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SCALE

Local, regional

TYPE OF MINING

Open-pit and underground mining

MINERAL RESOURCES

Zinc, copper, lead, gold, silver and tellerium



The Boliden Area, Sweden

Mitigation of impact of mining upon landscape

The Boliden case is part of the Swedish mining policies, particularly in terms of mitigating the impact of mining. The Boliden Area is located in the mineral-rich field in Västerbotten, northern Sweden, operated by Boliden since the 1920s. The area currently comprises the Renström, Kristineberg and Kankberg underground mines and the Maurliden open-pit mine. All of the mines in the area, with the exception of Kankberg, produce complex polymetallic ores that contain zinc, copper, lead, gold and silver. The mines supply ore to the concentrator at Boliden, which is also home to leaching plants for gold and tellurium production. The case comprises stages from early exploration, project development, active mining, rehabilitation and long-term use of land. The scale of mining effects ranges from local to regional. Mining has always a local aspect in terms of land use and environmental issues due to the size of operations. The regional aspect is that the operating mines are spread out over a larger area and has effects upon use or construction of infrastructure. The old tailings pond Gillervattnet was closed down in 2011 and the remediation of the site started in 2015. The technical part of the remediation is ongoing and will be finished during 2017. At the same time, planning is ongoing on how to rehabilitate the old open pit in Boliden where the operations started in the 1920s. The ambition of the company is that these former industrial areas will showcase the mining history of this geographical area, combined with biodiversity and the future use of the areas in question. The project has developed a landscape plan that will showcase the mining history, creating biodiversity in the area with future use of the area for stakeholders. The landscape plan has been developed through an extensive hearing process or citizens dialog with input from residents of the area, employees, school children, Sami, authorities and other stakeholders.

