



# Mining and Metals: The Opportunity to Contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework

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“When mining companies engaged at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) they shared solutions that show how our industry has a unique role to play in supporting a nature-positive agenda.” Hayley Zipp, Director of Environment, ICMM

Nature and biodiversity loss is occurring at an alarming pace. Species extinction rates are 100–1,000 times the historical norm, with a huge acceleration in the last 150 years. This degradation puts over half of the world’s annual GDP at risk.

Taking urgent action to halt and reverse nature loss is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and reaching global decarbonisation targets. This requires an integrated, whole- of society approach, with the critical participation of Indigenous Peoples, land-connected peoples and local communities, and transformation in how companies and society have historically interacted with the natural environment.

ICMM’s Nature commitments, released in January 2024, set out a 5-point plan for nature:

1. Protect and conserve pristine areas of our natural environment.
2. Halt biodiversity loss at our operations.
3. Collaborate across value chains.

4. Restore and enhance landscapes.
5. Catalyse wider change.

These commitments apply to activities across all four realms of nature—land, freshwater, oceans, and atmosphere—leveraging companies’ areas of influence to create the conditions required to achieve systems transformation.

## How Mining and Metals Companies Can Contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework

When world leaders met in Montreal for COP15 in December 2022, they adopted the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#), setting out clear goals and targets to align global efforts to protect all life on Earth. For ICMM, this increase in ambition is an opportunity to contribute across the spectrum of targets by accelerating participation in large-scale conservation and restoration, and through providing open data and knowledge sharing.



## The Global Biodiversity Framework in Action

Targets Relevant to Mining	ICMM Member Case Study
1. All areas under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning	Anglo American's Collaborative Regional Development model partners with governments, communities, NGOs and finance to support sustainable economic development. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
2. At least 30% of degraded ecosystems under restoration	Alcoa has partnered with NGOs and local academics to develop new technologies to improve seed performance during landscape revegetation, increasing the establishment success of some seeded species by as much as 40%. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
3. Effectively conserve and manage 30% of ecosystems	In November 2022, Vale launched <a href="#">Biomás</a> , an enterprise dedicated to restoring and protecting 4 million hectares of native forests across diverse Brazilian biomes, including the Amazon, Atlantic Forest, and Cerrado. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>



Targets Relevant to Mining	ICMM Member Case Study
4. Halt human-induced extinction and recover and conserve species	BHP is using eDNA and tagging technology to track and gather genetic information on the endangered Pilbara Olive Python in Western Australia. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
6. Reduce introduction and establishment of invasive species by at least 50%	South32 protected Groote Eylandt, the fourth largest island in Australia, from invasive species, winning a 2023 Australian Biosecurity Award. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
7. Reduce negative impact of pollution to levels unharmed to biodiversity	Sibanye Stillwater is using aquatic biomonitoring and specialist ecosystem assessments to monitor impact on freshwater habitats. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
8. Minimise the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity	De Beers is supporting the growth of kelp forests on the Namibian coast that will sequester carbon, increase biodiversity and support local communities. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>

Targets Relevant to Mining	ICMM Member Case Study
10. Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably	Gold Fields has rehabilitated the ecosystem around its Damang Mine Tailings Storage Facility in Ghana to develop an agroforestry system and self-sustaining wetland fishing area for local communities. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
11. Enhance the contribution of nature to people	Barrick is creating access to fresh water for local communities at its Kibali Gold Mine in the DRC. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
13. Fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources	Anglo American is using eDNA to manage, measure and share 30,000 data points on water quality and biodiversity to achieve a net positive impact in North Yorkshire. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
14. Integrate biodiversity values across all sectors including government planning	Boliden and Svermin have published a roadmap for biodiversity net gain by 2030 for the Swedish mining industry, including key recommendations for policymakers. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
15. Business to monitor, assess and improve transparency on biodiversity impacts	ICMM was the official mining and metals piloting partner of the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), working to develop metrics and disclosures for nature impacts and dependencies in the sector. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
16. Equitably reduce global consumption footprint	Glencore is partnering with businesses across the electronics and batteries supply chains to create circular models. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
19. Mobilise \$200bn for technological and scientific cooperation	Teck has launched a \$10m fund to promote Indigenous stewardship of nature in its operational regions. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
20. Effectively implement technological and scientific cooperation	Hydro has partnered with the Federal University of Pará to study aquatic biodiversity in Barcarena, Brazil, and help the company and wider community understand local biodiversity. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
21. Guide equitable governance of the best available data and information	Rio Tinto has publicly shared its site-by-site water usage and catchment data through interactive mapping. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>
22. Equitable and inclusive decision-making	South32 is working with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and researchers from the University of Wollongong to co-design environmental management approaches based on Aboriginal knowledge systems. <a href="#">Find out more.</a>

## What Comes Next?

The real work on implementing the GBF begins now. The mining and metals sector has a unique opportunity to help deliver a wide range of targets in the Framework, this includes:

- Working with experts within our member companies and from organisations across the globe to develop a nature positive roadmap for the mining sector and to accelerate action on the ground.
- Supporting the development of robust, standardised and credible metrics for nature, such as the [Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#) sector-specific guidance and reporting metrics where

ICMM collaborated with 13 leading companies and cross-sector partners as a piloting partner.

- Actively seeking opportunities to partner with others at a landscape scale for a nature positive future.

As land stewards, suppliers of minerals for the energy transition, and as an industry that is dependent on healthy functioning ecosystems, the mining and metals sector understands the urgency and importance of successfully implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. A collaborative approach is vital for creating an equitable, sustainable and nature positive world, and we look forward to playing our part.

### About ICMM

ICMM stands for mining with principles. We bring together a third of the global metals and mining industry, along with key partners to drive leadership, action and innovation for sustainable development, ultimately delivering a positive contribution to society.

Through collaboration, ICMM member companies set the standard for responsibly produced minerals and metals in a safe, just and sustainable world.

### Contact Details

ICMM  
53-64 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1QS  
United Kingdom

[info@icmm.com](mailto:info@icmm.com)

[icmm.com](https://icmm.com)

