

The Geology and Resource Potential of Myanmar (Burma)

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Executive Summary

Myanmar, with a total land area of more than 670,000 km², is the second-largest country in south-east Asia and has a large potential for as yet undiscovered deposits of tin, tungsten, copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and gemstones.

Despite a handful of western companies operating in the country during the mid-2000s, foreign capital spending has been negligible, totalling about US\$ 2.87bn from 1988-2015 (Oxford Business Group, 2016). This low-level of investment over nearly three decades has mainly been attributed to political unrest, outdated legal frameworks and other hurdles that make it difficult for the international mining community to commit funds for exploration and mining projects in Myanmar. After changes in the government were implemented in 2015, however, the international mining community is increasingly following the development of the country with respect to foreign investment and mining laws.

This multi-disciplinary desktop study aims to provide a one-stop information source for mineral exploration in Myanmar, and is therefore subdivided into the following sections:

1. Introduction: Aims, Objectives and Methodology
2. Geographical Setting
3. History and Political Framework
4. Culture and Communities
5. Environmental Status and Artisanal Mining
6. Economy, Business Climate and Mineral Rights
7. Operational Infrastructure and Logistics
8. Regional Geological Setting
9. Geological Provinces
10. Myanmar Mineral Resources and Metallogeny
11. Mineral Exploration Methodologies and Targeting
12. Literature Compilation

The study aims to integrate the cultural, political and legal framework of Myanmar with its resource potential and geology. This socio-economic background information (Chapters 2-6) is considered essential for the sustainable and environmentally-aware exploration and mining of mineral resources, in a country previously affected by a lack of transparency. In addition, a chapter on logistical aspects (Chapter 7) provides exploration and mining companies with an overview of operating in Myanmar.

Chapters 8-10 comprise a summary of historic and recent studies undertaken in the field of economic geology in Myanmar. The regional geology (Chapter 8-9) will set the framework for the description and evaluation of metallogenic provinces and mineralisation potential (Chapter 10), followed by a discussion of exploration targets and methodologies (Chapter 11).

The regional data compilation includes an Access database of relevant geoscientific literature and georeferenced geological and mineral deposit information. Spatial data is delivered in ArcGIS geodatabase (.gdb) format.

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Table of Contents

Copyright Details	i
Executive Summary	ii
Table of Figures	v
1. Introduction: Aims, Objectives and Methodology	1
2. Geographical Setting and History of Geological Research and Exploration	3
3. History and Political Framework	10
4. Culture and Communities	16
5. Environmental Status and Artisanal Mining	24
6. Economy, Business Climate and Mineral Rights	27
7. Operational Infrastructure and Logistics	33
8. Regional Geological Setting	39
8.1. Gondwana Rifting and Tethys Ocean Closure	40
8.2. Tectonic Evolution of Myanmar	45
9. Geological Provinces	52
9.1. Indo-Burman Ranges	52
9.2. The Wuntho-Popa Arc	53
9.3. The Mogok-Mandalay-Mergui Belt	53
9.4. The Shan Plateau	55
9.5. Granitoid Belts	56
9.6. Ophiolite Suites	59
10. Myanmar Mineral Resources and Metallogeny	60
10.1. Copper Provinces	62
10.2. Gold Provinces	68
10.3. Sediment-Hosted VMS / Irish-type Pb-Zn (+Ag) Provinces	76
10.4. Sn-W Province	82
10.5. Ni-Cr + PGE Regions	88
10.6. Sb District	92
10.7. Mogok Gem Tract, Jade Mines Belt and other Gem Regions	95
10.8. Other Commodities	102
10.8.1. Iron deposits	102
10.8.2. Manganese deposits	103
10.8.3. Molybdenum deposits	103
10.8.4. Bismuth deposits	103
10.8.5. Mercury and cadmium deposits	104

10.8.6.	Titanium deposits	104
10.8.7.	Lithium deposits.....	104
10.8.8.	Magnesium deposits.....	104
10.8.9.	Aluminium deposits	104
10.8.10.	Beryllium deposits	104
10.8.11.	Chemical and fertilizer minerals.....	105
10.8.12.	Ceramic and refractory minerals.....	105
10.8.13.	Construction and building materials.....	106
10.8.14.	Coal	107
10.8.15.	Other gemstones.....	107
11.	Mineral Exploration Methodologies and Targeting	108
11.1.	Copper	113
11.2.	Gold.....	116
11.3.	Lead-Zinc-Silver	120
11.4.	Tin-Tungsten	122
11.5.	Nickel-Chromium-PGE	126
11.6.	Antimony	128
11.7.	Ruby-Sapphire	130
11.8.	Jade	132
12.	Reference List	134
13.	Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes	148
14.	Acknowledgements	152