

OUR APPROACH

Water Stewardship

Water stewardship across our operations is an integral component of our responsible mining strategy. Our goal is to protect local and regional water resources and to conserve and reuse water as much as possible during our mining activities.



Why This Topic Matters to Us

Water is a critical resource for mining, for our host communities and for the flora and fauna surrounding our operations. Water also consistently ranks near the top of our materiality assessment results. Addressing water stewardship is not only a responsible and ethical choice for a mining company but also a strategic decision that aligns with regulatory compliance, risk mitigation, access to capital and long-term responsible mining goals.

DISCLOSURES

GRI 3-3	GRI 303-5
GRI 303-1	SASB EM-MM-140a.1
GRI 303-2	SASB EM-MM-140a.2
GRI 303-3	
GRI 303-4	



Committed to Safeguarding Water Resources

Equinox Gold's operating sites are spread across a range of locations and ecosystems, from the western deserts of the United States to the tropical forests of northern Brazil to the boreal forests of the Canadian Shield. Each of these areas provides both opportunities and risks related to water management.

A Strategic Approach

We have developed an enterprise-wide Water Stewardship Strategy to guide and prioritize our decisions, investments and actions in support of water management. The strategy is aligned with the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Water Stewardship Framework the Towards Sustainable Mining Water Stewardship protocol and the Responsible Gold Mining Principles.

At the site level, to ensure effective and transparent water resource management, the mines have teams that communicate and report water management performance, oversee environmental compliance and develop strategies to mitigate socio-environmental impacts. Key water performance indicators and targets are disclosed in our annual Sustainability Report and accompanying appendices.

To address our shared interests in water management, Equinox Gold meets regularly with local stakeholders to discuss water-related topics and priorities. We have benchmarked our corporate water stewardship strategy against peers in the mining industry and have also undertaken benchmarking at the asset level to evaluate how each mine's water use intensity compares to similar operations (similar size, processing flowsheet and climatic setting).

Managing Water Risks and Impacts

All our mines have water management and water quality monitoring programs focused on surface water and groundwater quality to mitigate potential impacts of our operations. Equinox Gold uses a water balance to understand the various inputs and outputs of water at each site. This requires an in-depth understanding of the hydrology, climate, and hydrogeology of the site as well as the production needs of the mine.

Water withdrawn by the sites varies depending on the type of process used to extract gold from the ore, the size of the mine, the climate and the geographic location. Many of our mines operate in arid and semi-arid regions, or in regions with a distinct wet and dry season. Our sites implement site-specific water management practices to address water-related risks during both drier or wetter periods in accordance with operating permits, stakeholder agreements and operational designs.

Minimizing Consumption, Maximizing Reuse

We strive to reuse water (water recycling) as much as possible. This helps reduce overall consumption, lessen our dependence on community water sources and enhance water security for our operations. We reuse water that has percolated through our heap leach pads and reclaim water from our tailings storage facilities (TSFs). Through our environmental management system, we continually assess compliance with our permitted water allocations and track how much water we withdraw and consume at each site.

Monitoring Water Quality and Effluent Discharge

We also work to protect water quality through effluent management. Water impacted by operations is closely monitored for water quality and the results compared against permitted discharge limits and water management practices. Where we are required to discharge water, we ensure water quality complies with permitted standards before discharge. We also evaluate the use of evaporators to reduce excessive water inventories in areas with a positive water balance.

We carefully manage chemicals used in the mining and processing of ore. Contaminants can move through the air in dust particles or become mobilized in water. To eliminate or mitigate the impact of our operations on local water quality, we have procedures in place to reduce dust and ensure any water-born contaminants are either contained on site or treated to appropriate water quality standards before any effluent is discharged. We also monitor water quality in both surface and groundwater sources to detect if any mine-related contaminants have affected water bodies outside our approved mining areas so we can take appropriate action to mitigate the issue and prevent recurrence.

Monitoring programs to detect cyanide in both surface and groundwater are required by the International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC), of which Equinox Gold is a signatory. Our Aurizona, Mesquite, Los Filos, Castle Mountain and Fazenda mines are certified in compliance with the ICMC. RDM completed its certification audit in Q4 2024 and is expected to be fully certified in 2025. Santa Luz is scheduled to complete its gap assessment in Q1 2025 to identify missing or incomplete elements required for full certification. Greenstone is expected to be certified by 2027 based on the allowable three-year timeframe following achieving commercial production.

Building Climate Resilience

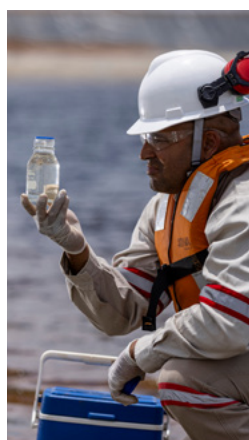
The effects of climate change may impact both our mine water balance and our structures, such as water storage facilities and TSFs. We regularly review our storage facility design parameters and update the mine site hydrology based on recent rainfall events. We engage licensed professionals to oversee and review the designs for these structures, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

Accountability

All employees and contractors are required to follow our [Environment and Climate Change Policy](#) and record and report all water-related and other environmental incidents. The Company's Director of Environmental Affairs, based at our corporate office, has general responsibility for monitoring and collating water stewardship reporting data from the mine sites and providing this information to the Company's Vice President Health, Safety and Environment.

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 can be found 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 water stewardship.