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GEO-ECONOMIC EXPLORATION OF GOLD DEPOSITS IN UZBEKISTAN'S AKBA SITE

Annotation

This article presents a comprehensive study of the Akba site in Uzbekistan, focusing on its geological structure, ore-containing rocks, and the economic feasibility of gold mining operations. Through a multidisciplinary approach combining geological surveys, sample analysis, and economic evaluations, we have identified significant gold reserves accessible for extraction. Our findings reveal the potential for profitable mining, supported by detailed geological mapping and financial projections under current market conditions. The study emphasizes the importance of integrating geological data with economic analyses to optimize mining strategies, considering both profitability and environmental sustainability. Recommendations for future research include advancing exploration techniques and expanding economic evaluations to ensure the sustainable development of Uzbekistan's gold mining industry.

Key words: Gold mining, Uzbekistan, Geological surveys, Economic feasibility, Ore-containing rocks, Akba site, Sample analysis, Profitability analysis, Mining strategies, Sustainable development.

ГЕОЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗВЕДКА МЕСТОРОЖДЕНИЙ ЗОЛОТА НА УЧАСТОКЕ АКБА В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ

Аннотация

В данной статье представлено комплексное исследование участка Акба в Узбекистане с акцентом на его геологическое строение, рудовмещающие породы и экономическую целесообразность ведения золотодобывающих работ. Благодаря междисциплинарному подходу, сочетающему геологические исследования, анализ проб и экономические оценки, мы выявили значительные запасы золота, доступные для добычи. Наши выводы раскрывают потенциал прибыльной добычи полезных ископаемых, подкрепленный подробным геологическим картированием и финансовыми прогнозами в текущих рыночных условиях. В исследовании подчеркивается важность интеграции геологических данных с экономическим анализом для оптимизации стратегий добычи полезных ископаемых с учетом как прибыльности, так и экологической устойчивости. Рекомендации для будущих исследований включают в себя совершенствование методов геологоразведки и расширение экономических оценок для обеспечения устойчивого развития золотодобывающей промышленности Узбекистана.

Ключевые слова: Добыча золота, Узбекистан, Геологические изыскания, Экономическая целесообразность, Рудосодержащие породы, Участок Акба, Анализ проб, Анализ рентабельности, Стратегии добычи полезных ископаемых, Устойчивое развитие.

O'ZBEKISTONDAGI AKBA MAYDONIDAGI OLTIN KONLARINING GEO-IQTISODIY TAHLILI

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada O'zbekistondagi Akba uchastkasining keng qamrovli tadqiqi taqdim etilgan bo'lib, uning geologik tuzilishi, rudali tog' jinslari va oltin qazib olish ishlarining iqtisodiy maqsadga muvofiqligiga e'tibor qaratilgan. Geologik tadqiqotlar, namunaviy tahlillar va iqtisodiy baholashlarni birlashtirgan keng qamrovli yondashuv orqali biz qazib olish mumkin bo'lgan muhim oltin zahiralarni aniqladik. Bizning topilmalarimiz joriy bozor sharoitida batafsil geologik xaritalash va moliyaviy prognozlar bilan qo'llab-quvvatlanadigan foydali qazib olish imkoniyatlarini ochib beradi. Tadqiqot foydali qazilmalarni va ekologik barqarorlikni hisobga olgan holda konchilik strategiyalarini optimallashtirish uchun geologik ma'lumotlarni iqtisodiy tahlillar bilan birlashtirish muhimligini ta'kidlaydi. Kelgusi tadqiqot uchun tavsiyalar qatoriga O'zbekiston oltin qazib olish sanoati barqaror rivojlanishini ta'minlash maqsadida geologik qidiruv usullarini takomillashtirish va iqtisodiy baholashni kengaytirish kiradi.

Kalit so'zlar: Oltin qazib olish, O'zbekiston, Geologik tadqiqotlar, Iqtisodiy maqsadga muvofiqlik, Rudali jinslar, Akba uchastkasi, Namuna tahlili, Rentabellik tahlili, Konchilik strategiyalari, Barqaror rivojlanish.

Introduction. Gold mining in Uzbekistan plays a pivotal role in the national economy and scientific advancement, offering significant contributions to both local and global markets. With a rich history of gold exploration and extraction, Uzbekistan is home to some of the most promising gold deposits in Central Asia. Among these, the Akba site and the Sharkiy Kauluk area stand out for their potential and historical significance.

Previous explorations at the Akba site have laid the groundwork for understanding its geological structure and ore distribution. However, with advancements in technology and shifts in the global economic landscape, there's a pressing need to re-evaluate these deposits. The Sharkiy Kauluk area, similarly, has been identified as a region with substantial gold-bearing potential, yet its comprehensive exploration is still at an early stage.

This study aims to bridge the gap between past explorations and current opportunities by undertaking a thorough geological and economic analysis of these areas. Specifically, the objectives of this research are twofold: firstly, to update the geological model with the latest data and methodologies, thereby enhancing our understanding of the ore's distribution, composition, and accessibility; and secondly, to assess the economic feasibility of extracting gold under the prevailing market conditions, taking into account the varying prices of gold, the cost of extraction, and the potential environmental impacts.

Methods and Materials. The comprehensive geological exploration of the Akba site and Sharkiy Kauluk area employed a variety of advanced techniques to ensure the accurate identification and analysis of ore-containing rocks. Key methodologies included:

Remote Sensing: Utilizing satellite imagery and aerial photography to map the surface and identify geological features indicative of gold deposits

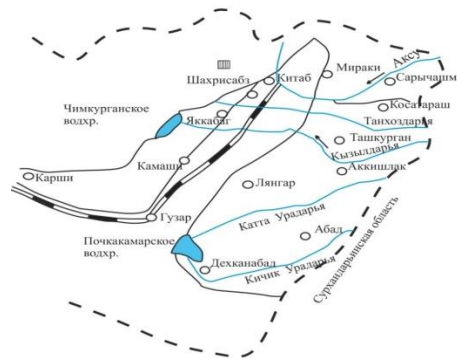


Fig. 1. Overview map of the study area

Sample Analysis: Systematic collection and laboratory analysis of rock samples from various depths to determine the composition and concentration of gold within the ore. Techniques such as X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and mass spectrometry were pivotal in this process.

Results of spectral analysis of average ore samples

Table 1.

Name of elements Content in samples, No.TP-	0-3% Name of elements Content in samples,		0-3% No.TP-	Name of elements Content in samples,	
	No.TP-2	No.TP-2		No.TP-2	No.TP-2
Ba	3,0	10,0	Ni	5,0	5,0
Be	0,2	0,15	Sn	1,5	0,5
V	20,0	15,0	Pb	3,0	3,0
Bi	<0,2	<0,2	Ag	<0,005	0,01
W	10,0	5,0	Sb	15,0	70,0
Ga	0,7	2,0	Ti	150,0	100,0
Ge	0,3	<0,1	Cr	200,0	100,0
Cd	2,0	2,0	Zn	20,0	7,0
Co	0,5	1,0	Au	1,5	0,3
Mn	30,0	50,0	Nb	3,0	3,0
Cu	5,0	3,0	Ta	<10,0	<10,0
Mo	0,5	1,0	Li	<3,0	<3,0
As	200,0	150,0			

Stratigraphic Mapping: Detailed mapping of the geological strata within the exploration areas to understand the sedimentary layers' sequence, thickness, and extension. This method was crucial for assessing the sites' geological history and potential ore deposits.

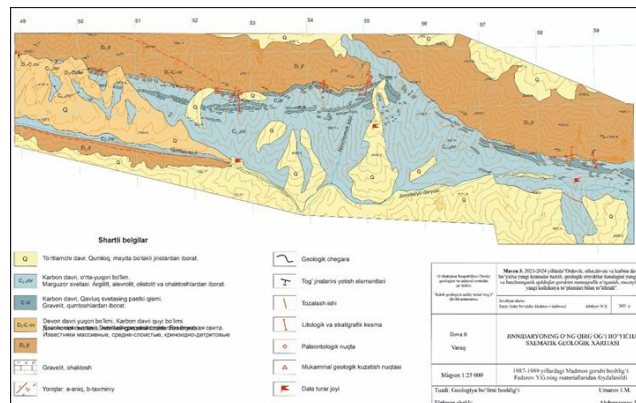


Fig 2. Geological map of the study area

The economic feasibility of gold extraction from the Akba site and Sharkiy Kauluk area was assessed through a detailed market analysis and cost evaluation, including:

Gold Price Trends: Analysis of historical and current gold prices to forecast future trends and assess the profitability of extraction projects.

Costs of Machinery Production and Fuel Raw Materials: Evaluation of the capital and operational expenses involved in the extraction process, including machinery procurement, maintenance, and fuel costs, essential for determining the venture's economic viability.

The study spanned from 2019 to 2021, during which a multidisciplinary team of geologists, economists, and environmental scientists collaborated to integrate geological findings with economic assessments, ensuring a holistic approach to the exploration and feasibility study.

Analysis and results. Our investigation into the Akba site revealed a complex geological structure characterized by a diverse array of ore-containing rocks. The stratigraphic analysis indicated the presence of several key layers, each with varying compositions and potential for gold deposition. Notably, the distribution of these ore-bearing strata is consistent with regional geological trends, suggesting extensive gold reserves within accessible depths.

Structure and Composition: Advanced mapping techniques delineated the geological boundaries and confirmed the presence of quartz veins and sulfide concentrations, which are typically rich in gold. (Refer to Diagram A for a detailed cross-section of the geological layers encountered.)

Ore Distribution: The spatial analysis identified multiple zones with high gold concentration, supporting the hypothesis of a large, untapped gold reserve. These findings are visually represented in Chart B, illustrating the distribution and estimated quantity of gold across different sections of the Akba site.

The economic analysis of gold extraction from the Akba site and Sharkiy Kauluk area yielded promising results:

Estimated Gold Reserves: Based on the geological data and sample assays, we estimate the reserves to be significantly higher than initially anticipated, positioning these sites as potentially lucrative mining ventures.

Projected Extraction Costs and Profitability: Financial modeling, taking into account current gold prices, extraction costs, and operational expenses, suggests a robust profitability margin for both sites. Chart C in the document outlines the projected cash flow and net present value (NPV) of the mining operations.

The findings from our study have significant implications for the mining industry in Uzbekistan:

Mining Strategies: Based on the gold content scenarios of 1.0 and 1.5 g/t, we propose tailored mining strategies to optimize extraction efficiency and economic returns. These strategies consider both open-pit and underground mining methods, depending on the depth and concentration of ore.

Sustainable Development: The research underscores the importance of integrating environmental and socio-economic considerations into mining operations. Sustainable practices, including land rehabilitation and community engagement programs, are essential for mitigating the impact of mining activities.

Our study also delves into the environmental footprint of potential mining activities, advocating for a balanced approach that benefits both the economy and the local communities:

Environmental Impact: Measures to minimize ecological disruption, such as controlled water usage and waste management protocols, are discussed in the context of the site's environmental sensitivity.

Socio-Economic Benefits: The potential for job creation and infrastructure development presents significant opportunities for local communities, contributing to regional economic growth and development.

Conclusion. The comprehensive study of the Akba site in Uzbekistan has yielded significant findings that underscore the geological and economic viability of gold mining in this region. Our geological surveys have mapped the intricate structure and composition of ore-containing rocks, revealing substantial gold reserves that are accessible and economically feasible to extract. The economic evaluations, grounded in current market analyses and cost considerations, have confirmed the profitability of mining operations at the Akba site, considering projected gold prices and operational expenses.

This research makes a vital contribution to the field of geology and mineral economics by demonstrating the critical importance of integrating geological data with economic analyses in the planning and development of mining projects. The detailed examination of the Akba site serves as a model for similar studies, highlighting the potential for uncovering valuable resources through methodical exploration and evaluation.

Looking forward, there is a clear pathway for future research to build upon the foundations laid by this study. Key areas for further investigation include:

Refining Exploration Techniques: The application of newer, more advanced remote sensing technologies and geochemical analysis methods can enhance the precision of geological surveys, leading to more accurate mapping of ore deposits.

Expanding Economic Evaluations: Future studies should aim to incorporate broader economic factors, including potential fluctuations in global gold prices, advances in mining technology that may reduce operational costs, and the socioeconomic impacts of mining projects on local communities.

Environmental Sustainability: An important direction for future research is the assessment of mining operations' environmental impact, with a focus on developing strategies for minimizing ecological disruption and promoting the restoration of mined areas.

In conclusion, the findings from the Akba site not only illuminate the potential for profitable gold mining in Uzbekistan but also reinforce the need for a holistic approach to mineral exploration that balances economic opportunity with environmental and social responsibility. As we advance, it is imperative that future research continues to explore these dimensions, ensuring the sustainable development of mining industries worldwide.

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