

# West African measures its run

One of the most fancied explorers on the ASX, West African Resources Ltd, has moved fast in Burkina Faso, perhaps a little too quickly at times, according to managing director Richard Hyde.

Nevertheless, the company is happy with its status and could be in a position to reveal a pathway to production at its Sanbrado gold project by mid-2018.

"We completed a feasibility study within 12 months of discovery and that demonstrated 160,000 ozpa gold at AISC of around about \$US700/oz [was achievable]," Hyde said.

"After about three years [of the mine plan], we run out of the high-grade that we discovered and subsequently we have done a lot more drilling. We have more than doubled the depth of our high-grade and it is still open at depth to about 400m. We drilled over 50,000m in the last 10-12 months.

"Due to the previous work we have done on the heap leach project, we have applied for a mining licence and we are actually fully permitted for a heap leach project, so we are now updating those permits for a CIL project."

Courtesy of a recent capital raising, supported by Sprott Group, West African is well funded with \$26 million cash plus options that will mature this month injecting a further \$6 million into the company.

Therefore, the company has the financial capacity to maximise Sanbrado's value which will be revealed in an up-graded feasibility study in Q1 2018.

As has always been the mantra even through depressed capital markets, West African will continue on with aggressive drilling programmes.

"We have plenty of cash to really aggressively help the project and keep drilling and by mid-next year we should have



Richard Hyde

a much better idea of what the feasibility study is going to look like and based on that we will make a decision on when we go ahead with production," Hyde said.

A resource update at the 2 moz Sandbrado project was being prepared for release at the time of print, while results from magnetic and IP surveys are expected to deliver more drill targets for West African.

"We are doing some 700m-deep holes at the moment at M1, and we'll start a new drill programme in the 2017/18 field season once all the results are in during September," Hyde said.

"Next year, you can expect more drilling. We're going to drill 60,000m of RC and diamond and we'll work on some met test work and update the permits from

heap leach to CIL."

The probable reserves at Sanbrado are 16.8mt @ 1.7 g/t for 894,000oz gold, with life-of-mine recoveries estimated at about 91%. With the addition of high-grade ounces, recoveries in the mid-90% range are possible.

"The grade is increasing, so the more high-grade resources we are able to add, the head grade is getting up to 2.5 g/t gold and beyond. You need to run a project over 2 g/t gold for it to work," Hyde said.

– Mark Andrews

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