

## PLANNING FOR MINE CLOSURE



Reclamation and closure of a mining property, along with helping communities to manage the transition from mining to post-mining economic activities, is a multifaceted process with complex risks. B2Gold applies an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to mine closure and transition with an awareness of the need to plan for the social and environmental changes that may occur while also ensuring the safety of communities. Our goal is to exercise integrated mine lifecycle planning, reduce closure risks and liabilities, and create value for the business and our stakeholders.

All sites are required to develop and maintain a closure and post-closure strategy. Strategies encompass environmental and socio-economic risk assessments, stakeholder engagement plans, community development plans, safety considerations, and progressive reclamation and post-mining reclamation and closure plans that are integrated into the mine planning process. In 2019, site-wide Mine Reclamation and Closure Plans were in place at all operating mines (see Table 33).

Our Fekola Mine in Mali has an integrated Rehabilitation and Preliminary Mine Closure Plan in place, developed as part of the ESIA, which identifies the need for social closure planning in the future, which is appropriate for the current stage of the Mine. Fekola's progressive reclamation activities in 2019 included continued pushback and revegetation of finished slopes of its waste rock storage facilities, incorporating lessons learned from previous trials.

At our Otjikoto Mine, a comprehensive land use strategy has been developed that includes sustainable economic development potential for community stakeholders. Site activities continue to focus on revegetation of disturbed areas and slopes available for progressive reclamation, including vegetation cover trials. In late 2019, the Mine initiated work to develop a more detailed Social Closure Plan (as complementary support to the site Integrated Mine Closure Plan) to align conservation and community investment activities with closure planning.

### OUR MINE CLOSURE APPROACH IS SUPPORTED BY A SET OF INTERNAL STANDARDS, BASED ON INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE, AND GUIDELINES:



#### **Reclamation and Closure Planning**

**Performance Standard:** sets the minimum requirements to proactively plan, manage and monitor the long-term environmental liabilities associated with our sites.



#### **Social Closure Performance Standard and Mine Closure Human Resources Toolkit:**

ensure that we address the socio-economic impacts of closure.

The Masbate Mine advanced its closure planning in 2019, completing a Strategic Mine Closure and Transition Plan to consolidate the framework and objectives under which we will continue to advance closure and transition planning and implementation as the Mine continues to mature. Progressive reclamation at the Mine continues, and several waste rock