

Insight into AfricaMaVal country case studies

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe stands out as a rapidly growing hub for critical raw materials, driven by its rich mineral resources and the government's proactive measures to attract foreign investment. With a focus on expanding local value addition and boosting production capacity, the country is well-positioned to meet the rising global demand for minerals.



The Great Dyke for PGMs and nickel, the Zambezi Metamorphic Belt for lithium, and the Karoo Basin for coal.

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COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

Local Processing and Refining Incentives

The government has restricted unprocessed mineral exports, creating investment opportunities in refining and manufacturing. Statutory Instrument 213 of 2022, for example, bans unprocessed lithium exports, prompting new processing facilities like Huayou Cobalt's plant.

Fiscal Incentives for Investors

To attract foreign direct investment (FDI), Zimbabwe offers a range of fiscal incentives including tax holidays, reduced royalties, and duty exemptions on imported mining equipment.

Modernization of the Mining Cadastre System

Zimbabwe is streamlining mining title management through a digital cadastre system to improve efficiency, transparency, and investor confidence. The new Mining Cadastre Information Management System enables quicker approval of licenses and reduces bureaucratic delays.

Exploration and Prospecting Opportunities

Significant portions of Zimbabwe remain underexplored, offering opportunities for international companies to apply modern exploration techniques in high-potential areas.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

- **Infrastructure constraints**

Limited transport and energy infrastructure in key mining areas raise operational costs and hinder the expansion of mining activities. To address this challenge, Zimbabwe is promoting Public-Private Partnerships to develop the roads, rail, and energy infrastructures needed to support the mining sector.

- **Regulatory and permitting delays**

Delays in the approval of Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPOs) and complex regulatory frameworks can hinder exploration and new project development.

- **Environmental and social risks**

Mining operations present environmental and social risks that necessitate enhanced regulatory oversight, especially in the Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. In Matabeleland North, for instance, ASM activities have resulted in notable deforestation and water pollution.