

BATERO IN THE MEDIA

Publisher: Mining Journal special publication – Colombia
Published: July 2011

BATERO GOLD EXPLORING A BETTER WAY

Can a world-class gold-copper deposit be developed in ways that maximise economic returns and demonstrate respect for local people and the environment? Canadian resource explorer Batero Gold is working to do just that. In the process, Batero's innovative approach could become the resource industry's new model for sustainability.

Located in the prolific Middle Cauca Gold Belt between two world-class multi-million-ounce gold deposits, the Batero-Quinchia Project's resource prospects appear promising. To the south lies AngloGold Ashanti's La Colosa (12.3Moz gold at 0.3g/t cut-off) project, and less than 20km north, Medoro Resources' Marmato project (9.8Moz gold at 0.3g/t cut-off).

Before going public, historical drill results outlined two deposits on Batero's 100%-owned property. Batero President and CEO Brandon Rook explains: "We're really pleased with what we're finding. For example, this gold and copper mineralisation is all intersected at or near surface, and the majority of the drill holes remain in mineralisation at depth. It's rare today to have this kind of starting point for a junior resource company, especially when you're talking about a very large potential tonnage project." Batero's 40,000m drill programme is delineating these discoveries and is due for completion at the end of July. "After increasing the mineralised depth extension of the historic drilling and delineating the deposits' boundaries further, we still haven't found the boundary of this potential resource," says Mr Rook.

"The deposit is still open to the north-northwest and the south-southeast and at depth. As we continue to delineate and explore the porphyry, eventually this could be one large deposit. And that's very exciting." An NI-43-101-compliant resource estimate is expected by Q4 2011.

SUSTAINABILITY KEY TO BUSINESS PLAN

Well before its drill programme began, Batero was actively building on a strong foundation of social and community work in the district to help build local support and ensure the project's uninterrupted development. Among its efforts, Batero commissioned an environmental and community baseline study to help determine how the company could minimise disruptions to the area's coffee farming industry and improve the local standard of living.

"The baseline study gave us a starting point," explains Mr Rook. "We wanted some real indications on how to make this project a success for not only the typical industry stakeholders but the community."

"Our approach is built on mutual respect, recognition and coexistence," adds Rafael Alfonso, Batero's Colombia-based Director of Operations. "Through extensive community consultations and interviews with the 43 families located on the project area, Batero developed a foundational plan outlining its environmental, social and economic strategies, many of which have already been implemented.

"Batero's inclusion of social and environmental initiatives in parallel with its geological work makes this junior company unique," Mr Alfonso explains. "The main differentiation is the desire to promote sustainability. Mining can't be the only source of income and

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3703-1011 W. Cordova St.
Vancouver, BC V6C 0B2

info@baterogold.com
Tel. 604.568.6378
Fax. 604.568.6834

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TSX-V: BAT
www.baterogold.com

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growth in the region, so Batero is helping local coffee farmers explore ways to boost their productivity too. Efforts like these are creating genuine opportunities beyond the direct employment Batero provides, and helping local people improve their quality of life and build a more prosperous future. This approach is working on many levels including helping Batero earn the people's trust. It has set us on course to deliver a fully realised gold-copper asset in a timely manner."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Water management plan conserves precious resource

An integrated water resource management plan is already improving sanitation and water quality for the 43 families living on the Batero-Quinchia Project and other families near the project area. For example, the project's water treatment plant provides clean drinking water while special storage and rainwater collection ponds supply and recycle water for industrial use and preserve the watershed. Proactive initiatives like these have helped facilitate water permitting.

Relocation programme spells opportunity for local farmers

Instead of offering coffee growers and their families a one-time payout, Batero is providing them with more fertile land nearby. That means the farmers can remain in the community, and Batero can continue to work with the families to help them develop the additional skills they need to make their new farms a success. By hiring locally and becoming small business operators, some families today are reporting productivity is up by about 80%.



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