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Biodiversity

Our properties tend to form part of complex ecosystems with high biodiversity value representative of arid and semi-arid zones, but the areas that are protected, where there are critical zones for the preservation of ecosystems, are far from our operations. None of our operating units are located in protected areas and only our operations at La Caridad are adjacent to a Protected Area, Ajos-Bavispe in Sonora.

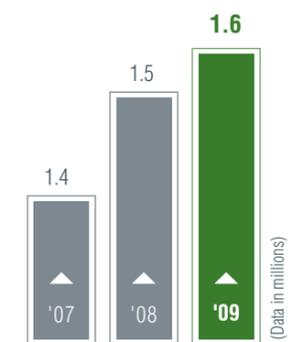
Our environmental responsibility in terms of managing impacts on zones with high biodiversity value, and in general on any ecosystem, has five basic components.

Managing impacts on zones with high biodiversity value	
1	Identification of potential impacts and their prevention is the first stage in our management system and is considered a priority in the preparation of our projects and our operations.
2	Ordered handling of our large volume waste, and also the waste from the tailings dams and the open pit mines.
3	Mitigation of those impacts that are unavoidable, through support for protected areas and responding to other local environmental needs.
4	Remediation, which is feasible after the process that created the disturbance is finished, either because a deposit is exhausted or any other reason.
5	Development of Closure Plans. In the case of our operations in Peru, these plans are mandatory and in 2009, the three Production Units of Southern Peru (SPCC) received approval for their Mine Closure Plans from the corresponding environmental authorities. Our operations in Mexico are starting to adopt these plans as part of their ongoing improvement process.

As part of our actions to mitigate the environmental impact, we have developed projects to create nurseries, focused on the recovery of the local ecosystems by cultivating indigenous species, to add to the existing nurseries at La Caridad and in the city of San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Three additional nurseries are expected to be completed in 2010.

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1. Tarantulas, in addition to their medical and ecological importance, are the second largest group in the animal kingdom after insects. We frequently find the black tarantula (*brachypelma sp.*) around the Metallurgic Complex at "La Caridad", Sonora.
2. Most of our mines are located in arid zones where we can find cacti, desert plants. It is common to see rainbow cactus (*echinocereus rigidissimus*) in Santa Bárbara, desert prickly pear (*opuntia engelmannii*), and occasionally living rock cacti (*ariocarpus fissuratus*) in Charcas. Many of these are protected species because of illegal trade and removal.
3. The Mexican chameleon (*phrynosoma solare*) is a species with an extraordinary ability to adapt to the desert climate and belongs to a group of 14 lizards, of which 13 live in Mexico. Our mines are located within the geographic range of 9 of these. (eg. Caridad and the Lime Plant in Sonora).
4. Amphibians are species used to measure the quality of the environment and their presence reveals an ecosystem that has not been significantly altered. The gray tree frog (*hyla crysoscelis*) is a temperate zone amphibian and is found in high areas, such as the residential zone of El Globo at the "La Caridad" mine in Sonora.
5. The black iguana (*ctenosaura pectinata*) is a species indigenous to the tropical zones of Mexico and can be seen around the Taxco mine unit. This species is in danger of extinction because of illegal poaching despite being protected under NOM-059 SEMARNAT.



NUMBER OF TREES PRODUCED
MINING DIVISIONA