



**B2GOLD CORP.**  
**Social Performance Standard 1:**  
***Stakeholder Engagement***

November 2020  
Page 1 of 3

# Standard 1

## **1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

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### **1.1 OBJECTIVE**

This Standard establishes requirements for proactive, open and respectful engagement with Stakeholders with the goal of building trust-based relationships.

### **1.2 PRINCIPLES**

Stakeholder engagement will:

- Ensure stakeholder perspectives are considered when making decisions that might impact stakeholders;
- Be prioritized based on potential impacts to stakeholders and risks to the company; and
- Be conducted as a two-way dialogue that works towards building trust-based relationships.

### **1.3 REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1.3.1 Process**

- Sites will establish a formal process for identifying and analyzing stakeholders, developing and implementing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and periodically reviewing the Plan's effectiveness. This process will be implemented prior to mine construction.
- Relevant departments will be involved throughout the stakeholder engagement process.
- Sites will ensure that vulnerable groups, in particular women, are considered at each stage of the stakeholder engagement process.
- Sites will engage with stakeholders throughout the engagement process: as part of the process of identifying other relevant stakeholders; to determine appropriate engagement mechanisms; and, to assess the effectiveness of engagement.

#### **1.3.2 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis**

- Sites will identify stakeholders who may be impacted by or have an interest in site activities.
- Sites will analyze stakeholder key characteristics, including their relevant rights and claims, considering factors such as attitudes towards the site, ability to influence the site, and the degree to which they may



**B2GOLD CORP.**  
**Social Performance Standard 1:**  
***Stakeholder Engagement***

November 2020  
Page 2 of 3

be impacted by site activities. The analysis will consider stakeholder dynamics and the potential for community conflicts that might occur as a result of site activities.

### **1.3.3 Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Implementation**

- Stakeholder-related risks will be identified, assessed and managed according to site risk management processes, or separately where these are not well-established.
- Sites will create and annually update a Stakeholder Engagement Plan based on impacts to stakeholders, stakeholder-related risks and the stakeholder analysis. The Plan will include engagement objectives and indicators, activities and responsibilities.
- Stakeholder-related impacts and risks will be reviewed at a minimum quarterly with senior site management, and the Plan updated where necessary.
- Regular engagement will be conducted to ensure that relevant stakeholders are aware of planned site activities, impacts and benefits in a timely manner and that they have the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback and raise issues and concerns.
- Sites will demonstrate that concerns expressed by stakeholders on significant issues have been considered and addressed by relevant departments and senior management, wherever possible prior to commencing relevant activities.
- Sites will provide feedback to stakeholders on concerns raised and how their input has been considered in site activities and decisions related to significant issues.
- Sites will consider how to make engagement accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate so as not to exclude stakeholders through language, literacy or technological barriers, and will include subject-matter experts and site management where relevant.
- Sites will assess the need for capacity-building for stakeholders to effectively participate in engagement and provide support where necessary.

### **1.3.4 Records, Monitoring, Reporting and Review**

- Sites will keep records of stakeholder engagement activities and commitments made to stakeholders.
- Sites will monitor implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Sites will annually assess the effectiveness of their stakeholder engagement against the objectives and indicators in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and review the results of this assessment with site senior management.
- Sites will conduct regular internal and external reporting on their stakeholder engagement activities.

## **1.4 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Site:** For the purposes of this Standard, sites include B2Gold offices, operating mines, satellite mines (either independently or included within an operating mine's reporting), construction sites, and legacy sites; and, does not include exploration (unless otherwise expressed), joint-venture sites (non-management roles), relinquished sites, non-active sites, and sites under care and maintenance.



**B2GOLD CORP.**  
**Social Performance Standard 1:**  
***Stakeholder Engagement***

November 2020  
Page 3 of 3

**Stakeholder:** Any individual or group that is impacted by or has an interest in B2Gold and its activities. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, employees and contractors, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses or groups.

**Stakeholder engagement:** Ongoing formal and informal processes between a company and its stakeholders intended to build trust-based relationships and allow for informed decision making. Engagement can include a range of activities and approaches, such as information sharing, dialogue, consultation, and participation.

**Vulnerable persons:** people who by virtue of gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage or social status may be more negatively impacted than others, and who may not be as able to take advantage of project benefits.

## 1.5 REFERENCE MATERIAL

### 1.5.1 Guidelines and Tools

[Stakeholder Engagement: A good practice handbook for companies doing business in emerging markets](#) by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Chinese

[Performance Standard 1](#) by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Turkish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic

## 1.6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	29 November 2020	Original 2020 issue of the B2Gold Social Performance Standards