

SDG Squared: Sustainable Development Gold to deliver UN SDGs

The Opportunity

With the support of Pax Humana, The Blended Capital Group (TBCG) is enabling an artisanal mining formalization programme in Chad's gold-rich but conflicted Tibesti region.

Local geological estimates of the value of Tibesti gold stand at a value of \$10.4 billion. The current predicted annual gold production capacity is estimated at 1,587.96 kg with a value of \$134 million (gold price per kg 07/01/2025). With an estimated annual investment of \$43 million to formalize, boost productive capacity, and expand Tibesti gold mining sites, the extractive estimate increases to 8,046 kg of gold per year. This gives an annual value close to \$679 million.*

The proposed programme will deliver improved human rights protection for miners and economic development for communities, as well as increased ecological protection, enhanced resiliency for peace, and a predictable, stable flow of conflict-free minerals.

* Local estimates to be verified.



Overview

Gold can be at the centre of a global sustainable development success story impacting close to 6% of humanity.

Gold as an asset needs to be extracted from the socially and environmentally destructive dynamic that can be its reality for so many communities worldwide.

The project framed here projects a positive impact pathway for one African community with implications for mining communities globally.

Investors who deliver Chadian Sustainable Peace Gold will unlock a pathway to commercial return and to create a replicable, scalable model for the world's 45 million Artisanal and Small Scale (ASM) miners, their 220 million dependents and 100 million suppliers.

The unfolding Chadian mining development, described briefly here, provides a route to both novel conflict resolution, actual delivery of the UN's 17 SDGs, and a shining example of sustainability success with real scaling potential globally.

Gold — a litigation tsunami?

It also provides a pathway to bolster reputational and litigation protection for gold refineries, luxury gold brands, and investors, exposed to the profound and deepening questions concerning the ESG provenance of complicated gold mining value chains. Beyond gold, the example here is relevant also to a broader range of critically important strategic minerals.

The Tibesti mining communities deserve a fair piece of peace gold...

The Story

The Tibesti Mountains, located in the north of Chad, are a volcanic range formed 34 million years ago. Buried in key mineral pockets within the region are vast reserves of gold, antimony and other increasingly valuable strategic minerals (such as copper, tungsten, iron ores and valuable tailing materials).

The Tibesti communities controlling the mineral rights on their traditional lands have moved — with the assistance of the Italian Foundation, Pax Humana (see sidebar) — towards both peace and economic development agreements with various involved parties. These agreements are the critical precursor to greater investments in a mining region with huge, proven potential.

Pax Humana and TBCG are working together to introduce the Tibesti project to a targeted group of supportive policymakers, including the United Nations. International investors, multilateral development banks and specialists focused on the formalization of ASM operations integrating ESG disciplines.

The over-arching goals of the proposed project, anchored by the aspirational SDGs and guided by ESG protocols, are to:

1. Secure phased funding for PHF to continue building the project to full operational status. Initial funding target \$320 k per year from 2025 to 2030. Utilise this funding for two parallel processes:
 - (a) \$200 k to provide catalytic seed funding for Pax Humana to further develop the Tibesti project; and
 - (b) \$120 k to staff, equip and operate a health clinic already built by Pax Humana's sister organization Ara Pacis Initiatives for Peace. The clinic building was opened in February 2024.
2. The Blended Capital Group's annual advisory fee is \$75k. This will be used to develop and present the investment case to crowd in multilateral financing, impact investors, and other private sources, such as foundations, to back a fully formalized sustainable ASM operation, requiring an estimated \$42.7 million in working capital annually.
3. Build an ASM formalization model that delivers consistent, secure, and robust long-term benefits for Tibesti communities. This would be based upon a data-driven approach demonstrating the investor, SDG, and ESG benefits to the ASM formalization model to catalyse replication and scaling in Chad, across Africa, and internationally amongst diverse ASM communities.

Tibesti region has a huge mineral potential. It needs to be evaluated and developed by foreign investment and expertise....."

Pre-Evaluation of Gold Mineralization, Tibesti Mountains, Northern Chad, Group Community Gold Project

The Pax Humana Foundation (PHF), established on 16 June 2022, is a Rome-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering peace, human security, stability, and socio-economic development across the broader Mediterranean region, including Southern Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, and Africa.

PHF serves as a dynamic platform uniting local tribes, communities, government authorities, public institutions, private sector stakeholders, and civil society.

Its vision is to create a transformative "Pax Humana" era where dignity, resilience, and creativity of individuals are central.

To achieve this, the foundation's mission focuses on delivering integrated solutions centered on stability and security through dignity-centered dialogue, driving socio-economic growth by facilitating equitable business partnerships and skill development, and bridging conflict and progress through dialogue, cultural initiatives, and sustainable solutions.

Health at the heart of it

The village of Miski, located in the Tibesti region of northern Chad, is home to around 2,000 residents, a third of whom are women, children, and the elderly. 200km from the nearest medical facility, the community faces a dire healthcare shortage, forcing expectant mothers to undertake perilous journeys that jeopardize their lives and the lives of their children. In response to this urgent need, the Pax Humana Foundation's sister organization, Ara Pacis Initiatives for Peace, raised €100,000 in August 2022 to build a clinic in Miski, aiming to provide essential medical care, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and offer women a safe place to give birth.

Entrusted by the Miski community to advocate for peace, stability, and socio-economic development, Ara Pacis coordinated the construction, with the community providing the land and overseeing the building process. The new health center was inaugurated on 1 February 2024 and now awaits medical equipment and trained staff to become an essential lifeline, delivering crucial healthcare services to a community in desperate need.

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