

# Biodiversity and Landscape Restoration



GRI 304-1; 304-2; 304-3; 304-4

**We care about preserving biodiversity and monitor the efficiency of the measures that we take to reduce our impact on it. Our assets do not operate in any protected natural areas and areas of high biodiversity value. In addition, their activities do not affect the habitats of species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List or national conservation list.**

An integral part of Metinvest's activities is the complete restoration of disturbed lands as a result of its mining operations in the regions of its presence. We undertake a range of measures aimed at preserving landscapes, reducing the area of disturbed lands, and restoring sites to their previous condition.

In 2020, Ingulets GOK performed various work at its tailings storage facilities and waste dumps. This included planting 4 hectares of rye and 0.7 hectares of rapeseed; landscaping 5 kilometres of tailings storage facility braces using fertilisers and rapeseed; planting 7,000 young acacia, ash, mulberry and pine trees;

planting more than 100 kilograms of field, pasture and nectar-bearing grass seeds; and working to eliminate ragweed from 3 hectares of land.

The Group's other mining and processing plants also performed landscaping projects in their sanitary protection zones. To fulfil the environmental protection aspects of a 2016-25 programme of the city of Kryvbas to resolve environmental issues and enhance the natural environment, Northern GOK planted 20,000 young trees as part of a landscaping project covering a total area of 10 hectares in the sanitary protection zone of Pervomaiskiy open-pit

mine. It also planted about 3,000 shrubs as part of a landscaping project covering a total area of 1.3 hectares in the emergency storage pond of its TSF.

Central GOK planted 900 trees and shrubs and used overburden to conduct mine restoration work at depleted deposits in open-pit mine no. 2.







# Protecting the Vizyrka Nature Preserve

Mine restoration is a vital process for restoring a site's ecosystem and natural appearance. This includes landscaping to provide normal living conditions for plants and animals.

The Vizyrka nature preserve is Metinvest's mine restoration showpiece. Since its creation in 2001, Ingulets GOK has provided comprehensive support to ensure the development of this protected landscape, providing a practical example of a new method for restoring land disturbed by human business activities.

The mine restoration approach applied at the Vizyrka open-pit mine is called renaturalisation, a method that is gaining popularity in the EU. Unlike the standard restoration process, instead of backfilling the open pit, it is allowed to fill with natural ground water. Afterward, the fauna gradually begins to recover. In such areas, additional minor human intervention helps this natural process to take place much more efficiently.

During the project's implementation, we significantly improved the health of the water bodies and enhanced the fertility of the land in the nature preserve. In addition, the area has become home to 103 new species of animal life.

**“The Vizyrka preserve is a unique place where you can watch nature being restored. You can even see animals there that are not typical for this region. This is clear proof of the fruits of Metinvest's care for the conservation area.”**

Ivan Naidenko, Regional Ethnographer

In 2020, Ingulets GOK also built a paved road to open-pit mine no. 3 in the Vizyrka nature preserve and released 3,000 juvenile carp into the open-pit mine lake. In summer and autumn, clean-up work was organised at the preserve together with the Kryvyi Rih Foundation of the Future.

The clean-up work was performed by volunteers from local NGOs and neighbourhoods.