



## SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

### NEWS RELEASE

5 February 2009

#### **SMI maps marine habitat in Sarangani and Malalag bays**



As part of its extensive study on the natural environments within and surrounding the Tampakan project, SMI has completed the habitat mapping in Malalag and Sarangani bays.

From 19 to 21 January, the SMI Environment team, together with aquatic environment expert, Hydrobiology, mapped the coral reefs, sea grasses and mangroves in the bays using underwater towed video, underwater still camera, GPS tracking, aerial imagery interpretations, and depth sounding.



The habitat maps will enable SMI to assess the extent of its future activities' potential impact on the ecosystem of these bays.

“Habitat mapping is vital for the project. Knowledge of the distribution of habitats will help establish sensible approaches to the conservation needs of each habitat and to facilitate better management of the environment through an understanding of how SMI’s activities are to be undertaken in relation to the habitats,” explained Phil Whittle, SMI Environmental Technical Consultant for water quality.

Phil added, “We need thorough knowledge of the environments within the project area to minimize the project’s environmental footprint, and so, from March 2009 onwards, marine sampling will be done quarterly.

Aside from the habitat mapping, marine sampling was also conducted in Malalag and Sangani bays to establish baseline data on the quality of water in these bays.

These studies will not only support the technical requirements of the project. The data will also help the host governments and local industries in their environmental management plans and decisions. ###

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## **SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.**

Notes to editors:

### **Tampakan Project**

The Tampakan project is on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, approximately 65 kilometers north of General Santos City. The current project borders three Provinces — South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao Del Sur. The Tampakan copper gold deposit is in the province of South Cotabato, municipality of Tampakan.

The Tampakan deposit represents one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in Southeast Asia. The latest mineral resource estimate confirmed 2.2 billion tonnes containing 12.8 million tonnes of copper and 15.2 million ounces of gold at a 0.3% copper cut-off grade.

On 30 March 2007, Xstrata Copper acquired 62.5% of the controlling interest in the Tampakan Project and assumed management control through its Philippines based affiliate Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

### **Xstrata Copper**

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago and Antofagasta, Chile; Lima and Arequipa, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations and projects span seven countries and include mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Xstrata Recycling) with facilities in Canada, the United States and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer, with annual attributable production capacity of over one million tonnes.

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