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TSX-V: MNO/AAZ

AIM: MANA

**MANO RIVER AND AFRICAN AURA SIGN DEFINITIVE COMBINATION AGREEMENT
IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED MERGER**

Mano River Resources Inc. ("Mano River" TSX-V:MNO & AIM:MANA) and African Aura Resources Ltd. ("African Aura" TSX-V:AAZ) are pleased to jointly announce that they have entered into the definitive combination agreement (the "Combination Agreement") in respect of their proposed merger, as contemplated in the previously announced letter of intent between the companies dated 15 April 2009, as amended on 14 May 2009 and 12 June 2009 (the "LOI"). As previously announced, Mano River will offer 1.57 Mano River shares for every one African Aura share in order to acquire the entire issued share capital of African Aura.

The terms of the Combination Agreement are substantially similar to the terms of the LOI.

The transaction is structured as a merger under the corporate laws of the British Virgin Islands ("BVI"). In accordance with the plan of merger dated 30 June 2009 between MANAAR Limited ("MANAAR"), a wholly-owned BVI subsidiary of Mano River, African Aura and Mano River, MANAAR will, subject to regulatory approval and the approval of the merger by the shareholders of African Aura, merge with African Aura and Mano River will thereby acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of African Aura.

The African Aura meeting at which its shareholders will consider and, if deemed advisable, approve the merger is currently scheduled to be held on 31 July 2009 and, in any event, is expected to take place no later than 15 August 2009. Both companies are endeavouring to expedite the process in order to hold the African Aura shareholders' meeting as soon as possible. The notice of the African Aura meeting and accompanying management information circular are currently under preparation and will be sent to the African Aura shareholders at the earliest opportunity.

The effective date for closing of the merger is expected to be in mid to late August, or at latest during September, at which time the merger will be complete and Mano River shares will be issuable to African Aura shareholders.

The Combination Agreement will be available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com under the profiles of each of Mano River and African Aura on or before 10 July 2009. For a summary

of the terms of the proposed merger, refer to the press releases of each of Mano River and African Aura dated 15 April 2009, which are available under the companies' respective SEDAR profiles at www.sedar.com.

About Mano River

Mano River is an established West African exploration and development company with a primary listing on the TSX-V (MNO) and a secondary listing on London's AIM (MANA). Mano River is focused on the discovery of world-class gold, diamond and iron ore deposits in the highly prospective, under explored, West African Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Mano River has a highly motivated and experienced team with a record of discovering mines and taking projects towards development and production.

Mano River's major assets are the gold deposit at New Liberty and the Putu iron ore project, both in Liberia. In Guinea, through its 60% owned subsidiary, Stellar Diamonds, the Mandala alluvial diamond mine was commissioned during April 2009 for commercial production. In Sierra Leone, Stellar is exploring / developing the Kono and Tongo kimberlite dykes. Mano River also has a number of other promising projects which it plans to advance in the short to medium term.

A pioneer company in West Africa, Mano River has attracted some excellent strategic partners, particularly in iron ore and on its diamond properties, always with the objective of preserving or enhancing shareholder value. More information can be found on line at www.manoriver.com and at SEDAR's website: www.sedar.com.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release includes certain Forward-Looking Statements. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein, including without limitation, statements regarding the proposed merger and future plans and objectives of African Aura and/or Mano River, are forward-looking statements that involve various known and unknown risks and uncertainties as well as other factors. Such forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations, including delays in obtaining or failure to obtain required regulatory and shareholder approvals. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Any forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof and, except as may be required by applicable law, African Aura and Mano River disclaim any obligation to update or modify such forward-looking statements, either as a result of new information, future events or for any other reason.

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