

## Company Profile

Headquarters: Wolfsburg, Germany  
Major products: Vehicles  
Further information: [www.volkswagenag.com](http://www.volkswagenag.com)

The Volkswagen Group with its headquarters in Wolfsburg is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. In 2011, the Group increased the number of vehicles delivered to customers to 8.265 million, corresponding to a 12.3 percent share of the world passenger car market.

The Group is made up of ten brands: Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Scania and MAN and operates 94 production plants in 18 European countries and a further eight countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. Each working day, 501,956 employees worldwide produce some 34,500 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in the other fields of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

## Challenges and How Volkswagen Takes Responsibility

Protecting biodiversity is an issue for Volkswagen and follows 5 principles:

- The public expects a globally-acting company such as Volkswagen to be part of the solution for tackling global challenges, not part of the problem – the principle of responsibility.
- Services offered by nature, such as clean water and pure air, are also fundamental to Volkswagen's business area – the principle of acting in the business' interests.
- Volkswagen wishes to minimise the necessary consumption of natural resources and land by an industrial company – the principle of nature conservation.
- 500,000 Group employees, their friends and families need nature to enhance their lifestyle, health and relaxation – the principle of welfare.
- Without diversity in nature, there can be no diversity in business – the principle of logic.



## Fields of Action

- Sites and facilities
- Supply chains, commodities and materials
- Product
- Production and manufacturing processes
- Transport and logistics
- Personnel



## Best Practice: Biodiversity Risk Analysis at Volkswagen Sites

The Volkswagen way to learn more about its impacts on ecosystems and species

### The Issue

Industrial growth inevitably has an impact on biological diversity, which is the basis for healthy food, clean water and a balanced climate. Volkswagen identified this conflict of objectives at an early stage. This is why the challenges of species protection and nature conservation are not merely a temporary project for Volkswagen, but have long been an established element of its environmental management.

### The Response

Conservation of biodiversity is therefore discussed at the Group's regular regional conferences, and necessary measures are laid down in resulting action plans. Activities designed to increase biodiversity require a basis of accurate information about land take, environmental impacts of individual manufacturing locations and protectable species within their sphere of influence. Since 2010, Volkswagen has teamed up with external partners in the scientific and insurance sectors to prepare risk analyses that identify the emission risks arising from the company's operations, such as exhaust air,

wastewater, waste, noise or vibration. Volkswagen then sets them against the potential adverse effects on water, soil and biodiversity in the local environment and evaluates them. This analysis has not only resulted in much better information about the ecological integration of the factories in their individual landscape settings, but has also made for improvements in efficiency and savings in costs.

### The Results

In 2010, the first step was to appraise the Volkswagen and Audi factories in Emden, Wolfsburg, Braunschweig, Hanover, Kassel, Chemnitz, Zwickau, Dresden, Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm. This was followed in 2011 by the European factories in Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain and Belgium. These will be joined in 2012 by more Volkswagen AG locations and also Bentley, Bugatti and Lamborghini facilities in Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy. Moreover, Volkswagen do Brasil has launched the "Fauna Monitoring and Preservation Program" to protect domestic species in that country. One of the biggest nature conservation projects is the reforestation of the "Izta-Popo" mountain region in Mexico. In Germany, Volkswagen is initiating and pursuing numerous projects relating to ecological upgrading and interlinking of forests and waters – for example the River Aller close to the main factory in Wolfsburg.