

SNAP SHOT

MALI

Local Convention Instrument Proactive Management of Land Use



RAPID POPULATION INFLUX IN THE AREAS AROUND A NEW MINING PROJECT IS COMMON DURING THE PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES: PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES, ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING (ASM) ACTIVITIES ESCALATE, AND THE SUPPLY INDUSTRIES THAT SERVICE BOTH THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL MINING SECTORS EXPAND.

Although population influx can help drive economic development, it can also disrupt traditional and social structures, cause conflict between groups or villages over economic opportunities and natural resources, and result in increased theft and violence, prostitution, and alcohol and drug use. Negative impacts often disproportionately impact vulnerable groups such as women and children.

Resettling a large village has the potential to create additional positive and negative impacts – as in the case of the resettlement of the Fadougou village at the Fekola Mine. The competing demands due to influx and resettlement generate issues between villages and with B2Gold over natural resources and land use.

Guided by our performance standards on land use and ASM, B2Gold has taken a proactive approach to managing these issues. Influx to existing and new ASM sites on our permits

in 2017 were effectively managed through extensive engagement with stakeholders at all levels, from local artisanal miners to the Ministry of Mines. For the resettlement of Fadougou, a compensation agreement was signed with the neighbouring village to address impacts on traditional land and invest in community development. However, we believed more was required to create a collaborative approach for future land use decisions and to mitigate risks of future conflict.

To establish such an approach, B2Gold, supported by a local consultant, worked with traditional leaders and local government authorities to create a Local Convention on Natural Resources Management. A Local Convention is a voluntary agreement between populations living in the same locality with the objective of creating, modifying or extinguishing rights. It is a mechanism to define measures of management of local natural resources in order to avoid often severe conflicts around the exploitation of these resources.

There is a shared desire that the Local Convention will allow all parties to address conflicts over land use through dialogue and shared principles. B2Gold recognizes that the challenges for managing influx still remain and will require careful application of the Local Convention.