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# MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan possesses substantial deposits of iron ore, copper, gold, and other minerals. Although petroleum resources are known, their exploration has been limited.

These resources are distributed across the country, with bulk metals found in various regions and gemstones and rare-earth metals prevalent in Central Afghanistan and other areas. The Government of Afghanistan recognises these resources as catalysts for economic growth and has introduced measures, such as new laws, to attract private investment. The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum aims to attract both domestic and foreign investors for large-scale mining and hydrocarbon projects, promoting sustainable resource utilization.

## Tendering Process

All mineral resources within the nation remain under the country's ownership. Private mining enterprises are granted permissions for exploration and utilisation through a competitive public bidding system overseen by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, in accordance with the 2018 Minerals Law.

Under the 2018 Minerals Law, the High Economic Council sanctions mining concessions within pre-approved areas. Concessions are negotiated by a Mining Technical Committee at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. The Ministry handles the tendering and administration of significant mining projects, with Investors expected to focus on exploration licenses, holding a priority for exploitation licenses.



## Royalty Rate

To harness investment opportunities in Afghanistan, the revised Minerals Law has been designed to provide advantages to investors regarding the bidding process and royalty contributions.

As outlined by the 2018 Minerals Law, royalty rates for raw, semi-processed, and fully processed products are 7.5%, 5% and 2.5% respectively. The government acknowledges the significance of fully processed minerals, which can drive comprehensive growth in a sector that might otherwise remain isolated.

According to Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, there lies a minimum of \$1 trillion worth of untapped mineral resources beneath the surface. However, it will take several years of substantial mining development to transform these resources into a significant revenue source.



## GOLD

Goldmining has been a practice in Afghanistan since ancient eras and persists through small-scale artisanal efforts. Advancements in exploration techniques, contemporary metallogenic models, and awareness of Afghanistan’s position along the Tethyan Metallogenic Belt (TMB) extension have notably enhanced the nation’s mineral potential.

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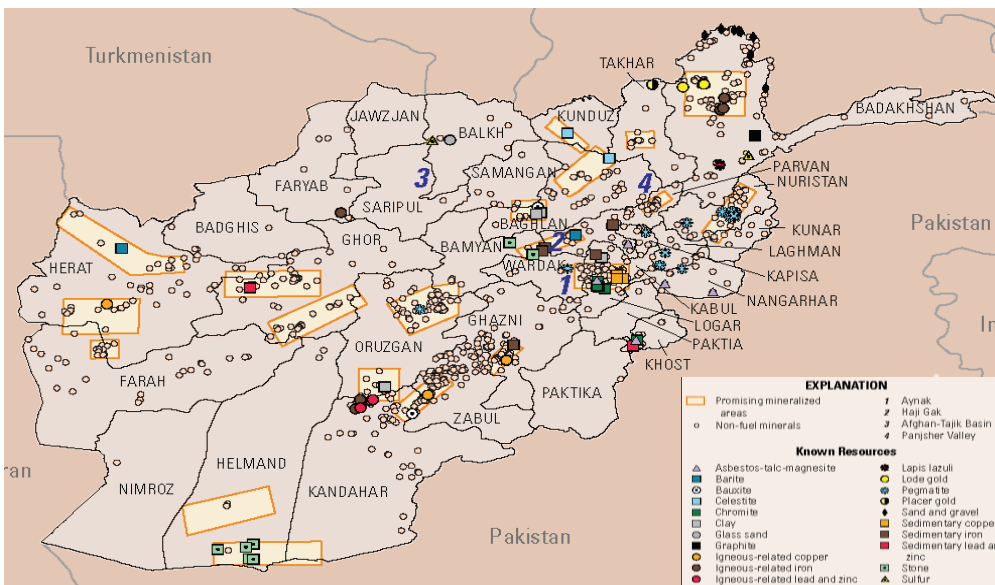
Copper holds vital importance in the modern digital and electronic age, and its value has surged significantly in recent times. Afghanistan stands favourably positioned to fulfill this demand, with active development of the Aynak copper deposit, one of Asia’s largest, undertaken by a Chinese firm. The nation boasts abundant copper potential, particularly through several porphyry copper deposits along a segment of the TMB, alongside a newly found volcanogenic massive sulphide deposit (VMS) at Balkhab.

## GEMSTONES

For 6,500 years, Afghanistan and gemstones have shared an inseparable connection, and the nation continues to possess abundant deposits in both precious and semi-precious gems. Afghanistan yields valuable treasures such as emeralds, rubies, and sapphires, alongside semi-precious gems like lapis lazuli, tourmaline, aquamarine, and various quartz. Gemstone extraction is primarily conducted through artisanal practices, often by villagers residing near the mining sites. Regulatory frameworks are under development to facilitate structured exploration and mining, fostering the legitimate trading of these precious stones.

### ADDITIONAL MINERALS:

- Porphyry Cu-Mo-Au
- Chromite
- Iron Ore
- Lead & Zinc
- Limestone, Cement & Dimension Stone
- Magnesite/Talc
- Fluorspar
- Marble



USGS, Map of Afghanistan with Mineralized Areas, 2007

To find out more about Afghanistan Mineral Sources as well as Global Resources please contact one of our Moore experts below.



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