

[Randgold Resources Ltd.](#)

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EXPLORATION DRIVE DELIVERS THE GOODS IN CDI

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire -- Randgold Resources' Tongon gold mine continues to make progress in dealing with its throughput challenge, chief executive Mark Bristow said here today.

Speaking at the company's quarterly update for local media, Bristow said the mine's recovery rate was improving, despite the problems presented by the erratic grid power supply, which management was addressing with the power utility. Following the commissioning of the new hydrocone crushers, work is continuing in conjunction with the equipment supplier to achieve the design performance level, and it has been decided to upgrade capacity by installing a fourth stage of three additional crushers at the end of the existing circuit.

"Looking beyond Tongon, we've stepped up our exploration effort in Côte d'Ivoire on the back of its positive new mining code, and the results are confirming our belief in the high potential of the country's prospectivity," he said.

"We've taken a fresh look at our Nielle permit, which hosts Tongon, and a number of targets for follow-up have already been generated. The most exciting suite of new targets is in the Boundiali permit. These include the very significant new target, Fonondara, and a series of other targets covering a strike of 60 kilometres at the western margin of the Boundiali belt, believed to be an extension of the Syama belt in Mali. A first-phase diamond drilling programme is currently underway at Fonondara and Sani."

At Fonondara, six trenches over a 1.5 kilometre strike exposed a system which averages 16 metres at 2.96g/t. Drill results beneath the trenches have returned best results of 16.53 metres at 3.38g/t including 7.40 metres at 5.88g/t from the main zone and 8.83 metres at 28.62g/t including 4.10 metres at 61.05g/t in the footwall. Results from Sani are pending.

On the Mankono permit, a very promising bulk mining target has also been identified, with trenches grading up to 1.8g/t over widths of 100 metres, and on the Fapoha permit, just south of the Nielle permit, three contiguous targets have delivered good initial sampling grades over a 13 kilometre strike with consistently anomalous pits in the target structure grading up to 8g/t.

"We are very encouraged by the government's commitment to building and diversifying the Ivorian economy, among other things by facilitating foreign investment. Combined with the country's geological assets, this is creating new opportunities for the mining industry which Randgold, with its long-established presence here, is particularly well placed to grasp," Bristow said.

Website: www.randgoldresources.com

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Contact

ENQUIRIES:

Chief Executive

Mark Bristow

+44 788 071 1386

+223 66 75 01 22

Group Regional Manager West Africa

Mahamadou Samake

+223 66 75 61 36

+223 20 20 16 94

Investor & Media Relations

Kathy du Plessis

+44 20 7557 7738

randgold@dpapr.com