

## News

September 02, 2010

### **Sabre's Hunt For A Tsumeb Lookalike At Kaskara Steps Up A Gear, As The Drill Rigs Finally Roll Onto Site**

By Our Man in Oz

**It's taken longer than management imagined it would, and longer than some shareholders could hold out for, but [Sabre Resources](#) has now started preparations for drilling at its highly-promising Kaskara copper, lead, and zinc project in northern Namibia. Forty kilometres to the north lies Tsumeb, which, for nearly 100 years was one of the world's largest copper mines. And by Christmas Sabre should know whether it really is on the trail of a Tsumeb lookalike. Or, to put it another way, if the drill-cores support the theory, then Sabre could be sitting on the trail of a mineralised elephant. The drilling might also answer one of Africa's more interesting exploration questions, namely why the people who ran Tsumeb didn't take a closer look at Sabre's ground just a short hop to the south?**

If someone from Tsumeb had looked around Kaskara, he or she could hardly have missed the surface-exposed sulphide-rich mineralisation, also known as gossans, which have in more recent times returned assays up to 23.5% copper, 35% lead, and 34.4% zinc. More importantly, if Kaskara had been given a proper going over, Tsumeb itself could have continued processing local ore rather than importing it from Bulgaria, which is what's happening today. That's a truly strange turn of events, given that Tsumeb was once a mine containing 25 million tonnes of ore, and rich ore too. Hard to credit these days, but the grades at Tsumeb ran at 5.5% copper, 11.5% lead, 4% zinc, and 172 grams per tonne silver.

Surface samples, as everyone with an interest in mining knows, are a useful starting point for an exploration project. But that's about all. Drilling is what's required to discover what lies at depth, and until now Sabre has not been doing much drilling, even if it did get the stock market rather excited around this time last year. Back then Sabre was trading at A8 cents, a price which more than tripled after the company reported the discovery of a 400 metre line of high-grade copper, lead, and zinc outcrops. As well as the better known base metals the surface material at Kaskara also contained useful readings of germanium and gallium, tell-tale signatures of Tsumeb-style material.

Early excitement, however, gave way to frustration as Sabre made slow progress on drilling its surface discovery. "We had a number of issues", Sabre's exploration manager, Matthew Painter, told Minesite. "The rainy season lasted longer than usual, which meant it was impossible to mobilise equipment to site, and we had land access issues to resolve with local farmers. That's been the bad news story of the year. The good news is that we're finally moving ahead with drilling, starting with water bore drilling ahead of the diamond work." An announcement to that effect went out to the ASX on August 31st.

Followers of Sabre, and of its hunt for the next Tsumeb, were quick to recognise the importance of the Kaskara drilling announcement, even if the first holes will only be for water. In a falling market, Sabre was one of the few stocks to rise, putting on A1.5 cents, or six per cent in light turnover, to close the day at A26.5 cents. The shares subsequently ticked up a further A0.5 cents to A27 cents. That rise may perhaps be a sign that some investors recognise the importance of water for diamond drilling, especially in a dry environment such as Namibia.

Once a water supply is secured, Sabre will start testing a series of targets along 2.8 kilometres of strike. First holes will be into easily accessible, but less prospective, targets, because they can be drilled using track-mounted equipment. The more prospective areas of interest are in hill country and will require the use of man-portable equipment. The early drilling will be to provide an initial assessment of the style and distribution of mineralisation in an area known as the Kaskara-Lucas Post corridor, which is one of two main areas of interest for Sabre. The other is the Pavian Trend, which includes a series of zinc and lead targets which have the potential to be relatively high tonnage, modest grade open pits, all potentially working as a single mine.

While drilling at Kaskara is what the market has been waiting for, the Pavian Trend exploration has returned encouraging results too, including one recent assay from a target known as Border which showed 10 metres at 5.3% combined lead and zinc. Sabre's plan is to continue chasing the line of mineralisation, a hunt which recently stepped up a notch when it applied for additional exploration ground stretching to the north-east.

For investors, Sabre is very much an exploration story, but it is one with its foot on some of the more interesting ground in a region with a long history of prolific mineral production. The search along the Pavian Trend has revealed clues which could potentially lead to a medium-sized lead-zinc project. But the real interest is still Kaskara, which is why the market reacted positively to the news about getting a rig on site. The real test will come when the drill core gets sent to the assay labs, and the technicians get to work on their analysis.