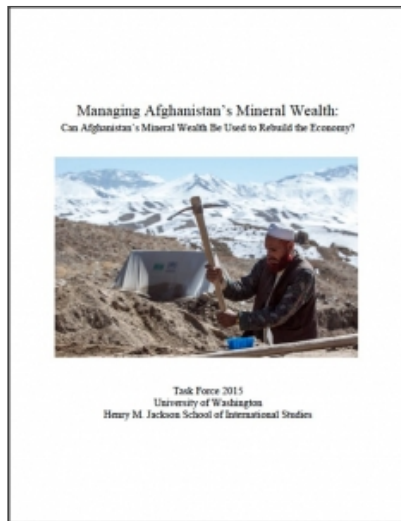


# Managing Afghanistan's Mineral Wealth: Can Afghanistan's Mineral Wealth Be Used to Rebuild the Economy?



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## Abstract:

From 2005 to 2009, the US Geological Survey performed a series of remote sensing surveys in Afghanistan in an attempt to quantify the nation's mineral resource potential. Their findings stand to significantly transform the future of Afghanistan's economy and development. Afghanistan's potential mineral wealth is valued at \$908 billion. This places Afghanistan amongst the top five nations in the world by mineral wealth. The abundant minerals are diverse in value and industry potential, with large deposits of iron, copper, and cobalt, in addition to deposits of gold, gemstones, and rare earth elements.

## Policy Recommendations:

- Prioritize small-scale mines early on, specifically in northern provinces
- Develop ground water resources
- Encourage investment for new power generating projects
- Utilize Private Security Companies to augment local police and security operations
- Engage all ethnic groups within government affairs
- Address corruption and implement appropriate checks and balances for the judicial branch
- Initiate bureaucratic and statute changes in each ministry involved in extraction
- Foster greater cooperation with neighboring countries in areas including energy and water
- Construct education strategy that focuses on mineral sector skills, training, and education
- Assist and Advise the Afghan government in crafting local content policies for the mining industry

- Conduct nation-wide audit on financial institutions, and implement an economic reconstruction zone
- Establish transparent sovereign wealth fund

## Evaluator

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