

2023 PRODUCTION GUIDANCE SET AT 210,000 - 230,000 OZ GOLD ALL IN SUSTAINING COSTS <US\$1,175/OZ

- 2023 unhedged gold production guidance: 210,000 - 230,000 oz at AISC of <US\$1,175/oz
- 2023 sustaining capital expenditure US\$15m
- Sanbrado growth capital expenditure of US\$27m in 2023 focussed on:
 - MV3 drilling and development
 - M1 South resource conversion
 - M5 deeps underground potential
- Exploration in 2023 targeting areas within trucking distance of Sanbrado
- A\$173m cash at end of Q4 2022, no senior debt and unhedged
- Upcoming catalysts:
 - Annual Reserve & Resource update & 10-year production outlook
 - Appoint preferred lenders for Kiaka debt finance
 - Further drilling results from M1 South underground and M5 South deeps

Unhedged gold mining company West African Resources Limited (ASX: WAF) is pleased to present its 2023 production and cost guidance for the Company's Sanbrado Gold Operations (Sanbrado) in Burkina Faso.

2023 Annual Sanbrado Guidance

	2022 Actual	2023 Guidance
Gold production (ounces)	229,224	210,000 - 230,000
Adjusted operating cost (US\$/oz) ¹	\$792	<\$950
All-in sustaining cost (US\$/oz) ¹	\$1,086	<\$1175
Capital development (US\$ included in AISC)	\$45m	\$24m
Sustaining capex and sustaining leases (US\$ included in AISC)	\$16m	\$15m
Growth expenditure (US\$ included in All-in cost, excluding Kiaka)	\$21m	\$27m

1 'Adjusted operating cost', 'all-in sustaining cost' (AISC), and 'All-in cost' are performance metrics recommended by the World Gold Council.

2 Actual amounts in table are unaudited

Sanbrado gold production in 2023 is forecast to be marginally lower than 2022, with modelling maintaining a conservative underground mined grade of 7.0 g/t gold versus actual mined grade of 8.1 g/t Au for 2022. Open pit mined grades are expected to be marginally higher than 2022, with a build-up in stockpile of 35,000 ounces by year end.

The 'all-in sustaining cost' per ounce is forecast to be marginally higher than 2022 mainly due to the financial assumption that elevated fuel and explosive prices encountered in the second half of 2022 will persist throughout 2023.

Capital development is forecast to decrease in 2023 by approximately US\$20m in 2023 due to a reduction in open-pit waste stripping. The cutback to the M5 final pit limits was completed in Q4 2022, with the stripping ratio reducing to 4 : 1 (waste : ore) for 2023 in line with the LOM average. Capitalised underground mine development per tonne at M1 South is forecast to be lower than 2022, as mined tonnes are budgeted to increase by 10% from additional levels developed in 2022.

Sustaining Capital

Sustaining capital expenditure is forecast to be in line with the prior year at US\$15 million, mainly reflecting ongoing work at the tailings storage facility.

Growth Capital

Growth capital in 2023 is forecast to be approximately US\$27m and includes project development costs for MV3 (\$9m) and Toega (US\$3m) and other growth programs at Sanbrado of (US\$9m). Costs for MV3 are focussed on preparing the project for mining in 2024. Growth programs at Sanbrado include further resource to reserve conversion drilling at the M1 South underground and diamond drilling and scoping studies focussing on underground potential beneath the M5 LOM open pit.

West African Executive Chairman and CEO Richard Hyde commented:

“Sanbrado’s strong performance is expected to continue with 2023 unhedged production guidance of 210,000 to 230,000 ounces of gold at an AISC of less than US\$1,175 per ounce.

“Growth near Sanbrado will focus on getting MV3 ready for development, resource and reserve conversion drilling beneath the existing M1 South underground reserve and exploring the underground potential beneath the M5 open-pit reserve.

“Exploration drilling in 2023 will test targets with potential to provide high-grade oxide feed to Sanbrado.

“West African Resources is commencing a major growth phase. With the addition of Kiaka to existing operations, WAF aims to be a +400,000ozpa gold producer by 2025.”

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

Further information is available at www.westafricanresources.com.

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Competent Person's Statement

Information in this announcement that relates to exploration results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Richard Hyde, a director and employee of the Company. Mr Hyde is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Hyde has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and types of deposits 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. Mr Hyde has reviewed the contents of this announcement 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 mineral resources (excluding M1 South Deeps) is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Brian Wolfe, an independent consultant specialising in mineral resource estimation, evaluation, and exploration. Mr Wolfe is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Wolfe 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. Mr Wolfe has reviewed the contents of this announcement 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 mineral resources for the M1 South Deeps is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Neil Silvio, an employee and Resource Geologist of the Company. Mr Silvio is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Silvio 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. Mr Silvio has reviewed the contents of this announcement 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 open pit ore reserves is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Stuart Cruickshanks, a fulltime employee of the Company. Mr Cruickshanks is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Cruickshanks 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. Mr Cruickshanks has reviewed the contents of this announcement 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 underground ore reserves is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Mr Andrew Fox, a specialist mining consultant. Mr Fox is a Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Fox 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. Mr Fox has reviewed the contents of this announcement 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.

Forward Looking Information

This news release contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable Australian securities legislation, including information relating to West African'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 project development proposed to commence in H1 2023 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 of 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.