



# Standard 7

## **7 ARTISANAL & SMALL-SCALE MINING**

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### **7.1 OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Standard is to outline the requirements for managing relations or interactions with Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) activities such that B2Gold can protect its people and property, maintain its license to operate and support wider community benefits.

### **7.2 PRINCIPLES**

- Sites will engage with ASM miners and aim to identify and resolve issues through good faith negotiations.
- Sites will collaborate with government, where appropriate, to support improvements in ASM environmental and social practices and to support the formalization of ASM activities.
- Legal action or security force actions will be avoided where reasonably possible.
- Sites will recognize that ASM can be an important economic activity and will seek to avoid or minimize disruptive impacts on ASM livelihoods. Where displacement of existing ASM activities is unavoidable, sites will take a case-by-case approach, seeking to follow the B2Gold Standard on Resettlement – Land Access & Acquisition.

### **7.3 REQUIREMENTS**

#### **7.3.1 Assessment**

- Sites will conduct adequate due diligence of current and potential ASM activities prior to any land access and acquisition.
- ASM-related risks will be assessed and managed.
- Sites will conduct an assessment of the ASM context including:
  - Legislation and regulation and the feasibility of formalization;
  - Regulator capacity and interest in managing ASM;
  - History, trends and socio-economic role;
  - Nature and organization of ASM, including ASM value chain;
  - Land access/control and ownership;
  - Geology and B2Gold mine planning;
  - Local stakeholders and their relationships to ASM; and
  - Risks and impacts of ASM to site and stakeholders



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- Sites will engage with relevant government authorities, industry associations, security forces and other stakeholders to understand the ASM context and identify options for managing ASM.

### **7.3.2 Planning and Implementation**

- Based on the understanding of the context and assessment of impacts and risks, sites will document and evaluate options for managing ASM and develop an ASM Management Plan with the input of relevant managers (at a minimum, senior management, Occupational Health and Safety, Mining, Community Relations, Environment and Security). ASM Management Plans will define the site's intended outcomes and objectives regarding ASM, including tolerances regarding the level, timing and geography of acceptable ASM activity. Options considered and ASM Management Plans will address the following:
  - Surveys and monitoring;
  - Engagement;
  - Security measures;
  - Land access and formalization;
  - Organizational and technical support;
  - Purchasing ASM ore; and
  - Alternative livelihoods
- Sites will establish security protocols relevant to the nature of ASM risk scenarios (e.g. eviction) and incorporate them into security management systems.
- Sites will coordinate with relevant stakeholders, particularly on security protocols (e.g. with public security).
- The ASM context, options considered, and ASM Management Plan will be reviewed with relevant Corporate managers.
- Sites will ensure ASM miners have access to the site grievance mechanism.

### **7.3.3 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

- Sites will continually monitor the ASM situation in their area and identify any changes and consequent risks and impacts.
- Sites will conduct regular internal and external reporting on ASM related activities, as appropriate.
- Sites will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the ASM Management Plan.

## **7.4 REFERENCE MATERIAL**

### **7.4.1 Guidelines and Tools**

[Working Together – How large scale mining can engage with artisanal and small-scale miners \(2009\)](#) by International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) and International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English

## **7.5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining:** ASM is a collective term embracing both small scale and artisanal mining. It covers formal or informal mining which is characterized by low capital intensity and high labour intensity and relatively simple methods for exploration, extraction and processing. ASM can involve men and women working on an individual basis as well as those working in family groups, in partnerships or as members of co-operatives



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or other types of association. Legitimate ASM does not include activities which are criminal, such as trespassing or armed incursions into active mining areas.

**Displaced Person:** Person physically or economically displaced as a result of a project-related land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use. That includes persons with formal legal rights to land or assets; persons who do not have formal legal rights to land or assets but have a claim to land that is recognizable under national law; and persons without recognizable legal rights or claims to the land or assets they occupy or use.

**Grievance:** A grievance, or complaint, is an expression of dissatisfaction referring to a real or perceived impact of B2Gold’s business activities.

**Illegal Mining:** Refers to mining or processing activities which run contrary to nationally or regionally applicable laws, including mining in areas allocated for use by other rights holders (where the rights holder has not given their permission for such exploitation) or where the methods used for extraction are in breach of accepted social and environmental laws or regulations.

**Legitimate:** Legitimate Grievances are those where an actual adverse impact has occurred that B2Gold caused, contributed to, or is directly linked to. This excludes commercial disputes and issues with employed labour and/or unions.

**Livelihoods:** The occupational activities associated with the maintenance or support of one’s existence and/or that of their dependent family. Livelihoods can be associated with formal employment and cash remuneration, but can also be dependent on subsistence hunting and gathering, arable farming and animal husbandry. Hybrid livelihoods are common, relying on a mixture of occupational activities.

**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.

**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.

## 7.6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

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