

West African completes first drawdown of US\$100 million for Kiaka construction

Unhedged gold mining company West African Resources Limited ('West African' or the 'Company', ASX: WAF) is pleased to report that it has made its first drawdown under the US\$265 million secured loan facility (Facility) from a fund managed by Sprott Resource Lending Corp. (Sprott) and Coris Bank International SA (Coris) (ASX: 29/6/2023).

WAF has received its first US\$100 million under the Facility to be used for the development of the Kiaka Gold Project in Burkina Faso and other corporate purposes.

West African Managing Director Richard Hyde said:

"The additional funding from Sprott and Coris strengthens WAF's balance sheet and cash position for the construction of Kiaka. The build is well-underway and on track for first gold the second half of 2025."

"Kiaka will be a long-life low-cost gold project averaging 219,000 ounces of gold production per annum for 18.5 years. WAF has an unhedged resource base of 12.6 million ounces and we aim to be producing more than 400,000 ounces of gold annually from our two mines from 2025."

Sprott Managing Partner, Mr Narinder Nagra said:

"We are delighted to be working with the board and management of West African Resources Limited as it brings its second mine into production. We look forward to applying our significant experience in successfully financing gold projects globally to the world-class Kiaka Gold Project."

Coris Chairman, Mr Idrissa Nassa said:

"Kiaka is a world-class project that will have a significant economic and social impact on communities in the Manga region, while making a significant contribution to Burkina Faso's GDP. We are very proud to provide local funding for the Kiaka Gold Project. We would also like to congratulate the WAF, Sprott and Coris teams for their excellent collaboration, which led to the closing of the financing."

Subsequent drawdowns under the Facility remain subject to satisfaction of customary conditions precedent.

This announcement was authorised for release by Mr Richard Hyde, Executive Chairman and CEO.

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Forward Looking Information

This news release contains “forward-looking information” within the meaning of applicable Australian securities legislation, including information relating to WAF’s future financial or operating performance that may be deemed “forward looking”. All statements in this news release, other than statements of historical fact, that address events or developments that WAF expects to occur, are “forward-looking statements”. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the words “expects”, “does not expect”, “plans”, “anticipates”, “does not anticipate”, “believes”, “intends”, “estimates”, “projects”, “potential”, “scheduled”, “forecast”, “budget” and similar expressions, or that events or conditions “will”, “would”, “may”, “could”, “should” or “might” occur. All such forward-looking statements are based on the opinions and estimates of the relevant management as of the date such statements are made and are subject to important risk factors and uncertainties, many of which are beyond WAF’s ability to control or predict. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

In the case of WAF, these facts include their anticipated operations in future periods, the expected enhancement to project economics following optimisation studies, planned exploration and development of its properties including Kiaka project development which commenced in H2 2022 with a 36 month construction schedule, and plans related to its business and other matters that may occur in the future, including the availability of future funding for the development of the project. This information relates to analyses and other information that is based on expectations of future performance and planned work programs. Statements concerning mineral resource and ore reserve estimates may also be deemed to constitute forward-looking information to the extent that they involve estimates of the mineralisation that will be encountered if a mineral property is developed.

As well, all the results of the feasibility study constitute forward-looking information, including estimates of internal rates of return, net present value, future production, estimates of cash cost, assumed long term price for gold, proposed mining plans and methods, mine life estimates, cashflow forecasts, metal recoveries, and estimates of capital and operating costs. Furthermore, with respect to this specific forward-looking information concerning the development of the Kiaka Gold Project, the Company has based its assumptions and analysis on certain factors that are inherently uncertain. Uncertainties include among others:

1. the adequacy of infrastructure;
2. unforeseen changes in geological characteristics;
3. metallurgical characteristics of the mineralization;
4. the price of gold;
5. the availability of equipment and facilities necessary to complete development and commence operations;
6. the cost of consumables and mining and processing equipment;
7. unforeseen technological and engineering problems;
8. accidents or acts of sabotage or terrorism;
9. currency fluctuations;
10. changes in laws or regulations;
11. the availability and productivity of skilled labour;
12. the regulation of the mining industry by various governmental agencies; and
13. political factors.

This release also contains references to estimates of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. The estimation of Mineral Resources is inherently uncertain and involves subjective judgments about many relevant factors. Mineral Resources that are not Ore Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The accuracy of any such estimates is a function of the quantity and quality of available data, and of the assumptions made and judgments used in engineering and geological interpretation (including estimated future production from the project, the anticipated tonnages and grades that will be mined and the estimated level of recovery that will be realized), which may prove to be unreliable and depend, to a certain extent, upon the analysis of drilling results and statistical inferences that may ultimately prove to be inaccurate. Mineral Resource estimates may have to be re-estimated based on:

1. fluctuations in gold price;
2. results of drilling;
3. metallurgical testing and other studies;
4. proposed mining operations, including dilution;
5. the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimates; and
6. the possible failure to receive, or changes in, required permits, approvals and licenses.

Ore Reserves are also disclosed in this release. Ore Reserves are those portions of Mineral Resources that have demonstrated economic viability after taking into account all mining factors. Ore Reserves may, in the future, cease to be a Mineral Reserve if economic viability can no longer be demonstrated because of, among other things, adverse changes in commodity prices, changes in law or regulation or changes to mine plans.

Forward-looking information is subject to a variety of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which could cause actual events or results to differ from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking information, including, without limitation: exploration hazards and risks; risks related to exploration and development of natural resource properties; uncertainty in WAF’s

ability to obtain funding; gold price fluctuations; recent market events and conditions; risks related to the uncertainty of mineral resource calculations and the inclusion of inferred mineral resources in economic estimation; risks related to governmental regulations; risks related to obtaining necessary licenses and permits; risks related to their business being subject to environmental laws and regulations; risks related to their mineral properties being subject to prior unregistered agreements, transfers, or claims and other defects in title; risks relating to competition from larger companies with greater financial and technical resources; risks relating to the inability to meet financial obligations under agreements to which they are a party; ability to recruit and retain qualified personnel; and risks related to their directors and officers becoming associated with other natural resource companies which may give rise to conflicts of interests. This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect WAF's forward-looking information. Should one or more of these risks and uncertainties materialise, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in the forward-looking information.

WAF's forward-looking information is based on the reasonable beliefs, expectations and opinions of their respective management on the date the statements are made and WAF does not assume any obligation to update forward looking information if circumstances or management's beliefs, expectations or opinions change, except as required by law. For the reasons set forth above, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. For a complete discussion with respect to WAF, please refer to WAF's financial statements and other filings all of which are filed on the ASX at www.asx.com.au and the Company's website www.westafricanresources.com.