

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

15 January 2026

# SKYLARK STRENGTHENS TECHNICAL TEAM AHEAD OF COMMENCEMENT OF FIELD OPERATIONS

## DRILLING TARGETED FOR Q1 CY2026 START DATE AT ZARANOU

Skylark Minerals Limited (**Skylark** or the **Company**) (ASX: **SKM**) is pleased to advise that it is has appointed Mr. Arnand van Heerden, AusIMM as Vice President, Exploration. Together with Skylark's Technical Advisor, Geology Mr. Howard Golden, Mr. van Heerden will assume responsibility for the execution of the Company's upcoming 2026 field season at its flagship **364,600 Oz at 1.8 g/t Au Inferred Resource<sup>1</sup> Zaranou Gold Project** in southeastern Côte d'Ivoire (**Zaranou**).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Mr. van Heerden is an **experienced Resource Geologist and has held senior roles** at major gold mining companies including:
  - Director of Geology and Group Mineral Resource Director, Nordgold. Overall portfolio responsibility included 16 Moz of Ore Reserves and 40Moz of Mineral Resources spread across multiple projects and jurisdictions including West Africa.
  - Head of Mineral Resource Management, LATAM and Asia Pacific, Barrick
  - Vice President, Exploration; BG Gold
- Collectively, Mr. van Heerden and Mr. Golden have worked on many multi **million-ounce ounce discoveries** including the Agbaou, Niou and Tokko Projects.
- **Skylark is fully funded for the year and drill planning is well advanced at Zaranou;** exploration activities targeted to commence early in 2026.

### Commenting on the year ahead, Executive Chair Nikolai Zelenski said:

*"I am extremely pleased to welcome Arnand to the Skylark team as our inaugural Vice President of Exploration. Arnand is a high calibre geologist with extensive field exploration experience globally, including many years working in West Africa. Together with Howard, he has been responsible for the discovery of several multi-million-ounce deposits that have been developed into successful mines, and they represent the strongest geological team in the junior gold sector today.*

*Having known Arnand for many years, I can attest to his professionalism, immense work ethic, and ability to both design and manage exploration campaigns. With drilling due to commence at Zaranou very soon, I am confident that we now have a team in place that will maximise the opportunity in the ground as we look to add to our current Resources and identify further targets for exploration.*

*I look forward to tabling further updates on these programs and other business development opportunities with shareholders soon as a busy year gets underway for Skylark."*



**Arnand van Heerden | Vice President, Exploration**

Mr van Heerden is an economic geologist with more than 25 years experience across Mineral Resource management, exploration, and mine planning. He has held senior executive and technical leadership roles with Barrick, Nordgold and Gold Fields and will lead Skylark's on-ground exploration strategy and execution at Zaranou in 2026.



**Howard Golden | Geology Advisor, Exploration**

Mr Golden is a highly regarded geophysicist with over 40 years experience in mineral exploration. He previously held senior roles at BHP, Kinross and Rio Tinto and has contributed to major discoveries including Oyu Tolgoi and Syama. He currently advises multiple mining companies on exploration targeting and geophysical interpretation.

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE PORTFOLIO PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT PIPELINE OF OPPORTUNITY

Skylark's portfolio comprises four exploration licences (EL's) with one in application, comprising:

- **Zaranou Project (51%, earning up to 100%):** Covering 287km<sup>2</sup> on a single granted EL, three hours by road from the capital Abidjan. Zaranou covers approximately 47 km of prospective strike, with mineralisation defined over 8km, and drilled to average depths of just 62m to date. Current Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate of 364,00 Oz at 1.8 g/t Au<sup>1</sup>
- **Maphai Project (100%):** EL application covering 398km<sup>2</sup>, situated along strike from Zaranou and just two hours' drive from Abidjan in a well-established mining district.
- **Vavoua Project (option to acquire up to 100%):** Comprising two contiguous licences<sup>ii</sup> (Vavoua North and Vavoua South) covering 537km<sup>2</sup>, 20km along strike northeast of the operating Abujar Mine.



Figure 1: Portfolio Location in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

## FLAGSHIP ZARANOU PROJECT

### COMPELLING COMBINATION OF EXISTING MRE AND A CLEAR LINE OF SIGHT TO NEAR-TERM GROWTH AND NEW DISCOVERY

- Approximately 47km of prospective strike within the granted licence package.
- Mineralisation defined over approximately 8km, with shallow average drill depths of 62m, supporting efficient follow-up drilling.
- Strong soil anomalism and extensive historical datasets, including 5,850 soil samples and approximately 85,000m of predominantly air core drilling, providing a robust platform for target refinement and extension testing<sup>iii</sup>.

- Multiple shallow mineralised zones and priority targets, including Ehuasso and M'Basso, which are central to this initial drilling programme.

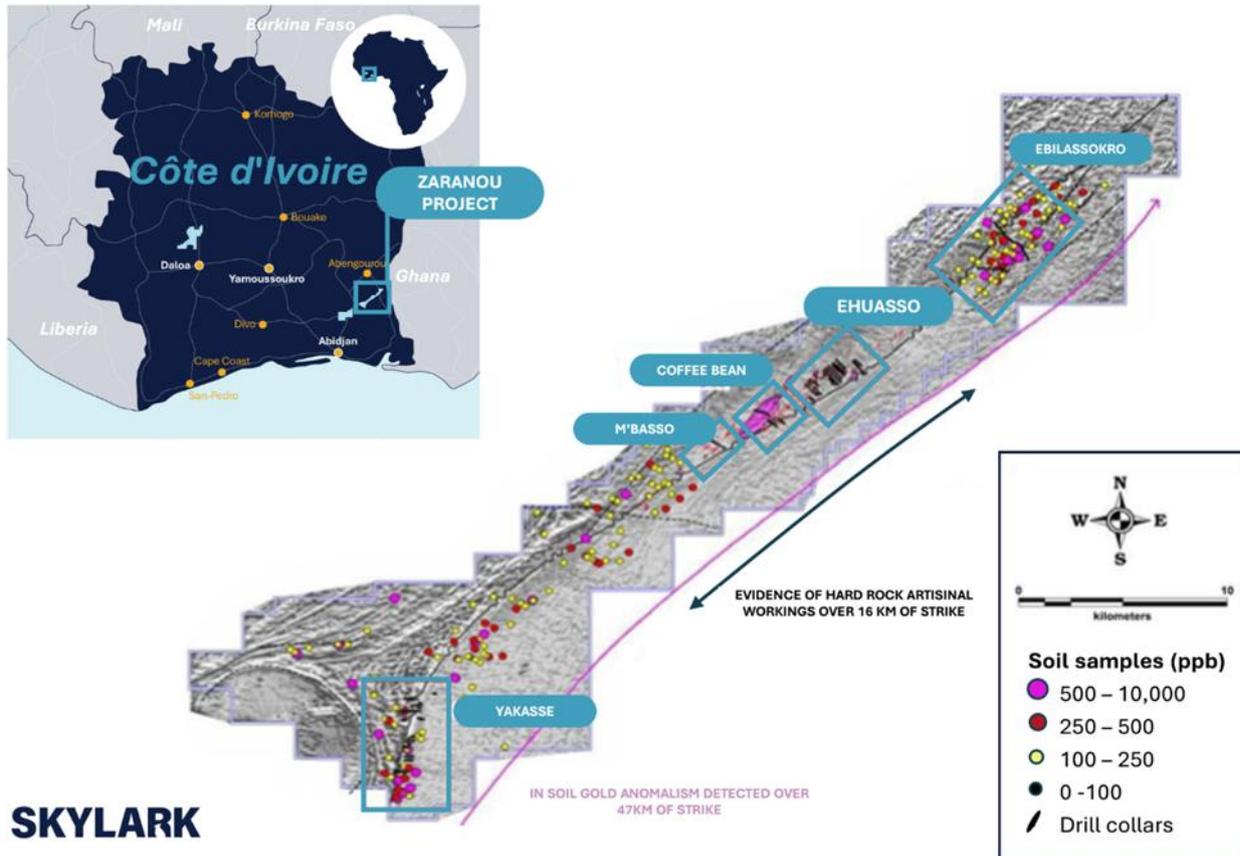


Figure 2: Zaranou Permit Area Showing Historic Exploration and Prospect Locations.

- ENDS -

This notice is authorised to be issued by the Managing Director.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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## References

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<sup>i</sup> The Zaranou Mineral Resource Estimate was first announced by the Company on 12 November 2025. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any information or data that materially affects the announcement of 12 November 2025.

<sup>ii</sup> Further information on the status of the Vavoua South license is set out in the Company's announcement of 12 November 2025.

<sup>iii</sup> The Zaranou soil samples were first announced by the Company on 12 November 2025. The Company confirms that it is not aware of any information or data that materially affects the announcement of 12 November 2025.