First Move Advantage – Zimbabwe Mineral Search Limited (ZMS)

Mineral Endowment

Zimbabwe is incredibly well endowed with minerals and can boast rich deposits of gold, PGEs, chrome, nickel, tungsten, antimony, lithium and much more.

There are twenty two greenstone belts in Zimbabwe covering an area comparable to that of the Lake Victoria Greenstone belts in Tanzania. The country has a long history of gold mining with in excess of 4,000 registered historical mines. In 1980 the gold production was greater than the production of Australia.

A total of 700 of these mines have a recorded production of over 3,200oz. However, due to a number of factors including political turbulence, the bush war of the 1970’s and the system of small mineral tenements, many of the 4,000 mines have not been examined in the recent past for bulk mining potential. The majority of these mines exploited only oxide resources and closed down between the wars, or just after World War II.

In addition to a rich gold endowment Zimbabwe has a historical production of 9,683 tonnes of antimony (*figures to 1990) with two thirds of this production coming as a by-product of gold mining.

Significant nickel has been produced from a number of mines exploiting ultra mafic hosted nickel in the greenstone belts with a recorded production of over 200,000* tonnes and with credits of copper and cobalt.
The Great Dyke hosts “World Class” deposits of **chrome** and **PGEs** with a number of currently operating mines.

In 1990 Zimbabwe was the world’s fourth largest **lithium** producer with a total historical production of 10,232 tonnes from pegmatite bodies. These pegmatites have also produced a range of other commodities including **tin**, **tantalum**, **beryl** and **caesium**.

**Scale of Mining and Exploration Potential**

Zimbabwe has the reputation for small scale mining and this has its roots in a number of different factors:

- The tenement system has been based on small claims blocks, which in the past has made the development of strategic ground packages quite difficult due to multiple entity ownership.
- These small claims were owned and operated by family mining concerns that had neither, the capital or the geological knowledge to develop a large scale deposit.
- Recent political history and lack of investment has resulted in Zimbabwean deposits not being assessed for bulk mining potential.
- Lack of geological thinking and the application of modern exploration methods, have failed to realise the potential of many apparent narrow high grade deposits for low grade open pit exploitation.
- Many continuous gold deposits have been worked by number of different companies and workers and production ounces listed under the names of multiple entities. The Vubachikwe Mine (near Gwanda) is a classic example of this and was worked, in the past, by a number of different workers and divided into at least 13 named deposits. The mine recently had a plus 1 million oz. resource base and is currently operating below 1.3km with massive upside potential down dip and along strike.

To illustrate some of the points above there are examples of plus 1 million ounce producing gold mines that shut in the 1940’s that have not been examined since closure!

It is important to note that there has been little or no modern exploration conducted in the country in the last 20 years, the country has seen only the limited re-examination of deposits considering the economies of scale as seen in other jurisdictions such as Australia and Tanzania.

Exploration environments are often described by geologists as either **“Mature”** (with a long history of exploration and mining) or **“Immature”** (with a relatively short history). Zimbabwe can perhaps be described as the **“Peter Pan”** of mining and exploration with a long history but never reaching maturity.
Current Situation

Mining and exploration has stagnated in the last few years and the country is currently experiencing a number of problems including, a liquidity crunch and a desperate lack of capital. Most mining operations have either shut down or are struggling to recapitalise. The insufficient capital within the country has been compounded by minimal direct foreign investment; this is due to an adverse real and perceived political climate. Political difficulties have also resulted in the withdrawal from the country of many junior mining companies with the subsequent related drain of commodity sector, technical and commercial skills. Until recently a company or individual could unofficially hold onto claims almost indefinitely without completing any significant exploration work or development. This is about to change with the Government’s plan to introduce and enforce a “Use it or Lose it” rule into the mining code. This will force speculators to spend money on tenements or risk the government repossessing the claims.

However, “adversity breeds opportunity” and the combinations of the above factors has resulted in the ability to acquire good potential projects relatively cheaply.

The Future

The winds of change have recently swept the Zimbabwe scene and Robert Mugabe has been replaced by President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The new president has announced his intention to open the country to Direct Foreign Investment in an attempt to reboot the economy. The controversial Indigenization and Empowerment Act has already been favourably amended for all resources with the exception of diamonds and platinum. Due to the widely acknowledged mineral endowment this positive change has precipitated a good deal of interest from junior exploration and mining companies looking to move into Zimbabwe in search of good potential projects. Now is a good time to steal a march on the competition and take “Frist Mover Advantage”

Proposal

The ZMS team has the experience, skills and connections to take advantage of the current situation and controls or holds an influential position in a number of projects and opportunities which, if consolidated, have demonstrable multimillion ounce gold potential. The team is happy to discuss this opportunity with potential investors.
The ZMS Team

John Muir
John was head of the successful Muir family mining business in Zimbabwe for 21 years prior to the formation of Imviga Mines in 2013. In a mining career spanning over 40 years, he has been General Manager of the Turk Mine, Director of Mining at JSE listed Eesterling Gold Mines and Managing Director of Matabeleland Minerals. He has broad experience in all technical aspects of building and operating gold mines in both Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Steve Smith
In a career spanning nearly 30 years, Steve has been involved in all aspects of the discovery and exploitation of economic mineral deposits, from grass roots exploration, definition drilling through to feasibility, underground mining/quarrying, to post mine environmental rehabilitation. Steve has worked in different geological terrains across East and Southern Africa and has experience in exploring for commodities such as gold, base metals and industrial minerals. In the mid 1990’s, Steve was part of the Anglo American team that made the initial discovery of two multi-million ounce gold deposits in Tanzania. In 2005, he was contracted by Helio Resource Corp to the Namibian operation, during which time he introduced Helio to the SMP Project now a million ounce discovery in Southern Tanzania. From 2008 to 2012 Steve was the VP Exploration for Clarity Minerals. Steve is currently the technical consultant of a small, producing, gold mining company in Zimbabwe.