

Corporate Biodiversity Strategy

Rio Tinto Experience

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Note:

The activities described in this presentation are in the process of development in Rio Tinto. They do not yet constitute official policy and programmes.

Why Develop a Biodiversity Strategy?

- **There is a strong business case - benefits and opportunities >> costs and risks.**
- **To address the concerns of many stakeholders in what is seen as an area where interests will conflict.**
- **To support structured programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.**
- **To demonstrate a commitment to stewardship of all natural resources in land we rent, own or manage.**
- **To contribute to improving the reputation of the industry by delivering improved performance.**
- **To seek solutions in perennial problem areas such as secondary development and protected areas access.**

What Should a Strategy Consist of?

- **Policy, Objectives, Action Plans, Indicators and Reporting.**
- **A process designed to support the CBD and other frameworks for priority action on biodiversity.**
- **Assessment, screening, and management plans linked to EMS .**
- **Incorporation of community views on biodiversity and its use.**
- **Involvement of external organisations and expertise, ideally through partnerships.**
- **Clear linkages to project assessment procedures and the explicit aim of reducing adverse biodiversity impacts.**
- **Advice to investigate mechanisms for offsetting the unavoidable losses of biodiversity in project areas.**

How will the Strategy be Developed?

- **The project structure must marry operational strengths and experience with corporate needs and stakeholder inputs and expertise.**
- **An Internal Steering Group will scope, commission, review elements.**
- **An independent External Advisory Panel will critique the strategy during its development and advise the steering group.**
- **Working groups will be drawn from a mixed internal/external pool of experts to carry out tasks for the steering group and will constitute the wider review group.**
- **Baseline tasks - business case, operations survey, review of CBD.**
- **Projects tasks - assessment and management plan guidelines, exploration methodology, indicators and reporting, social/community inputs.**

What is the Expected Timeline for the Work?

- **Baseline tasks including setting up project structure will be completed in 2001.**
- **Development of tools and pilot implementation will be tasks for 2002 - 2003.**
- **Full implementation incorporating best practice and lessons learned will take place in 2004 - 2005.**
- **Biodiversity actions and progress against commitments and targets will be reported in external reports, and audits will cover compliance with the requirements of the strategy.**