

Press Release
Friday 9th May 2014



Excellent recoveries confirm potential of West African Resources' Boulsa Gold Project

Highlights

- Gold recoveries confirm heap leach potential of oxide ore at the Mankarga 5 deposit, Boulsa Gold Project, Burkina Faso.
- Gold recoveries of up to 91.5% and averaging 82.5% in coarse feed size heap leach amenability cyanidation test work after 120 hours.
- Many samples still leaching after 120 hours, higher leach extractions would have been achieved if the test duration was extended.
- Very low cyanide consumption of 0.3-0.4kg/t.
- Rapid leach kinetics with average gold extraction more than 50% after eight hours.
- Mankarga 5 deposit contains near-surface oxide and transitional Indicated Resources (at a 0.5 g/t cut-off) estimated at 6.6 million tonnes at a grade of 1.2g/t gold containing 252,000 ounces gold; and oxide and transitional Inferred Resources (at a 0.5 g/t cut-off) estimated at approximately 2.7 million tonnes grading 0.9 g/t gold containing 75,000 ounces gold (ASX: 14/4/14).
- Scoping study for a low-cost heap leach project, targeting near term cash-flow from Mankarga 5 deposit, to be released later this quarter.
- West African aims to be a +50,000oz per annum gold producer within two years, subject to study outcomes.

West African Resources Limited (Perth, Australia ASX, TSXV: WAF) is pleased to report preliminary metallurgical test work results from the Mankarga 5 Deposit located on the Tanlouka Permit, part of its Boulsa Project, in Burkina Faso.

Managing Director Richard Hyde commented on the metallurgical test work: **“The results are in line with our expectations and support our goal to develop a low-cost heap leach starter project from oxide mineralisation at the Mankarga 5 deposit. Samples exhibited rapid leach kinetics and very low cyanide consumption and represent potential recoveries from conventional heap leach processing. Test work is continuing and we will report the results of scoping studies by the end of the June quarter.”**

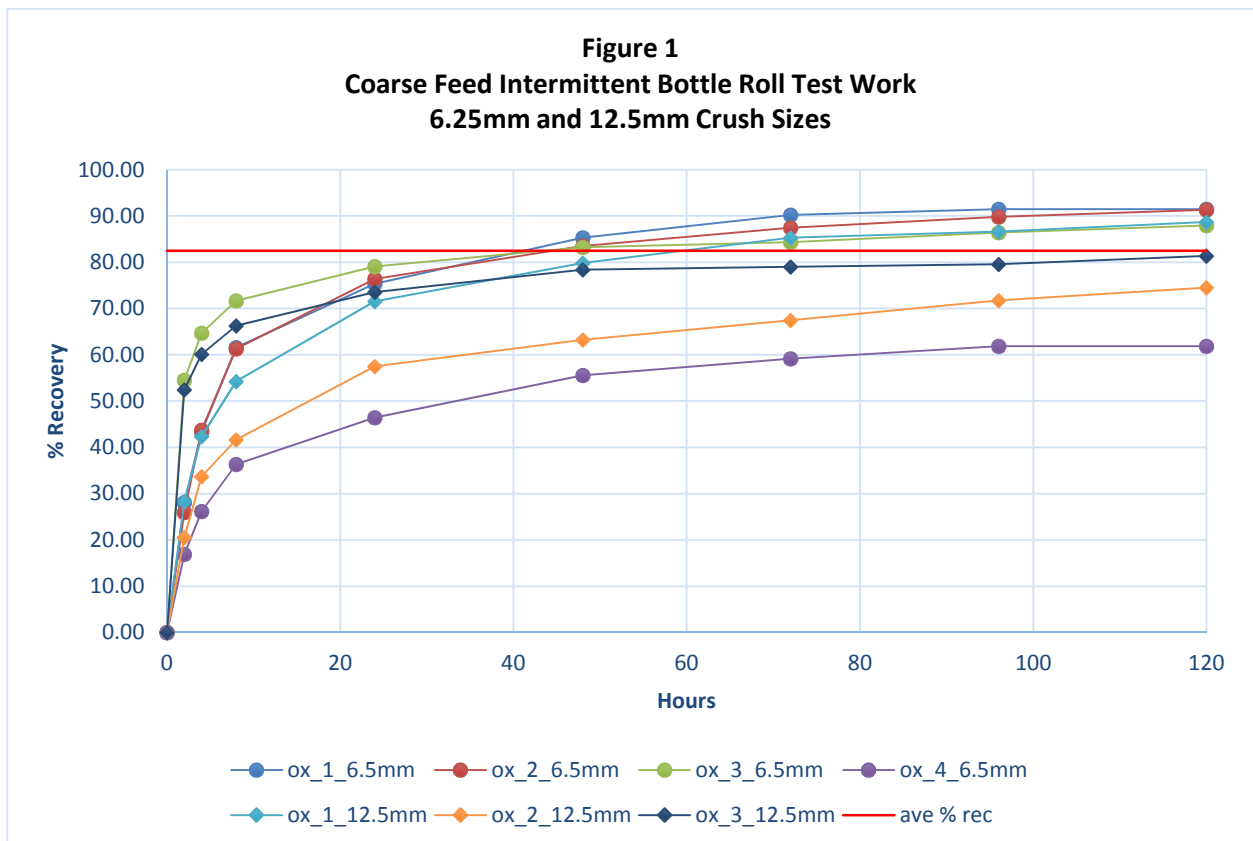
Test work is being carried out at ALS Global in Perth on four metallurgical holes which were drilled at various locations in the Mankarga 5 deposit. In total, 1.6 tonnes of whole core was shipped to ALS Global for comprehensive metallurgical test work including:

- Coarse feed intermittent bottle rolls (IBR) at 6.25 mm and 12.5 mm crush sizes, to determine suitability of oxide ore to heap leach processing.

- Direct cyanidation bottle rolls at P₈₀ 100 µm of all ore types.
- Size by size gold analysis on IBR residue.
- Percolation rate test work.
- Agglomeration test work.
- Column cyanidation leach test work.

The results from the coarse feed IBR are very positive and represent potential recoveries from conventional heap leach processing. The test work program is continuing with sizing analysis of the IBR residue, followed by percolation and agglomeration test work ahead of column tests. Results from the preliminary coarse IBR are presented below in Table 1 and Figure 1. The leach curves presented below show that many of the samples had not completed leaching after 120 hours and this suggests higher leach extractions would have been achieved if the test duration was extended. Remaining leaching and test work results will be reported when available.

Test No	Crush Size P100 (mm)	Overall % Gold Extraction	Head Au (ppm)	Leach Residue Au (g/t)	Consumption (kg/t)	
					NaCN	Lime
ox_1_6.25mm	6.25	91.48	1.17	0.10	0.30	2.44
ox_2_6.25mm	6.25	91.34	0.92	0.08	0.33	3.83
ox_3_6.25mm	6.25	87.94	2.78	0.34	0.37	3.57
ox_4_6.25mm	6.25	61.89	0.80	0.31	0.37	1.89
ox_1_12.5mm	12.50	88.68	1.06	0.12	0.33	2.53
ox_2_12.5mm	12.50	74.53	1.02	0.26	0.40	3.68
ox_3_12.5mm	12.50	81.38	2.42	0.45	0.33	3.84



Near-term Strategy

The Company aims to be a +50,000oz per annum gold producer within two years via a low-cost heap leach starter project at the Mankarga 5 deposit, subject to study outcomes. West African has secured a second-hand 1.6Mtpa heap leach plant as part of its plan to fast-track development of Mankarga 5. Detailed metallurgical test work is underway on Mankarga 5 drill core in Perth. Results of this test work, along with the updated resource estimate, will be incorporated into the scoping study which will be released by the end of this quarter. The proposed project development schedule for Mankarga 5 is shown below.

Timeline of Key Deliverables for the Mankarga 5 Project								
	2014				2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Drilling								
Resource upgrade	✓			•				
Scoping Study		•						
Metallurgical Tests		•		•				
Feasibility Study				•				
Permitting					•			
Construction								•
Production								•

• = expected completion ✓ = completed

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Competent Person's Statement

Information in this announcement that relates to metallurgical test work results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Stuart Smith, a Director of metallurgical consulting firm Aurifex, who is a Member of The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Smith has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the JORC Code). Mr Smith has reviewed the contents of this news release and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Information in this announcement that relates to exploration results and exploration targets is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Richard Hyde, a Director, who is a Member of The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Hyde has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person (or "CP") as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the JORC Code) and a Qualified Person under Canadian National Instrument 43-101. Mr Hyde has reviewed the contents of this news release and consents to the inclusion in this announcement of all technical statements based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

Regulatory Disclaimer and Related Information

Neither TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release. This announcement has been prepared in compliance with the JORC Code 2012 Edition, the ASX Listing Rules and Canadian National Instrument 43-101 (*Disclosure Standards for Mineral Projects*). The information relating to the historic Mankarga 5 Mineral Resource Estimate is extracted from Channel's NI43-101 report dated August 17, 2012 and is available to view on www.westafricanresources.com and on profile of Channel Resources Ltd (now a subsidiary of the Company) on www.sedar.com.

Forward Looking Information

This news release contains “forward-looking information” within the meaning of applicable Canadian and Australian securities legislation, including information relating to West African’s future financial or operating performance may be deemed “forward looking”. All statements in this news release, other than statements of historical fact, that address events or developments that West African 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 West African’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 West African, these facts include their anticipated operations in future periods, planned exploration and development of its properties, and plans related to its business and other matters that may occur in the future. This information relates to analyses and other information that is based on expectations of future performance and planned work programs. Statements concerning mineral resource estimates may also be deemed to constitute forward-looking information to the extent that they involve estimates of the mineralization that will be encountered if a mineral property is developed.

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 West African’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 West African’s forward-looking information. Should one or more of these risks and uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in the forward-looking information.

West African’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 West African 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 West African, please refer to West African’s financial statements and related MD&A, all of which are filed on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Appendix 1

Table 1 shows the updated Mineral Resource for the Mankarga 5 deposit reported 14th March 2014 in accordance with JORC (2012) and Canadian National Instrument 43-101 reporting guidelines.

Table1 : Mankarga5 April 2014 Resource									
	Cut-off (Au g/t)	Indicated Resource				Inferred Resource			
		Vol (m ³)	Tonnes	Grade (Au g/t)	Au Oz	Vol (m ³)	Tonnes	Grade (Au g/t)	Au Oz
Oxide	0.5	2,520,000	5,500,000	1.2	214,000	910,000	2,000,000	0.8	52,000
	1	1,210,000	2,700,000	1.7	145,000	160,000	400,000	1.5	17,000
Transitional	0.5	420,000	1,100,000	1.1	38,000	260,000	700,000	1.1	23,000
	1	180,000	500,000	1.6	23,000	70,000	200,000	2.2	13,000
Fresh	0.5	1,550,000	4,200,000	1.4	184,000	11,120,000	30,000,000	1.0	974,000
	1	970,000	2,600,000	1.7	146,000	4,020,000	10,800,000	1.5	538,000
Total	0.5	4,490,000	10,800,000	1.3	437,000	12,290,000	32,700,000	1.0	1,050,000
	1	2,360,000	5,700,000	1.7	315,000	4,250,000	11,400,000	1.6	568,000