



*For Immediate Release*

*TSX.V: DAU  
Frankfurt: QXR2  
OTC: DAUGF*

## **Desert Gold Completes Drill Program at its Farabantourou Permit in Western Mali**

**Delta, British Columbia, July 30, 2018. Desert Gold Ventures Inc.** (“Desert Gold” or “the Company”) (TSX.V: DAU, FF: QXR2, OTC: DAUGF) is pleased to announce that it has concluded its previously announced drill program at its Farabantourou Permit in western Mali. This program is a first step of a larger regional-scale gold exploration strategy that is focused along and proximal to the Mali-Senegal Fault Zone (“MSFZ”), which is related to more than 7 gold deposits<sup>1</sup> that are being, or have been, mined.

This program successfully extended, confirmed and increased our understanding of the gold mineralization at all three target areas with highlights as follows:

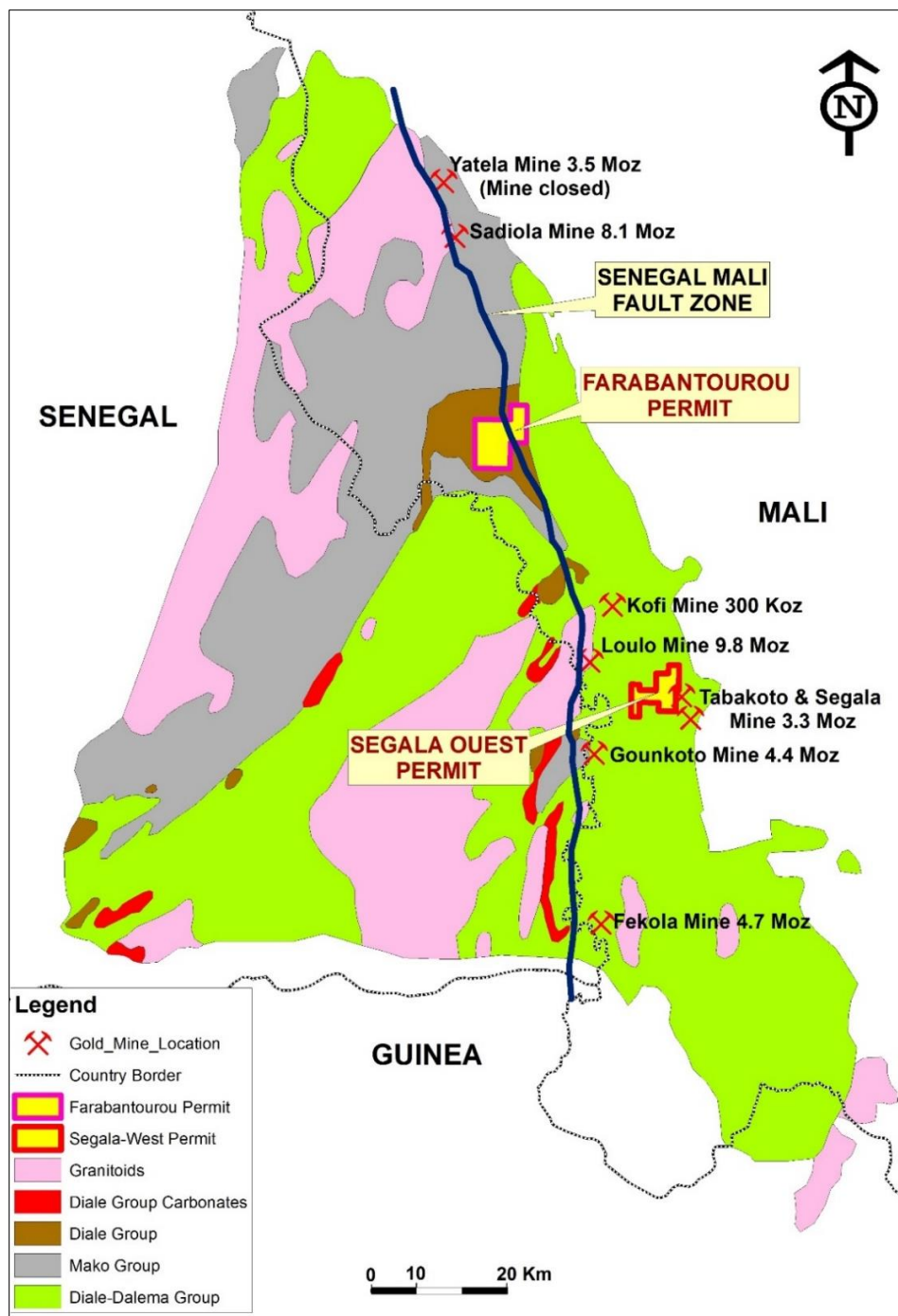
- 6.28 g/t gold over 13 metres at Barani East
- 14.6 g/t gold over 2 metres at Barani East
- 6.21 g/t gold over 3 metres at Barani East
- 1.07 g/t gold over 7 metres at Barani East
- 0.85 g/t gold over 14 metres at Barani
- 1.69 g/t gold over 4 metres at Barani

*(estimated true widths range from 80 to 95% of drilled width)*

Desert Gold’s holds three gold projects (Farabantourou, Segala Ouest and Djimbala) of which Farabantourou and Segala West are located within the Kenieba Inlier of western Mali. The Farabantourou project lies within 40 km to the south of AngloGold Ashanti/Iamgold Sadiola gold mine and 50 km to the north of RandGold Loulo-Goukoto complex gold mines (see Figure 1).

The Farabantourou exploration program consisted of 30 RC and 1 core hole, together totaling 4,059 metres, property-scale prospecting and geological mapping. Desert Gold targeted three known zones that are related to shear and fracture zones within a folded sequence of mixed limestones, siltstones and shales with stronger gold mineralization related to sulphide replacement zones in altered limestones. This mineralization style mimics that of the nearby sulphide-replacement altered, limestone-hosted Sadiola and Yatela deposits that are host to more than 8 million ounces of gold<sup>(1)</sup>.

(1) Randgold’s Loulo-Goukoto mine complex to the west with ore reserves of 32 Mt average at 4.6 g/t for 3.7 million oz Au in the Proven and Probably category, Endeavour Mining’s Tabakoto and Segala mines which hosts ~3 million oz Au (18.5 Mt at 3.5 g/t for 1.8 million oz Au measured and indicated, 9 Mt at 3.6 g/t for 1 million oz Au inferred and 6.4 Mt at 3.5 g/t for 0.7 million oz Au proven and probable. B2Gold Fekola mine to the south with ore reserves of 48.3 million Mt average at 2.37 g/t gold for 3.34 million oz Au in the Proven and Probably category and 65.8 million Mt average at 2.13 g/t gold for 4.5 million oz Au. To the north Sadiola/Yatela mine contains ore reserves of 38 million Mt at 1.57 g/t gold for 2 million oz Au and 87 million Mt at 1.58 g/t gold for 6 million oz Au in the measured and indicated category.



**Figure1: Location of Desert Gold’s Farabantourou and Segala Ouest gold projects in western Mali**

The Barani East Zone has returned the best gold grades to date with intercepts to 7.8 g/t gold over 10 metres. The zone consists of at least four, moderate- to steep-east-dipping lenses ranging in width from 4.5 metres to 15 metres along a strike length of approximately 550 metres. As well, there is good potential for parallel zones with intercepts of 2.22 g/t gold over 20 metres that will be followed up. The recent program returned a **best intercept of 6.28 g/t gold over 13 metres** (see Figure 2). This intercept, along with other drill data supports an open-ended, moderate-southwest-plunging zone that has a 200 metre strike. The recent drilling

also suggests that the strike extent of this central, higher-grade portion of the deposit, may be increasing at depth. Additional holes will be planned to test this concept. Several other, potential, southwest plunging sub-zones, which are evident on the long section, will also need to be tested for their down plunge extents. Additional exploration is also planned to test this northeast trending zone, along strike, especially to the southwest where there is substantial laterite cover and an area where the northly-striking Barani and Keniegoulou mineralized structures would intersect the Barani East trend. This intersection area is a high priority exploration target. Due to the extensive laterite cover over the inferred structural intersection target area, an auger program is planned to support drill planning.

The Barani zone has returned drill intercepts of up to 2.19 g/t gold over 9 metres across a 450-metre wide fracture and fault zone that lies semi-parallel to the MSFZ. This zone, which has been traced for approximately 1,900 meters and is open along strike and to depth, comprises 8 modelled lenses of gold mineralization. The recent drill program of 12 RC holes was designed as widespread follow-up along this mineralized trend. The best hole from the program returned 0.85 g/t gold over 14 metres.

The Keniegoulou Zone has returned intercepts of 5.92 g/t gold over 4 metres. This zone lies south of the Barani Zone and may represent the southern strike extension of the Barani mineralized trend. There is an approximate 1.2 km exploration gap between the zones, in an area where the Barani East trend is interpreted to intersect. The Keniegoulou Zone which has been traced for approximately 1,500 meters and is open along strike and to depth, comprises 5 modelled lenses of gold mineralization. 7 recently completed holes along the Keniegoulou trend returned a best intercept of 1.63 g/t gold over 3 metres. Historic drilling returned stronger results closer to surface, which suggests that there may be near-surface gold enrichment or that the better mineralized zones are near-surface, shallow plunging zones. More geological interpretation work is planned along the Barani and Keniegoulou zones prior to additional drilling.

Desert Gold's President Mr. Jared Scharf commented, "We're very encouraged by the results at Farabantourou. From a relatively small drill program, we have confirmed the presence of gold mineralization along two zones, Barani and Keniegoulou, and have improved our structural understanding of the existing deposit at Barani East. It's clear that additional work is needed to improve upon and expand these mineralized zones. This is to say nothing of the regional potential that has been identified in this area through detailed mapping and sampling on a larger scale. Desert Gold will continue its multifaceted strategy of developing its existing resource base while continuing its ongoing evaluation of other opportunities in the region. To this end we hope to provide the market and our shareholders with further guidance in the near future."

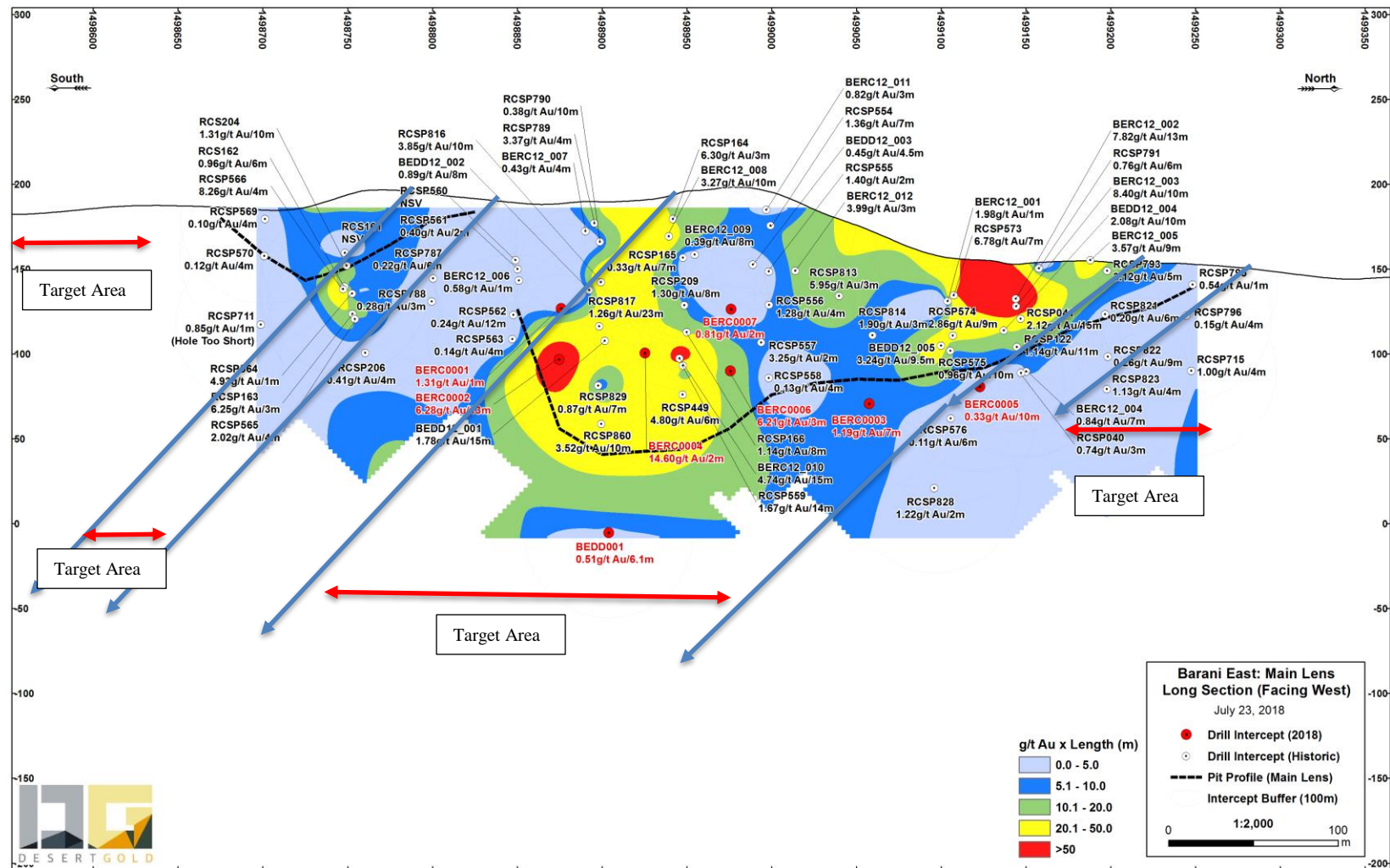


Figure 2 – Color Contoured Long Section - Barani East Zone Main Lens (West Facing)

All core and RC samples were geologically logged following Desert Gold's established standard QA/QC procedures:

For core drilling, all individual samples represent approximately one-meter in length or, occasionally, based on lithology intervals. Half of the core is kept on site for reference and its counterpart is sent for preparation and gold assaying at the SGS laboratories in Bamako, Mali. For RC drilling, all individual samples represent approximately one-meter in length of rock chips homogenized and riffle-split to an approximately 2 kg subsample which is sent for preparation and gold assaying at the SGS laboratories in Bamako, Mali. Each sample (core and RC) is fire-assayed for gold by SGS laboratories in Bamako using Au-FAA505 method which is a 50g fire assay fusion with AAS instrument finish. In addition to SGS own QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) program, Desert Gold's internal quality control and quality assurance procedures include the use of certified standards (1:20), sample duplicates (1:20) and blanks (1:20).

## ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

"Sonny Janda"

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Sonny Janda  
Director

For further information please contact Jared Scharf, President, at +1 (858) 247-8195 or visit [www.desertgold.ca](http://www.desertgold.ca)

*This note was reviewed by Dr. Luc Antoine who is a director of the Company and is registered as a Member of the Geological Society of South Africa (MGSSA 967397). He approves the scientific and technical disclosure in the news release and has the necessary experience relevant to the style of mineralization and types of deposits under consideration and to the activity as a Qualified Person as defined in the National Instrument 43-101.*

Additional information can also be viewed at [www.SEDAR.com](http://www.SEDAR.com) under the company's profile.

*This news release contains forward-looking statements respecting the Company's ability to successfully complete the Offering. These forward-looking statements entail various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in these forward-looking statements. Such statements are based on current expectations, are subject to a number of uncertainties and risks, and actual results may differ materially from those contained in such statements, including the inability of the Company to successfully complete the Offering. These uncertainties and risks include, but are not limited to, the strength of the capital markets, the price of gold; operational, funding, and liquidity risks; the degree to which mineral resource estimates are reflective of actual mineral resources; and the degree to which factors which would make a mineral deposit commercially viable are present; the risks and hazards associated with mining operations. Risks and uncertainties about the Company's business are more fully discussed in the company's disclosure materials filed with the securities regulatory authorities in Canada and available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and readers are urged to read these materials. The Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from such statements unless required by law.*

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Table 1  
 Summary Results 1H, 2018 Farabantourou Drill Program

BHID	FROM	TO	LENGTH	Au_ppm
BEDD0001	65.95	66.75	0.8	0.5
BEDD0001	188.6	189	0.4	1.02
BEDD0001	191.1	191.6	0.5	1.41
BEDD0001	202.6	204	1.4	0.94
BEDD0001	206.65	207.55	0.9	1.05
BEDD0001	228.5	232.7	4.2	0.59
BEDD0001	237.2	241	3.8	0.87
BEDD0001	258.2	259	0.8	0.95
BERC0001	69	70	1	1.31
BERC0002	<b>99</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6.28</b>
BERC0003	123	124	1	1.5
BERC0003	<b>138</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.19</b>
BERC0004	23	25	2	1.03
BERC0004	<b>101</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14.6</b>
BERC0005	61	63	2	1.27
BERC0005	75	76	1	0.63
BERC0005	83	84	1	0.63
BERC0005	97	99	2	2.05
BERC0005	102	103	1	1.35
BERC0005	118	123	5	0.62
BERC0006	112	113	1	0.52
BERC0006	<b>118</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.21</b>
BERC0007	59	60	1	0.51
BERC0007	75	77	2	0.81
BERC0008				NSV
BERC0009	59	60	1	0.56
BERC0009	96	101	5	0.67
BERC010				NSV
BRC0001	18	20	2	1.04
BRC0001	57	58	1	0.58
BRC0001	62	63	1	0.56
BRC0001	72	73	1	0.89
BRC0002				NSV
BRC0003				NSV
BRC0004	33	34	1	2.76
BRC0004	58	59	1	1.56



BRC0004	64	65	1	0.65
BRC0005	68	69	1	1.49
BRC0006	23	24	1	0.5
BRC0006	34	35	1	0.75
BRC0006	38	40	2	0.67
BRC0006	45	46	1	1.12
BRC0006	50	51	1	0.72
BRC0006	54	57	3	0.65
BRC0007	5	7	2	1.38
BRC0007	12	13	1	0.8
BRC0007	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.85</b>
BRC0007	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.69</b>
BRC0007	55	57	2	1.25
BRC0007	86	87	1	0.74
BRC0007	113	114	1	0.71
BRC0007	117	118	1	0.53
BRC0008	2	6	4	0.75
BRC0008	19	23	4	0.64
BRC0008	26	27	1	0.76
BRC0008	78	79	1	0.7
BRC0008	87	88	1	2.36
BRC0009	14	15	1	0.55
BRC0009	40	41	1	2.4
BRC0009	81	82	1	1.12
BRC0009	88	89	1	0.85
BRC0009	93	94	1	0.97
BRC0010	6	8	2	0.52
BRC0010	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.16</b>
BRC0010	66	68	2	0.85
BRC0010	71	74	3	1.84
BRC0011	122	125	3	0.8
BRC0012	6	7	1	0.61
BRC0012	11	12	1	1.74
BRC0012	18	21	3	0.72
BRC0012	28	30	2	0.68
BRC0012	41	42	1	0.8
BRC0012	89	91	2	0.76
KNRC0001	76	79	3	1.63
KNRC0002	19	20	1	0.78

KNRC0002	54	55	1	1.45
KNRC0003				NSV
KNRC0004	1	3	2	0.83
KNRC0004	64	67	3	1.14
KNRC0004	79	80	1	1.7
KNRC0005	94	96	2	0.78
KNRC0006	83	84	1	3.23
KNRC0007	88	89	1	0.57