PRESS RELEASE
24 October 2008
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AIM: ACU
BSE: African Copper
TSX: ACU

African Copper’s First Concentrate Shipment
and Mowana Mine Update

London, United Kingdom:African Copper plc (“African Copper” or “The Company”) (AIM/TSX: ACU, BSE: African Copper) is pleased to provide shareholders with an update on the progress at the Mowana open pit mine in Botswana.

October – December 2008

The engineering, procurement, construction and management (“EPCM”) contractor is currently undertaking the completion guarantees related to the final commissioning of the processing plant. Stable operating conditions have now been reached and steady state daily production of copper concentrates has been achieved. The handover of the plant from the EPCM contractor to the Company is now scheduled for the end of October 2008.

Copper concentrate deliveries have commenced and the first shipment left by road on 22 October 2008 from a current discharge stockpile of around 800 tonnes. Copper concentrate shipments had been planned to commence in late September 2008, following earlier delays from the original projected commissioning date of June/July 2008. Continuing mechanical issues in the completion of the final commissioning of the plant by the EPCM contractor have prevented the timely attainment of stable conditions and the ability to stress test the downstream float and tailings design. Shipments are expected to accelerate as the processing facility reaches full production. Currently the plant is processing approximately 2,000 tonnes of ore per day and is expected to reach its full capacity during November 2008.

The Company has revised its 2008 production forecast of approximately 5,000 tonnes of copper in concentrate as it now expects to produce around 2,300 tonnes of copper in concentrate during 2008 as a result of delays in shipping first concentrate. The Company has put options covering 1,950 tonnes of copper at a strike price of US$3.00/lb divided evenly over the period October 2008 to December 2008. MRI Trading Ag is the purchaser of all copper concentrate from the Mowana Mine under the terms of a five year off-take agreement.

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Management will focus on optimising current operations through an aggressive programme to reduce operating costs and adjust mining rates with a view to maximising operating margins. Mining of the Mowana deposit to date has been successful. Just under one million tonnes of material has been mined and stockpiled to date with over 300,000 tonnes grading 1.7 % copper. This represents around twelve months throughput for the plant based on the
mill and plant capacity. As a result the Company is holding surplus stockpile for its immediate requirements and management has therefore decided to reduce its mining rate until the balance between the size of the stockpile and the processing rate is optimised. This will reduce the stockpile gradually until it can be maintained at 150,000 tonnes representing approximately two months of production.

Due to current market conditions management has decided to conserve capital and is therefore postponing the finalisation of the expansion plan. This plan contemplated among other things, capital expenditure commitments for the implementation of a Dense Media Separation (“DMS”) plant, which will be deferred until market conditions improve.

**Further Funding**

The delays in shipping first copper concentrate have impacted on the Company’s working capital position. The Company expects to begin receiving the proceeds of sale of copper concentrate in November 2008. In order to address its immediate working capital requirements the Company is currently seeking to raise up to £8.75 million ($US 15 million) to fund its ongoing needs. Accordingly, detailed discussions are being held with a number of potential debt and equity capital providers.

This press release has been prepared under the supervision of James Arthur, FSAIMM, the General Manager of the Mowana Mine and a "qualified person" within the meaning of Canadian National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects. Mr. Arthur has verified the data disclosed in this press release.

For further information please visit: [www.africancopper.com](http://www.africancopper.com) or contact:

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Forward-Looking Information: This press release contains forward-looking information. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that the Company believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future (including, without limitation, statements regarding the anticipated acceleration of copper concentrate shipments to be made, expected levels of increased throughput and related timing, the Company’s expected timing for final commissioning of the plant, the Company’s expectation of receiving sales proceeds and proceeds from put options, potential mineralisation, potential mineral resources and reserves, potential production and the Company’s development plans and objectives) are forward-looking information. This forward-looking information reflects the current expectations or beliefs of the Company based on information currently available to the Company. Forward-looking information is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual results of the Company to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking information, and even if such actual
results are realised or substantially realised, there can be no assurance that they will have the expected consequences to, or effects on the Company. Factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations include, among other things, the possibility that future exploration results will not be consistent with the Company’s expectations, changes in commodity prices and world copper markets and equity and/or debt markets, political developments and risks in Botswana, fluctuations in currency exchange rates, inflation, changes to regulations affecting the Company’s activities, uncertainties relating to the availability and costs of financing needed in the future, the uncertainties involved in interpreting drilling results and other geological data, uncertainty regarding failure to convert estimated mineral resources to reserves, the possibility that actual circumstances will differ from the estimates and assumptions used in the mining plan for the Mowana Mine (there is no certainty that the production schedule, recoveries and/or operating costs proposed will be achieved), the grade and recovery of ore which is mined varying from estimates, the capital and operating costs varying significantly from estimates, delays in the development of projects and the other risks involved in the mineral exploration and development industry disclosed in the Company’s most recent annual information form filed on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. All forward-looking information speaks only as of the date hereof and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, the Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise. Although the Company believes that its expectations reflected in the forward-looking information, as well as the assumptions inherent therein, are reasonable, forward-looking information is not a guarantee of future performance and, accordingly, undue reliance should not be put on such information due to the inherent uncertainty therein.