

# Wildlife: plants and animals



## Current situation

- The project area is rich in biodiversity, including some important and endangered species. Lydian has worked with a range of international consultants and Armenian institutes and experts to gather baseline data and carry out scientific research.
- Surveys have identified two species of viper, two species of beetle, one species of butterfly, one species of Brown Bear and at least 14 species of bird in the wider project area which are listed in the Armenian Red Book.
- *Potentilla porphyrantha*, a Red Book listed alpine plant, grows within the footprint of the open pits and connecting haul roads.



## What are the potential issues and impacts?

- Construction will result in some vegetation loss. Species will lose some habitat and the quality of some remaining habitat is likely to be affected by the project.
- The placement of man-made obstacles, such as **the conveyor**, fences and roads, **will** block the natural movements of land animals. Local wildlife may also be affected by changes to groundwater flow.

## What will Lydian do to manage these potential impacts?

- Lydian is committed to ensuring no net loss of natural habitat and an improvement in the quality of “critical habitat” in the long term, as per international standards.
- An area on Amulsar Mountain has been set aside to protect natural vegetation, including a viable population of *Potentilla porphyrantha* and Brown Bear habitat.
- *Potentilla porphyrantha* plants in the open pit areas will be translocated and used to start a breeding programme. A comprehensive research program has been initiated.
- Wildlife populations will be continually monitored throughout the project.
- Replanting and the removal of man-made barriers should allow the re-establishment of wildlife populations post-mining.

## What impacts might remain?

- Despite restoration efforts, changes to some vegetation and animal populations may remain. Lydian is planning additional biodiversity conservation measures to ensure no net loss of vegetation and habitat in the long term.

