure occurs.

All our mine closure plans have associated cost estimates that are updated at frequencies prescribed by the jurisdictions in which they operate so the anticipated cost of closure can be included in our financial reporting as asset retirement obligations. Depending on the jurisdiction, closure plans take into consideration a range of impacts such as direct and indirect job loss, the economic impact on local commerce, reduced taxation income for surrounding communities, and potential environmental risks at the closed mine site, including shuttered facilities, water quality issues, land contamination or subsidence, and degradation of the surrounding ecosystem.

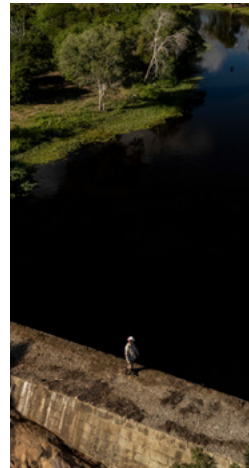
Our mine closure plans include efforts to mitigate these risks throughout the mine's operating life. For example, we prioritize progressive reclamation during mine operations to reduce the amount of effort required during closure and to return the site to a more natural and stable state as soon as practicable. Mine closure planning also aims to ensure nearby communities develop other forms of income and employment opportunities. We make direct investments in community projects to reduce direct economic dependence on the mine operation and encourage economic diversification, including agriculture, tourism, renewable energy and small businesses. We also invest in crucial local infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities and roadways and provide training and support so the communities can maintain this infrastructure after the mine closes.

Accountability

All employees and contractors are required to follow our [Environment and Climate Change Policy](#) and record and report environmental incidents. The Company's Director of Environmental Affairs, based at our corporate office, has general responsibility for monitoring and collating incident reporting data from the mine sites and providing this information to the Company's Vice President Health, Safety and Environment. This information is reported quarterly to the Board ESG Committee.

The Board ESG Committee is responsible for the Company's standards, policies and programs relating to environment, social and governance matters, including health, safety, sustainable development, climate change, community relations, human rights, government relations and social responsibility, and for monitoring the Company's performance regarding the same.

Details about the ESG Committee's structure and mandate are available in our [2025 Management Information Circular](#).



EXPLORE OUR PERFORMANCE AND METRICS

View Equinox Gold's [annual Sustainability Report](#) for our performance indicators relevant to our environmental compliance and incident management.