

# MINING AND BIODIVERSITY: THE CASE FOR TRANSPARENCY

## MINING AND BIODIVERSITY

Minerals and metals play an important role in society, both in everyday life and in the **transition to a zero-carbon future**.

Their increasing demand poses significant risk to biodiverse ecosystems and tropical forests. Countries must balance a need for increased revenue from mining against the negative impact resulting from a lack regulatory oversight and enforcement capability.

Mineral extraction currently accounts for up to 7 % of tropical deforestation. Some of the minerals and metals most reliant on forest-based mines are presented on the map below.

### BIODIVERSITY RISK

This year's *World Economic Forum Global Risks Report* ranked biodiversity loss as a top 5 global risk. Biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems has dramatic consequences for business and will inevitably impact bottom lines.

The mining sector is particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss, for example, this loss can lead to increased water scarcity - a serious concern for many mining operations.

With mining set to move to remote and more ecologically sensitive areas, the biodiversity risk to the mining sector will increase. Urgent action is needed by companies in the sector to reduce their impact on critical areas and reduce their business risk. A lack of consistent and comparable data on biodiversity issues in the mining sector limits scrutiny and action.

## CDP'S NEW METALS & MINING AND COAL SECTOR QUESTIONS



Disclosure on biodiversity issues is a critical step in advancing corporate accountability and reducing impact on critical ecosystems. Through **CDP's new Forests Metals & Mining and Coal sector questions**, companies can disclose this data in a structured, transparent and comparable manner. Companies can use the data to track progress against commitments and/or benchmark against peers on a topic that is gaining increasing investor attention.

Mining as a deforestation driver



Information sources: World Bank 2019, Sonter et al 2017, Chatham House 2015

### Key aspects covered by these new questions include:



Potential **impacts on biodiversity**, e.g.

- Area of land managed and disturbed (**deforestation/ degradation**)
- Impact on **protected areas** and **biodiversity**.



**Actions** being taken to **mitigate biodiversity impacts**, e.g.

- Governance** of biodiversity issues
- Biodiversity-related **policies, commitments** and **targets**
- Adoption of the **mitigation hierarchy** and **Biodiversity Action Plans**
- Implementation of other sector best practices like **restoration/rehabilitation** and **offset** projects

### New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF)

The NYDF is a partnership of governments, multinational companies, civil society and indigenous peoples who strive to halve deforestation by 2020 and to end it by 2030. NYDF goal 3 aims to "significantly reduce deforestation derived from other economic sectors by 2020", including mining. The data collected through CDP's new sector questions will contribute to the 2020 progress assessment of the NYDF Goal 3 (see <https://forestdeclaration.org>).

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