

## Afghanistan – Avoiding Resource Curse?

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Integrity Watch Afghanistan, an anti-corruption watchdog, is launching the first ever mining research paper on Hajigak, the biggest iron mine in Afghanistan. In the run to generate 1 billion US dollars before 2017, major mining contracts are being signed by the Ministry of Mines. The next in line: Hajigak.

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Integrity Watch Afghanistan

In the peaks of opportunity, Hajigak Mine can be a source of revenue, employment and development or a curse if not deal properly. Land entitlements, environmental risks and war profiteering can threaten the prosperity of the mining sector. Political will for transparency and community consultation exists at the top level but grass-roots implementation is an essential piece to the puzzle of prosperity. Other pieces to address are the legitimisation of mining activities by warlords and criminal activities on transit routes.

In order to avoid resource curse, IWA presents the following recommendations to the Ministry of Mines, the Afghan government and international donors:

- To have a clear, transparent and published criteria for contract allocation
- To provide civil society an observer role with specific terms of reference in the contract awarding process
- For the Inter-Ministerial Commission to bargain for a smelter in Afghanistan
- For the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) to have clear guidelines for Mine Development Plan, Environment Management Plan and Environment and Social Impact Assessment
- For investing companies to comply with the Natural Resources Charter, Equator Principles, International Councils on Mining and Metals and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

### About IWA

IWA's mission is to increase transparency, integrity and accountability in Afghanistan's reconstruction process. IWA considers that high integrity standards must be applied in the public and private sectors. To achieve this goal, IWA provides policy-oriented research, and develops monitoring tools for local communities in order to empower them in ensuring a positive impact from reconstruction efforts.

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