

## CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



### EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

B2Gold's business strategy relies on a dedication to responsible mining, which incorporates sustainable development principles. Our management approach to sustainability is to work within the social, economic and environmental contexts in a way that delivers positive outcomes for our business and our stakeholders for the short and long term. Much of this approach is demonstrated in this Report. We recognize that risks and impacts associated with our business are inter-related and their management requires cross-functional collaboration among our departments and with our various stakeholders. Our process for risk management aligns with the Precautionary Principle<sup>7</sup> and includes identifying, evaluating and addressing economic, social and environmental risks and opportunities for our projects and operations.

In support of these efforts, the Company decided to expand the resources dedicated to sustainability and corporate responsible mining oversight. In 2019, we added the dedicated role of Corporate Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Manager, allowing for a dedicated Corporate Environmental Manager. For 2020, we will be creating a senior role of Director of Sustainability, which will allow us to broaden our ability to provide direction to our global operations.

**FIGURE 3 | Sustainable Development Goals (B2Gold SDGs highlighted in colour)**



### MAPPING TO THE SDGs

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global plan of action for social empowerment and inclusion, environmental protection, and economic development for current and future generations. The 17 SDGs address the world's most critical challenges through the promotion of sustainable development.

B2Gold shares the belief that the mining industry has the opportunity and potential to positively contribute to all 17 SDGs. We believe that our Company can play an integral role in advancing these goals and we are committed to understanding how we can further align our business activities towards this agenda.

Mining, as an industry, has been mapped<sup>8</sup> to the SDGs. In 2019, B2Gold expanded its assessment to understand our current contributions to sustainable development. We determined that we already contribute significantly to several SDGs – nine SDGs are highlighted in Table 2.

Going forward, we will continue to broaden our approach to embedding sustainable development principles throughout our business, and to prioritize certain SDGs that best align with our activities and our ability to make positive contributions.

<sup>7</sup> Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle; January 20, 1998.

<sup>8</sup> *Mapping Mining to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Atlas*; July 2016; produced by Columbia Centre on Sustainable Development, UNDP, UN Sustainable Development Network, and the World Economic Forum.

TABLE 2 | B2Gold Contribution to SDGs

1 NO POVERTY



### End poverty in all its forms everywhere

B2Gold contributes to increasing the prosperity of communities and regions where we operate through local employment opportunities, taxes and royalty payments to governments, local procurement practices, and investing in community projects. Several example programs are mentioned throughout this Report. We report on payments to governments through annual reports and Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA) filings.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BE



### Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Managing the health and safety of all employees and contractors is critical for B2Gold. Year on year we improve our approach to workplace safety across all operations. We also invest in health and wellness programs in the communities where we work. Examples include support to community health centres, HIV and anti-domestic violence awareness campaigns, early childhood development (ECD) programs, and numerous bursaries and scholarship programs for children, youth and employees. Many are highlighted in this Report.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



### Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

B2Gold annually reports female representation across our workforce. Following an internal assessment (2017) and senior management sensitization workshop (2018), we initiated a gender diversity strategy in 2019. Many of our community investment programs target women and girls as beneficiaries. B2Gold is partnering with UNICEF to support and empower girls and young women in artisanal mining communities from the Kéniéba District. (Read more on page 106.)

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

B2Gold has implemented local procurement and local employment standards in each region. We annually report on these aspects. In addition to our direct economic contributions through jobs, benefits and a stable work environment, we engage with local communities and invest in sustainable livelihood projects that strengthen capacity and develop diversified local economies. Where resettlement is necessary, we include livelihood restoration as an essential element.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



### Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Resettlement of communities is sometimes required in order to develop a mine. B2Gold manages resettlement projects according to internal performance standards that are aligned with international best practices. Ensuring dignified, upgraded, and safe housing and sustainable infrastructures, and incorporating community participation, respect and cultural considerations are all fundamental to B2Gold's approach. Example projects are detailed in this and previous reports. In particular, the New Fadougou resettlement project was developed through an inclusive and participative approach that included the creation and capacity building of community committees for planning and management of the new settlement. (See the *New Beginnings* documentary on [www.b2gold.com](http://www.b2gold.com) and read our New Fadougou update on page 112.)

**New Beginnings Documentary:** YouTube <https://youtu.be/Z7oQy9qltk>

15 LIFE ON LAND



### Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

Mining has the potential to impact biodiversity and to alter ecosystems in a significant and highly visible way. Protecting the world's ecosystems is important to us and to our stakeholders. B2Gold is committed to biodiversity conservation and integrated approaches to land use planning at our operations. Our approach to land use and rehabilitation follows best practice and includes reforestation and afforestation activities, as described in this Report. In Namibia, B2Gold goes beyond environmental compliance through the creation of the Otjikoto Nature Reserve (which is home to ongoing wildlife conservation and the development of environment and conservation education programs) and spearheading the establishment of the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE). In other regions, we work with local stakeholders to promote sustainable land use plans.

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



### Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

B2Gold's principles of fairness, respect, transparency and accountability direct how we conduct our business. We expect our employees and partners to deal with everyone in this manner, and are guided by our Code of Ethics, Stakeholder Engagement Standard, Anti-Corruption Policy, and many other policies, standards and guidelines. We develop environmental and social management plans with the inclusion of local stakeholders. We disclose annually our economic, governance, environmental and social performance and investments. We abide by all laws, regulations and rules that govern these aspects. We proactively conducted human rights assessments in all regions where we operate in order to identify and analyze where there may be human rights risks and, if risks were present, their associated impacts. The assessments are followed up with management action plans, and improved human rights awareness and training.

## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Operating in remote areas, where access to water is often a challenge for local communities, B2Gold works with local communities and stakeholders to improve access to water and build capacity for the effective management of water and sanitation. In the regions where we operate, we have implemented water and sanitation projects, for example, community water points in Mali and community water systems in the Philippines and Nicaragua.

## 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



### Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

The appreciation of our oceans and marine resources is shared by B2Gold. In the Philippines, we identified an opportunity to contribute significantly to the conservation of oceans and marine resources as well as incentivizing traditional fisherfolk to change unsustainable practices. B2Gold's project for ocean and marine conservation is captured in the *One Ocean* documentary (found on [www.b2gold.com](http://www.b2gold.com)). By working with local stakeholders we are restoring coral reefs, reforesting mangroves, protecting marine life, and facilitating the adoption of sustainable fishing practices. We partnered with the Reef Ball Foundation, local governments and organizations, and established a Marine Protected Area (MPA) to protect the coastal and marine environment.

#### *One Ocean* Documentary:

YouTube <https://youtu.be/t6vQ4sKlyn0>

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS

As a global company, our range of stakeholders is broad. Our methods of communicating with stakeholders vary, as does the frequency of communication.

Corporately, we communicate via our AGMs, corporate publications (including the Annual Report, Responsible Mining Report, SEDAR filings, and topic-specific reports and videos), our website ([www.b2gold.com](http://www.b2gold.com)), and press statements to the market and media. Senior management regularly engages with stakeholders on governance and HSESS matters via quarterly conference calls, news releases, investor and analyst site tours, investor days, mining industry conferences and other forums throughout the year.

Regionally, each operation is required to plan and implement stakeholder engagement activities. Government stakeholders are regularly consulted by regional management and corporate Executives (including

our Vice President of Government Relations) throughout all stages of our operations. Multiple engagement methods are utilized with community stakeholders (which are detailed in the Community section starting on page 87), including local meetings, consultation forums, grievance mechanisms, video documentaries and local media.

Our employees and contractors are key stakeholders that we engage with using specific internal mechanisms (detailed in the People section starting on page 57). Issue-based employee committees, internal newsletters, grievance mechanisms, and engagement surveys form part of our communication methods. Our engagement with suppliers and contractors has been expanded to include our Supplier Code of Conduct (see page 27 for more details).

Suppliers and business partners are increasingly benefiting from our internal and external communication methods.

