Standard 12

12   CULTURAL HERITAGE

12.1   OBJECTIVE

This Standard defines how B2Gold manages risks related to cultural heritage, to avoid or otherwise minimize potential impacts on both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.

12.2   PRINCIPLES

In an effort to protect and preserve cultural heritage, sites will:

- Align with the principles of IFC Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage;

- Consider direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on, and/or risks to, cultural heritage[1]; and

- Apply the mitigation hierarchy[2] to avoid impacts on cultural heritage, or—if avoidance is not possible—to reduce or offset the significance of any residual impacts.

12.3   REQUIREMENTS

12.3.1   Compliance
- Sites will ensure compliance with applicable local, regional or national legislation, regulations, planning and/or reporting requirements, and will align with IFC Performance Standard 8.

12.3.2   Process

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[1] Direct impacts include ground disturbance due to earthworks with the potential to partially or wholly remove known or unknown cultural heritage; direct impacts have the potential to be one –off non-reversible and permanent. Indirect impacts could include the introduction of intrusive visual or auditory elements to their physical environment or 'setting' (e.g., increased noise, exhaust fumes, dust), or restricted access to cultural heritage resources. Cumulative impacts include incremental change caused by surrounding projects in the past, present or reasonably foreseeable future.

[2] The mitigation hierarchy is a tool that guides users towards limiting as far as possible their negative impacts from development projects. It emphasizes best-practice of avoiding and minimizing any negative impacts, and then restoring sites no longer used by a project, before finally considering offsetting residual impacts. In the case of cultural heritage, mitigation measures could include, for example, relocating or modifying the physical footprint of the project; documentation; strengthening the capacity of national and subnational institutions responsible for managing cultural heritage affected by the project; establishing a monitoring system to track the progress and efficacy of these activities; establishing an implementation schedule and required budget for the identified mitigation measures; and cataloging of finds.

- Sites will establish a formal process for identifying sites of cultural heritage and assessing risks and impacts on cultural heritage.

- Appropriately qualified cultural heritage professionals shall assist with the identification and protection of cultural heritage.

- Where relevant, sites will engage communities, indigenous peoples, and/or other relevant stakeholders to identify and assess potential impacts on cultural heritage.

- Identification of potential cultural heritage risks and impacts will occur early in site or project development, including during exploration and before ground-disturbing activities are undertaken. Sites will report to Corporate as required on the identification of potential cultural heritage risks and impacts.

12.3.3 Identification of Cultural Heritage

- Sites will conduct baseline assessments that document cultural heritage in relation to the site's physical, natural (environmental), and operational areas of influence, including activities undertaken by contractors or third parties.

12.3.4 Assessment of Risks and Impacts

- Where known or potential risks/impacts are identified, a full assessment of cultural heritage impacts will be conducted.

- The assessment will assess the relative importance of cultural heritage, including tangible cultural heritage features and an understanding of intangible cultural heritage values, and the identification of non-replicable and critical cultural heritage as defined in IFC Performance Standard 8.

- The assessment will consider cumulative impacts, including other industries and activities (such as industrial, agricultural and recreational activities) over the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future.

- Cultural heritage impacts and risks will be included in a site risk register. Risk identification will include the potential for non-compliances with local cultural heritage standards and regulatory requirements.

- Cultural heritage impacts, risks and opportunities—and related mitigation and management plans—will be reviewed at a suitable frequency based on risk, and at least every 5 years, in response to changes in the site's plans and activities.

12.3.5 Planning and implementation

- Sites will develop, implement and monitor a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), in consultation with relevant communities, based on the outcomes of cultural heritage risk assessments, to document the identified risks, impacts and preventative measures. The CHMP shall be approved by Site Senior Management.

- Where cultural heritage risks or impacts are identified, sites will apply the mitigation hierarchy and, where practicable, will avoid impacts. Where non-replicable or critical cultural heritage is identified, sites will seek approval as appropriate from those for whom the cultural heritage feature has significance.

- Sites will update the CHMP to account for new information collected through updating of baseline information and impact assessments, or as additional land access is required and surveyed.

- Sites will develop and implement a Chance Finds Procedure, either standalone or as part of the CHMP, to describe the actions required in the event of a chance find (i.e., if previously unknown cultural heritage is encountered).

- Sites shall assign clear responsibilities and accountabilities for cultural resources risk assessment, mitigation and management.

12.3.6 Training

- Sites will ensure personnel involved in ground disturbance activities comply and work in accordance with the CHMP and Chance Finds Procedure.

- Cultural awareness information shall be incorporated into site training including new hire inductions and annual refreshers.

12.3.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- Sites will monitor implementation of the CHMP and Chance Finds Procedure, and any related plans and procedures.

- Sites will assess the effectiveness of the CHMP in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to verify the suitability and performance of the Plan at a frequency agreed with affected stakeholders.

- Site Senior Management will approve reviews of the CHMP and any related plans and procedures.

- Where required, sites will implement processes for external reporting on cultural heritage management performance to regulators and/or public disclosure.

12.4 REFERENCE MATERIALS

12.4.1 Guidelines and Tools

Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) no. 8: Cultural Heritage, World Bank Group, 2017; available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

ESS8 Guidance Note, by World Bank, 2018; available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage. IFC, 2012; available in English, French, Portuguese, Turkish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

Guidance Note 8, by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

12.5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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.

12.6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	July 2022	Original issue of the B2Gold Cultural Heritage Performance Standard