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ISLAND ARC EXPLORATION CORP. ANNOUNCES AUGER DRILLING PROGRAM IN NIGER

Island Arc Exploration Corp. (the “Company”) announces an approximately 5,000 meter auger drilling program across the Tampena anomaly on the Nassile gold property. The Nassile permit covers 1148.9 square kilometres of the Sirba greenstone belt in the lower proterozoic Birimian volcano-sedimentary series and is contiguous to the Burkina Faso border 100 kilometres southwest of Niamey, the capital of Niger. The Nassile permit lies 35 kilometres south of the Samira Hill gold mine.

Initial auger drilling will focus on the Songonduari prospect where an influx of local orpailleurs (gold miners) has converged in recent weeks. Approximately 10,000 local people have been sighted at Songonduari, with coarse gold being recovered from hard lateritic cover at surface, as well as from smoky-grey, quartz veining at depths of up to 15 meters. Mineralized quartz veins are hosted within a strongly deformed sequence of meta-sedimentary rocks (graphitic in places) which are both folded and well foliated. Quartz veins are reported to have multiple orientations which vary from a stacked set of flat-lying veins to sub-vertical in nature, with the overall orientation of workings suggesting a dominant north-south trend for mineralization at Songonduari. Locally, mineralized quartz veins display well oxidised box-work textures which are indicative of a strong sulphide (pyrite) association. Detailed mapping and sampling is currently being undertaken across the Songonduari prospect to assist interpretation.

Further auger drilling is planned across both the Forbemi and Bamperi prospects located approximately two and five kilometres northeast of Songonduari respectively. Both of these areas are marked by prominent northeast-trending chargeability highs covered by hard laterite which is thought to mask potential mineralization at depth. At Bamperi several grab samples collected from two prominent quartz structures at the northern end of the prospect returned assays ranging up to 19.5 g/t Au. The Forbemi prospect is marked by dominant northwest trending quartz-tourmaline veins with assays ranging up to 1.11 g/t Au. Artisanal mining is observed across both the Bamperi and Forbemi Prospects.

From 1996 to 1998, the Nassile property was actively explored by Ashanti Goldfields, which conducted programs of soil and termite mound geochemistry, geological mapping, ground magnetic surveys, trenching and RAB drilling. No drilling has ever been completed on the Songonduari, Forbemi and Bamperi Prospects.

The technical content of this news release has been prepared under the supervision of Bradley J. Ackroyd, a consultant to the Company, who is a Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101.

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