



B2GOLD CORP.
Social Performance Standard 11:
Indigenous Peoples

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Standard
11

11 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

11.1 OBJECTIVE

This Standard defines B2Gold’s approach to identifying potentially affected Indigenous Peoples (IPs), requirements for the engagement and involvement of affected IPs in our operations and projects, and requirements for the avoidance, minimization, and management of impacts on IPs.

11.2 SCOPE

This Standard addresses B2Gold’s interactions with IPs, including groups that are formally recognized as IPs by national government/legislation, as well as IPs that may not be recognized at the country level but align with internationally recognized characteristics of indigeneity (refer to section 11.4.3). Non-indigenous stakeholders are addressed under other standards within the B2Gold Social Performance Management System, including Standard 1 – Stakeholder Engagement.

11.3 PRINCIPLES

- Consideration of potentially affected IPs will include appropriate and consistent due diligence to the identification of IPs in the area of influence, including consideration of livelihoods and use of lands and natural resources;
- Engagement with IPs will be conducted in accordance with recognized good practice for informed consultation and participation (ICP) and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), as defined below.

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) – B2Gold adopts the International Finance Corporation (IFC) definition of FPIC (from the 2012 IFC Performance Standard 7, Indigenous Peoples):

- FPIC applies to project design, implementation, and expected outcomes related to risks and impacts affecting IPs.
- FPIC builds on and expands the process of informed consultation and participation and will be established through good faith negotiation between the company and affected IPs.
- The company will document: (i) the mutually accepted process between the client and IPs; and (ii) evidence of agreement between the parties as to the outcome of negotiations.
- FPIC does not necessarily require unanimity and may be achieved even when individuals or groups within or among affected IPs explicitly disagree.

11.4 REQUIREMENTS

11.4.1 Compliance



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- Sites will comply with national, regional and/or local requirements for engagement/involvement of IPs and will align with IFC Performance Standard 7.
- Where national governments assume responsibility for IP-related consultation, engagement and/or FPIC, sites will engage with the national authorities to ensure B2Gold's requirements are met. Where B2Gold requirements will not be met under national engagement procedures, sites will assess the feasibility of providing supplemental measures to comply with this Standard.

11.4.2 Process

- Sites will apply due diligence in identifying potentially affected IPs. This shall include a transparent and systematic process, including: definition of the area of influence; summary of national and/or regional groups that are characterized as IPs (as per section 11.4.3); summary of IPs' relationship to the site or project, including geographic relationship, seasonal use, socio-economic interactions, etc.; and conclusions related to potentially affected IP.
- If potentially affected IPs are identified, this recognition should inform activities related to stakeholder identification/analysis and engagement planning (Standard 1); community investment (Standard 3); resettlement, land access and land acquisition (Standard 4); local content planning (Standard 5); human rights due diligence/assessment (Standard 6); social baseline and impact assessment (Standard 10); and other standards as may be relevant.
- If potentially affected IPs are identified, sites will develop an Indigenous Peoples Plan, including an assessment of impacts and opportunities, engagement plans and outcomes, grievance mechanisms, and (as relevant) provisions for local content, cultural heritage management, natural resource management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Identification of potentially affected IPs shall occur early in site or project development, including during exploration. Sites will report to Corporate on the identification of potentially affected IPs.

11.4.3 Identification of Indigenous Peoples

- When considering if potential IPs exist in the area of influence, sites will reference a range of sources, including but not limited to, national recognition of IPs¹. Engagement with IPs and/or other knowledgeable stakeholders may also inform sites' understanding of potentially affected IPs and the nature/extent of potential impacts. In areas where IPs exist but are not identified as direct or indirect affected people, the Company will conduct a Social Impact Assessment for IPs every 5 years.
- If some or all IPs are not officially recognized by national government, sites will conduct research, led by qualified personnel, to assess whether any communities potentially qualify as indigenous. This analysis will include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the following characteristics:

¹ Other sources may include international organizations such as the United Nations, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), multilateral development banks, academic research, and precedent set by other industry and developers.



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Characteristics of Indigenous Peoples

- Self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- A collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats, ancestral territories, or areas of seasonal use or occupation, and the natural resources of those areas, including a physical presence in and economic ties to these lands for generations;
- Customary cultural, economic, social or political institutions that are separate from those of the mainstream society and culture;
- A distinct language or dialect, often different from the official language(s) of the country or region; and
- Communities or groups who, during the lifetime of members of the community or group, have lost collective attachment to distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area, because of forced severance, conflict, government resettlement programs, dispossession of their land, natural disasters, or incorporation of such territories into an urban area.

Characteristics of IPs come from internationally accepted standards, including IFC Performance Standard 7 and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework Standard 7.

- Sites shall acknowledge and respect the rights of IPs even if there is no formal recognition of these rights by a host country.
- If potentially affected IPs are not identified, sections 11.4.4 to 11.4.8 of this Standard do not apply. The identification of potentially affected IPs will be reviewed after significant changes to the project, or the project's impacts, that have potential to impact additional stakeholders (e.g., from a modified area of influence or due to in-migration) or if otherwise deemed necessary.

11.4.4 Consultation and engagement

- Sites will make efforts to engage IPs as early as possible, including during exploration. The level of engagement and information shared will be appropriate to the stage of development and nature/extent of potential impact and be conducted in a culturally appropriate manner. Exploration, project or mining staff will seek permission in a culturally appropriate manner prior to entering a specific area recognized as traditional lands of IPs.
- Sites shall determine the capacity of IPs to engage in constructive dialogue, and, if necessary, sites shall offer support and contribute to building their capacity to participate in a dialogue/engagement process.
- Sites shall design and implement an engagement plan specific for IPs utilizing culturally appropriate and gender appropriate mechanisms. In locations where IPs are present or could potentially be impacted by the activity, indigenous engagement shall also form part of broader engagement activities with other stakeholder groups.
- Sites will apply the principles of, and strive to achieve, FPIC in engagement with IPs.

11.4.5 Assessment of impacts and opportunities

- Sites shall conduct a specific impact evaluation of proposed activities on IPs during the design stage in consultation with IPs.



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- Assessment of potential impacts on IPs will consider B2Gold's direct and indirect activities and will include, but not be limited to: an examination of potential impacts on lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use; critical cultural heritage; and opportunities to support and/or improve IPs' livelihoods and wellbeing.
- IP-related impacts and risks will be included in a site risk register.

11.4.6 Planning and implementation

- Where impacts to IPs are identified, in consultation with IPs, sites will make necessary changes to avoid and minimize impacts and ensure appropriate restoration and/or compensation measures have been identified and included in the project design and implementation. Where impacts are unavoidable, sites will identify and implement appropriate compensation measures.
- Where impacts on IPs are identified, in consultation with IPs, sites will create an Indigenous Peoples Plan. The Plan will be reviewed after significant changes to the project, and at a minimum of every 5 years.
- Sites will engage with potentially affected IPs in the development of the Indigenous Peoples Plan(s) as well as IP-related engagement processes, grievance mechanisms, community investment initiatives, local content programs, and other plans and processes.
- Site Senior Management shall review and approve the Indigenous Peoples Plan.

11.4.7 Agreements with Indigenous Peoples

- B2Gold shall work to obtain the consent of IPs for new projects and changes to existing projects by focusing the process on reaching agreement on the basis for which the project should proceed. Sites shall put in place separate agreements, if necessary, for specific indigenous groups.
- Sites shall strive to formalize consent at each stage of the mining lifecycle via a signed agreement.
- All formal agreements with IPs must be approved by Corporate Executive Management. Agreements must be translated into the indigenous language if requested to do so.
- Agreements with IPs shall be updated when there are proposed potential new, significant impacts, in line with the mining lifecycle.

11.4.8 Training

- Sites shall train staff and on-site contractors on relevant cultural norms of IPs.

11.4.9 Records

- Sites will maintain complete records of engagement with IPs over the life of a site or project and for any additional period as otherwise required (e.g., by law, by agreement), including issues raised and how they have been addressed.
- Where FPIC applies, sites will document the FPIC process and outcomes, including agreements with IPs.

11.4.10 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting



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- Sites must design and implement mechanisms to monitor, report and communicate the implementation of engagement, the Indigenous Peoples Plan, and any agreement and/or any program or initiative related to IPs.
- Sites will annually assess the effectiveness of engagement with IPs against the objectives and indicators in the Indigenous Peoples Plan and adjust plans and processes accordingly.
- Site Senior Management will approve the annual review of the Indigenous Peoples Plan(s) and procedure(s).
- Sites will conduct regular internal and external reporting on engagement and other IP-related activities in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples Plan and other relevant B2Gold Social Performance Standards.

11.5 REFERENCE MATERIALS

11.5.1 Guidelines and Tools

International

[*Performance Standard 7*](#), by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Turkish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

[*Guidance Note 7*](#), by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

[*Good Practice Guide: Indigenous Peoples and Mining*](#), by International Council on Mining and Metals). 2013.

[*Guidance Note on Evaluating Projects with Affected Indigenous Peoples*](#), by Equator Principles, 2020; available in English.

[*ESS7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities*](#), by World Bank, 2017; available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

[*ESS7 Guidance Note*](#), by World Bank, 2018; available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Country Profiles: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/indigenous-world.html>

Latin America

[*OP-765 Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and Strategy for Indigenous Development*](#), by Inter-American Development Bank, 2006; available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

[*Operating Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples Policy*](#), by Inter-American Development Bank, 2006; available in English and Spanish.

Europe

[*Performance Requirement 7*](#), by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 2019; available in English, French and Arabic.

[*Indigenous Peoples Guidance Document*](#), by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; available in English, Russian, Turkish and Arabic.



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Africa

[Development and Indigenous Peoples in Africa](#), by African Development Bank; available in English.

[Overview Report of the Research Project by the International Labour Organization and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the constitutional and legislative protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in 24 African countries](#), by ILO and ACHPR; available in English.

11.5.2 International Conventions and Declarations

[Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries](#), by ILO (International Labour Organization). 1989.

[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), by UN (United Nations). 2007.

11.6 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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

Host Communities: Communities receiving resettled households.

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.

Local Content: Value brought to a local region (host nation, region or locality) through: i) workforce development (employment of local workforce, training of local workforce) and ii) investments in supplier development (developing supplies and services locally; procuring supplies and services locally).

Resettlement: The physical and economic displacement of a Project Affected Person (PAP) as a result of B2Gold's 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.

11.7 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	July 2022	Original issue of the B2Gold Indigenous Peoples Social Performance Standard