

West African flags second Sartenga upgrade

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WEST African Resources says a further upgrade at its Sartenga copper-gold-molybdenum-silver deposit in Burkina Faso is on the cards after unveiling a maiden resource just 12 months post discovery.

The inferred resource totals 70 million tonnes grading 0.2% copper, 0.3 grams per tonne gold, 166gpt molybdenum and 1.1gpt silver for a contained 174,000t of copper, 651,000 ounces of gold, 11,000t of molybdenum and 2.5Moz of silver.



Drilling at the Sartenga deposit.

The resource also includes 57Mt of transitional and primary material at 0.6% copper equivalent for 316,000t of copper equivalent metal.

West African managing director Richard Hyde said the resource was a significant achievement just 12 months after the discovery.

"In the past two months we have already shown that the Sartenga primary material is amenable to low-energy coarse grinding and conventional flotation recovery methods, and is located close to existing rail infrastructure," he said.

Despite the resource estimate, the company is continuing to drill with two diamond rigs onsite, focusing on the higher-grade mineralisation in the core of the deposit and targeting extensions at depth.

Hyde said West African would be one of the few companies in west Africa to drill throughout the wet season.

"We intend to deliver a significant resource upgrade in both contained tonnes and mineral resource category in December this year," he said.

In addition to the resource, the company has reported an initial exploration target for Sartenga of 170-250Mt at 0.5-0.9% copper equivalent.

West African said the Sartenga deposit also benefited from high copper and gold recovery levels of 95%, favourable mineralisation geometry, higher-grade zone in the core of the deposit and a rail-to-port solution less than 40km from the project.

Results from further deep diamond core are imminent and will be reported as soon as they are received and interpreted.

Shares in West African were unchanged at A16c.

