

Livelihoods & land acquisition

Current situation

- Agricultural activities are the mainstay of local livelihoods. Gndevaz is famous for high-quality, late-ripening apricot production. Other economic activity focuses on agriculture, Jermuk's water bottling plants, Geoteam's work and seasonal tourism.
- Seasonal and daily herders use the hills around the Amulsar project to graze their animals over summer.



How will local landowners and users be affected by the project?

- Approximately 274 plots of privately owned land will be acquired for construction and operation of the project, particularly near the communities of Gndevaz and Saravan. This includes land which is used for apricot cultivation.
- Some land will only be needed for the period of mining and will be re-contoured, restored and transferred back to local communities after closure
- The area around the heap leach facility will be restored after mine closure, but will not be usable because of technical restrictions.
- Seasonal herders and daily herders who use the project area to graze their animals and collect plants may also be impacted.

What will Lydian do to manage potential impacts and issues?

- Land will be acquired through a negotiated settlement process. Compensation packages will be agreed with each landowner and land user. Landowners will be able to take up either a "land for land" or a cash compensation offer. International experience shows that 'land for land' has superior social impacts.
- Where cash compensation is preferred, it will cover both the value of the land and the time required to re-establish equivalent crops on a new piece of land.
- The company's land acquisition and compensation approach will adhere to Armenian law and the international standards set by the project's shareholders, the IFC and EBRD.
- Impacts to herders have been avoided to the extent possible through project design. Herders will be offered support to gain access to new herding areas as necessary. Herders will be monitored to better understand any livelihood impacts, with support programmes developed as required.

What potential impacts and issues will remain?

- Some local people will shift away from traditional livelihoods into other sectors.
- Small amounts of land used by the project will not be restorable to their original condition.