



**PRESS RELEASE
SEMAFO**

**TSX-SMF
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SEMAFO Drills 4.07 g/t Au Over 43 Meters to Further Expand Wona SW Deep Zone at Mana
Parallel Zone Returns 4.43 g/t Au over 25 Meters**

Montreal, Quebec, October 18, 2011 – SEMAFO (TSX: SMF) today reported drill results from its ongoing exploration and in-fill program on the Wona SW zone, located immediately southwest and parallel to the Wona Deep zone. Core drilling results have added underground depth potential revealing wide and high-grade mineralization. Results with values including WDC319, which returned **4.07 g/t Au (4.33 g/t Au uncut) over 43 meters**, extend the mineralization at-depth and suggest a mineralized plunge similar to the central portion of the Wona Main zone.

Results from Wona's Parallel zones show interesting values and thickness that suggest important swelling as confirmed by hole WDC322, which returned **4.43 g/t Au (8.63 g/t Au uncut) over 25 meters** (Figure 1).

Following SEMAFO's press release dated of May 12, 2011, a total of 34,659 meters of core drilling in 95 holes (up to WDC421) have been completed on the Wona and Wona SW zones with the available results to date presented below. All assays remain pending for holes WDC328 to WDC421.

Wona SW Zone Results

DDH No.***	Zone	Section (N)	From	To	Au* / Length**
WDC288	Wona SW	15750	164.0	172.0	3.30 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC289	Wona SW	15750	199.0	217.0	3.16 g/t / 18.0 m
					(4.28 g/t uncut)
Including			199.7	204.0	6.90 g/t / 4.3 m
					(11.60 g/t uncut)
WDC290	Wona	17000	555.0	569.0	3.51 g/t / 14.0 m
WDC291	Wona SW	15750	243.0	255.0	2.78 g/t / 12.0 m
WDC293	Wona SW	15750	329.0	336.0	3.08 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC294	Wona	17100	502.0	506.0	2.95 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC295	Wona SW	15550	209.0	234.0	2.86 g/t / 25.0 m
Including			222.0	230.0	4.00 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC296	Wona	17150	533.7	536.0	5.05 g/t / 2.3 m
WDC297	Wona SW	15550	309.0	327.0	3.82 g/t / 18.0 m
Including			319.0	327.0	5.43 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC298	Wona SW	15450	253.0	272.0	2.36 g/t / 19.0 m
Including			264.0	272.0	3.27 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC299	Wona	17150	581.0	585.0	1.10 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC300	Wona SW	15550	388.0	396.0	3.41 g/t / 8.0 m
					(4.36 g/t uncut)

WDC302	Wona	16850	389.3	391.3	3.43 g/t / 2.0 m
WDC304	Wona SW	15450	185.0	208.0	2.56 g/t / 23.0 m
Including			196.0	204.0	3.95 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC306	Wona SW	15750	373.0	391.0	2.11 g/t / 18.0 m
Including			388.0	391.0	5.02 g/t / 3.0 m
WDC308	Wona SW	15850	203.0	213.0	2.68 g/t / 10.0 m
Including			209.0	213.0	4.25 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC309	Wona SW	15850	160.0	168.0	1.76 g/t / 8.0 m
WDC310	Wona SW	16450	302.5	321.0	4.64 g/t / 18.5 m
					(4.94 g/t uncut)
Including			303.5	310.0	6.03 g/t / 6.5 m
					(6.89 g/t uncut)
WDC311	Wona	16900	541.0	547.0	4.00 g/t / 6.0 m
WDC312	Wona SW	15850	235.0	249.0	2.30 g/t / 14.0 m
WDC313	Wona SW	16450	347.0	361.0	2.47 g/t / 14.0 m
Including			347.0	350.0	5.88 g/t / 3.0 m
WDC314	Wona SW	15850	293.0	299.0	2.72 g/t / 6.0 m
WDC315	Wona	16800	355.0	362.0	2.92 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC316	Wona SW	16450	435.5	440.0	1.51 g/t / 4.5 m
WDC317	Wona SW	15850	349.6	361.0	3.73 g/t / 11.4 m
Including			351.8	358.4	4.75 g/t / 6.6 m
WDC318	Wona	16750	422.0	428.1	2.25 g/t / 6.1 m
WDC319	Wona SW	15850	486.0	529.0	4.07 g/t / 43.0 m
					(4.33 g/t uncut)
Including			507.0	521.0	5.16 g/t / 14.0 m
					(5.79 g/t uncut)
WDC320	Wona SW	16450	551.2	557.2	2.73 g/t / 6.0 m
WDC321	Wona	17000	665.4	668.8	3.10 g/t / 3.4 m
WDC322	Wona SW	15600	380.0	387.0	1.05 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC323					Pending
WDC324	Wona	17200	379.0	385.0	4.92 g/t / 6.0 m
WDC325					Pending
WDC326					Pending
WDC327	Wona SW	16550	356.9	365.3	2.57 g/t / 8.4 m

* All individual samples are cut at 15 g/t as per Wona Deposit procedures.

** All lengths are measured along the hole axis; additional information is required to determine true widths.

*** WDC301, WDC303 and WDC305 have not been drilled on the Wona - Kona zone, and WDC292 and WDC307 were cancelled due to strong deviation.

Core drilling completed includes infill drilling of the Wona and Wona SW as well as extensions. The results confirmed the high-grade potential of the Wona SW zone with values of up to 4.64 g/t Au (4.94 g/t Au uncut) across 18.5 meters, as well as identified a wide and higher-grade zone at greater depths with hole WDC319 returning 4.07 g/t Au across 43 meters. Hole WDC319 belongs to the same trend as previously announced holes WDC284 and WDC287 (reference SEMAFO's press release dated May 12, 2011), which returned 2.27 g/t Au over 51 meters and 2.24 g/t Au over 29 meters respectively. This suggests the presence of a second wide

ore shoot plunging slightly north, similar to the Wona main ore shoot, and could hold a large area of wide gold mineralization. Further drilling is scheduled to test this area and its extensions.

Parallel Zones

The parallel zones, located 10 to 30 meters east of the Wona structure, continue to be increasingly significant towards the southwest showing areas of swelling with above-average grades as confirmed by hole WDC322 which returned 4.43 g/t Au (8.63 g/t Au uncut) across 25 meters and hole WDC297 with 3.12 g/t Au (7.03 g/t Au uncut) over 13 meters.

Parallel Zones Highlights

DDH No.	Zone	Section (N)	From	To	Au* / Length**
WDC291	Parallel	15750	342.0	346.0	2.39 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC291	Parallel	15750	352.0	358.0	3.93 g/t / 6.0 m
WDC291	Parallel	15750	364.0	369.0	4.49 g/t / 5.0 m
WDC293	Parallel	15750	315.0	322.0	2.55 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC293	Parallel	15750	426.0	431.0	2.33 g/t / 5.0 m
WDC294	Parallel	17100	601.0	605.0	3.28 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC295	Parallel	15550	302.0	305.0	7.14 g/t / 3.0 m
WDC297	Parallel	15550	286.0	290.0	3.01 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC297	Parallel	15550	378.0	391.0	3.12 g/t / 13.0 m
					(7.03 g/t uncut)
WDC298	Parallel	15450	291.0	305.5	1.73 g/t / 14.5 m
WDC298	Parallel	15450	329.0	336.0	4.01 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC302	Parallel	16850	352.3	356.8	5.04 g/t / 4.5 m
WDC306	Parallel	15750	359.0	366.0	1.95 g/t / 7.0 m
WDC306	Parallel	15750	454.0	464.0	3.03 g/t / 10.0 m
WDC308	Parallel	15850	247.0	251.0	2.78 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC311	Parallel	16900	642.0	646.3	1.89 g/t / 4.3 m
WDC311	Parallel	16900	680.0	682.0	5.96 g/t / 2.0 m
WDC314	Parallel	15850	366.0	370.0	1.61 g/t / 4.0 m
WDC314	Parallel	15850	383.2	388.0	7.35 g/t / 4.8 m
WDC318	Parallel	16750	333.0	343.0	1.48 g/t / 10.0 m
WDC322	Parallel	15600	409.0	434.0	4.43 g/t / 25.0 m
					(8.63 g/t uncut)
Including			427.0	434.0	7.31 g/t / 7.0 m
					(22.17 g/t uncut)
WDC323	Parallel	16550	319.0	333.0	1.40 g/t / 14.0 m
WDC324	Parallel	17200	649.0	658.7	1.68 g/t / 9.7 m

* All individual samples are cut at 15 g/t as per Wona Deposit procedures.

**All lengths are measured along the hole axis; additional information is required to determine true widths.

The exploration programs were designed and managed locally by Dofinta Bondé and David Legault, Mana Mineral's Exploration Chief Geologists, David Lalonde, Deputy Exploration Manager, and Richard Roy P Geo, Exploration Manager, and guided and supervised under the direction of Michel Crevier, P.Geo MScA, Vice-President, Exploration and Mine Geology and SEMAFO's Qualified Person who has reviewed this press release for accuracy and compliance with National Instrument 43-101.

All individual core samples represent approximately one-meter in length of core, which was sawed in half. Half of the core is kept on site for reference and its counterpart is sent for preparation and gold assaying at the ALS Chemex laboratories in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Each sample is fire-assayed for gold content on a 50-gram sub-sample at the same ALS Chemex laboratories. In addition to ALS Chemex's own QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) program, an internal quality control and quality assurance program is in place throughout the sampling program, using blind duplicates, blanks and recognized industry standards.

About SEMAFO

SEMAFO is a Canadian-based mining company with gold production and exploration activities in West Africa. The Corporation currently operates three gold mines: the Mana Mine in Burkina Faso, the Samira Hill Mine in Niger and the Kiniero Mine in Guinea. SEMAFO is committed to evolve in a conscientious manner to become a major player in its geographical area of interest. SEMAFO's strategic focus is to maximize shareholder value by effectively managing its existing assets as well as pursuing organic and strategic growth opportunities.

CAUTION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions and accordingly, actual results and future events could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. You are hence cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include words or expressions such as "further", "expand", "ongoing", "suggests", "remain", "pending", "could", "scheduled", "continue" and other similar words or expressions. Factors that could cause future results or events to differ materially from current expectations expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements include the ability of WDC319 to suggest a mineralized plunge similar to the central portion of the Wona Main zone, the ability of the trend to which WDC319 belongs to suggest the presence of a second wide ore shoot plunging slightly north and to hold a large area of wide gold mineralization, the ability to execute on our strategic focus, fluctuation in the price of currencies, gold or operating costs, mining industry risks, uncertainty as to calculation of mineral reserves and resources, delays, political and social stability in Africa (including our ability to maintain or renew licenses and permits) and other risks described in SEMAFO's documents filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities. You can find further information with respect to these and other risks in SEMAFO's 2010 Annual MD&A and 2010 Annual Information Form, as updated in SEMAFO's 2011 First Quarter MD&A and 2011 Second Quarter MD&A, and other filings made with Canadian securities regulatory authorities and available at www.sedar.com. These documents are also available on our website at www.semafo.com. SEMAFO disclaims any obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law.

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Figure 1

Further Expansion of Wona SW Deep Zone Accroissement du potentiel de la zone Wona SO Profondeur

