Nickel and time the perfect mix for Adavale

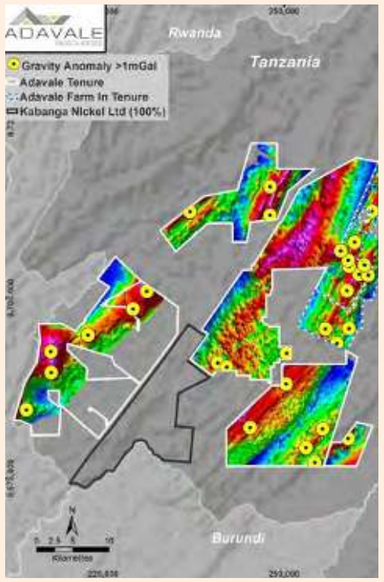
Adavale Resources Ltd is confident it is ready to deliver on the obvious potential of its Kabanga Jirani nickel project this year after identifying more than 30 new drill-ready targets last month.

Adavale will start drilling this month at Kabanga Jirani, in the far west of Tanzania, after completing a gravity survey which identified 32 nickel sulphide targets across 1,000sq km of its licence area and a heliborne EM survey to identify deeper conductors within the gravity anomalies.

"We will start drilling with a mix of RC and diamond holes in August and then I don't think we'll stop," Adavale executive director Davie Riekie told **Paydirt**. "The next two quarters are going to be full of activity."

Riekie is confident the company has given itself the best opportunity of finding economic mineralisation after what he admitted was a false start in 2021. The company drilled eight holes last year based on historical geochemical and geophysical datasets. That drilling returned only modest sniffs of nickel and copper, with the company quickly realising it needed better targeting techniques if it was to hit economic mineralisation.

"We were working with static information which isn't as reliable as it could be," Riekie explained. "So, while the early soils confirmed the fertile nature of the ground, we didn't do enough targeting and started with diamond drilling when maybe we should've been doing RC drilling. Nickel sulphide exploration can be tricky and you can easily have a wasteful programme if you are not spending the time to define the targets."



A recent gravity survey has presented Adavale with 32 high-quality targets on its Kabanga Jirani nickel project in Tanzania

Adavale returned to the planning table at the beginning of the year and decided to rerun gravity and EM surveys. The decision has seemingly paid off with the surfeit of prospects now in front of it.

"The measure of the success of the gravity programme is quite simply a reflection of the large number of high-quality targets that have been generated," Riekie said. "Without the gravity survey technique, these targets would have remained undiscovered. This is because the targets do not have a recognisable surface expression and mostly remain completely hidden under the plus-50m of thick cover of highly weathered lithologies and soils that covers much of our ground holding.

"Now, we know we have the right rocks, the right gravity and the right conductors, but until we hit semi or massive sulphides, we won't be able to say we are actually onto something."

Should Adavale deliver on that front, it is sure to attract plenty of industry attention. The Kabanga Jirani project sits adjacent to the 58mt @ 2.62% nickel Kabanga nickel project for which BHP Ltd recently spent $US50 million to secure a stake in. Kabanga remains one of the largest undeveloped nickel sulphide projects in the world and if Adavale can get onto something next door, interest is certain to be piqued.

"There's only half a dozen places in the world where you find this style mineralisation and we have the best and most dominant position on one of those belts," Riekie said. "It is an interesting part of the world because there are just a handful of experts on it, but we keep in touch with them all and they're complementary on how we have pulled it together.

"If we find something, we will have ongoing interest because the opportunity to find something big, at good grades, is there. Our objective is that 2-3% nickel grade range."

Aiding Adavale's cause is an expert technical and in-country team. Chairman Grant Pierce's near 30-year association with the East African country has been crucial in building Adavale's reputation in-country, allowing it to put together a high-quality local technical team.

"Grant knows the industry, he knows the people and he knows the country," Riekie said. "We have been able to handpick an in-country team for this company."

Non-executive director and former Panoramic Resources Ltd general manager John Hicks is providing the exploration leadership with chief geologist Paschal Wadeya the on-ground leader.

The company's exploration push is also well-timed from a geopolitical perspective with Tanzania slowly returning from the international investment wilderness after five years.

President Sami Suhulu Hassan has been welcomed on the world stage and the Government's new mining policies are designed to attract foreign investors back into the mining sector.

Pierce was in Tanzania through May and noticed a discernible enthusiasm for the mining sector.

"I met with the deputy minister who is new in the role and had a very positive discussion," Pierce said. "There is just a different atmosphere, people are very positive wherever you go."

Adavale is hoping to use that positive sentiment to move quickly following the start of drilling this month.

"After the EM, we will be drill-ready and probably start in August on a 5,000m programme," Riekie said. "We have set our sights on delineating a resource in less than 12 months. From next month it will be full on for us.

"We have been reasonably guarded up until this point but once we start getting the visuals from September onwards we want to get this story out to investors."

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