

## Beyond rehabilitation in the global mining industries

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As we diminish the global stocks of readily accessible minerals, mining now reaches into ever more problematic regions often in direct conflict with areas and regions of outstanding natural values and high biodiversity. Equally technological capacity to safely execute mineral and oil extraction is stretched with such calamities as OK Tedi, Deep Water Horizon and the Samarco tailings disaster looming large in the social and political conscience. However 'quiet' disasters are occurring every day in global mining with losses of irreplaceable biodiversity linked to operations in emerging economies such as Madagascar, South America and even developed nations such as Australia. But this does not need to occur. With an emerging global appetite to restore even the most complex of ecosystems the mining industry must now demonstrate corporate and social responsibility to protect and restore even when the technological capacity to do so will require significant research investment. Here I will overview current and future trends in restoration science and expose the development of a major new research capacity being developed in Australia to promote a new ethic in focused, fast-track science to deliver effective restoration for the mining industry.