

Home is where the copper is for Sabre

There is a running joke among the field team at Sabre Resources Ltd that mining in Namibia is just like mining in Western Australia – only with animals.

The climate is similar and so is the geology. Even the current mining law is based on a previous WA Mining Act. The only apparent difference is the occasional presence of animals such as antelope, leopards and cheetahs.

Not that anyone from Sabre is complaining. Namibia has become a home away from home for many of the Perth-based explorer's workers over the past 18 months as the company looks to achieve an exploration target of 5-10mt @ 1-3% copper and 10-30 g/t silver at its flagship Guchab Canyon project.

Recent drilling recorded Sabre's best intercept to date; 26.4m @ 2.44% copper and 43.6 g/t silver from 95.6m, including 10.5m @ 3.58% copper and 67.46 g/t silver from 111.5m.

The results also suggested copper-silver mineralisation was increasing in grade with depth, while the structures hosting mineralisation had changed orientation.

Drilling will continue into 2014 with the aim of delivering a maiden resource for the prospect.

Sabre chief executive Tim Putt said his company was keen to prove to the market that the Guchab project was worth the investment.

"We've got a commanding ground position and a strategic one, coupled with the fact we've got a strong cash position," he said.

"And unlike a lot of our peers, we're maintaining an active exploration programme and we continue to generate excellent results. We've seen an increase in sulphide mineralisation, which is typical of the Otavi Mountains, and we're seeing an increase in grade



Sabre has returned a number of encouraging intersections from drilling on its Guchab Canyon project in Namibia

towards that 3% target.

"Investors as a whole want to see their money well spent so we've put quite a bit of money into the ground versus what's been spent on overheads and we're thrilled with the return."

Putt said access to key infrastructure had been a key to Sabre's success after picking up the project midway through last year.

The Tsumeb copper smelter – one of only five copper smelters in Africa – is 50km north of Guchab and an existing concentrator at Kombat is 10km to the west. Extensive power, road and rail networks are also nearby.

"One of our biggest advantages is infrastructure and that's what kills a lot of projects, but that's not an issue for us," Putt said.

"We do have other lead-zinc and lead-va-

nadium rich orebodies in the area, but it's not really what the investors are looking for at the moment. We raised a lot of money in August last year to do this work on the copper and from that we've had ongoing success."

The Guchab Canyon project also appears likely to avoid the devastation of one of the worst droughts to hit southern Africa in the past 30 years.

In October, UNICEF reported livestock and crops in countries such as Angola and Namibia had perished, while many households had sold assets and were skipping meals to cope with their losses.

Namibian farmers were also importing hay from South Africa to feed livestock until recently when hay stocks in that nation also dropped to concerning levels.

However, Putt did not expect Sabre's work in Namibia to be directly impacted by the drought affecting other parts of the country.

"The rainy season is between November and February every year and where we work in the Otavi Mountain has actually the highest rainfall area in Namibia," Putt said.

"Normally between November and February, every afternoon you basically get rain but last year the rain didn't come at all. They had a few thunderstorms and that was it.

"In actual fact it probably worked in our favour because it meant that we could drill right through summer, but we had already put infrastructure in place to do that regardless. The only thing that really affects us during the rainy season is if we get torrential rain or thunderstorms then you have to close down drilling operations."

– Michael Washbourne



Outcropping copper mineralisation at Guchab Canyon where Sabre has estimated an exploration target of 5-10mt @ 1-3% copper and 10-30 g/t silver