3.2
Biodiversity

Our commitment to biodiversity starts with planning ahead to identify and address any possible ecological, wildlife, and land use impacts. Orla has environmental management plans at each of our sites to ensure we monitor and protect biodiversity and comply with permit conditions and regulatory obligations. These plans cover the different stages of project lifecycles and address risks to various biodiversity elements. Our plans include monitoring wildlife, plants, and species, with a focus on species at risk that have been identified through the environmental baseline studies.

We view partnerships as essential to good stewardship of our surrounding ecosystems. Orla collaborates with local governments, local communities, ejidos, conservation groups, and private partners to protect unique ecosystems and species around our mining properties. We also understand that

Why it Matters

A mine's physical footprint can be significant, and poor geochemical management of waste rock can lead to serious environmental impacts, including acid rock drainage (ARD), metal leaching, and contamination of surrounding soil and water bodies. These processes can degrade natural habitats, threaten biodiversity, and result in long-term ecological damage. To prevent such outcomes, Orla implements robust waste rock management strategies, including thorough geochemical characterization, segregation of potentially acid-generating materials, and appropriate storage and treatment measures. These actions help safeguard ecosystems throughout the mining life cycle, including post-closure, and support compliance with environmental regulations and global commitments.

biodiversity and climate risks go hand in hand, so we take an integrated sustainability approach to addressing those challenges.

Mitigation Hierarchy

Orla is committed to following the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, minimization, restoration, and offsetting to reduce any negative impacts on biodiversity from our mining development as much as possible. We perform baseline studies during the environmental permitting phase to gather sufficient knowledge about local ecosystems and habitats.

Orla understands that mining is a temporary land use, and by minimizing the size of our disturbance, we are being environmentally responsible in parallel with saving time and money when it comes to the required reclamation of the site. This approach brings other efficiencies, such as shorter haul distances and reduces fuel consumption. Prior to any land disturbance, we salvage soils and any protected plants, such as cactus species, with the goal of ensuring we have the materials necessary for the reclamation stage.

Progressive Reclamation

Orla has a progressive reclamation standard. Once disturbed land is at its final designed landform, we perform reclamation activities and, where necessary, we consider offsetting by protecting areas of similar or greater habitat quality in other parts of the region in which we operate. Orla manages 13.49 ha of conservation land to ensure these ecosystems and their biodiversity components are not impacted by our activities or other activities at Camino Rojo.

Camino Rojo also maintains a nursery to grow both culturally and environmentally significant plants that are to be used in reclamation activities to enhance the ecosystems we reinstate. We also have a Closure Plan for the site, which has been approved by local governments and shared with host communities, that addresses the final landform, vegetation types and densities, as well as habitat qualities. Under Mexican regulations by the Secretary of Environment, SEMARNAT, Orla maintains a guaranteed closure bond that assures money is available for proper guarantee of our site in the event of unforeseen circumstances. As part of our ongoing efforts, we plan to expand the botanical garden by 0.77 ha, the nursery by 0.35 ha, and significantly increase the conservation and restoration areas to 36.74 ha and 8.38 ha, respectively, further supporting ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.