

## Veins of Life

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**Topic Title:** The Challenges of the Red Metal for Green Extraction Methods

**Audience:** The Board of Directors of Shahr-e Babak Copper Complex

### Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #8 : Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### Executive Summary

Despite its relatively low population, Shahr-e Babak is one of the most ancient cities in Iran. However, it is not as well-known for its rich history and culture as it is for hosting the largest copper mines in the country. While these mines have brought opportunities to the local people, they have also presented numerous challenges. Over the last decade or so, the region has undergone significant social and environmental changes. The influx of wealth generated from copper has led to a general increase in the cost of living. This has created a disparity between those employed by the copper complex, who enjoy high incomes, and those who do not. Additionally, the copper smelting operations have inflicted serious environmental damage. A once-beautiful plain, abundant in medicinal plants, has been decimated; countless livestock and related businesses have been lost; and due to the over-extraction of water, many of the region's springs have dried up.

Veins of Life Consulting Group is investigating the underlying motivations and mechanisms that drive the copper complex to make decisions that contravene responsible consumption and production principles. We are proposing a suite of solutions designed to foster sustainable economic growth by developing local enterprises, enhancing the copper value chain, and revising organizational strategies. Considering these recommendations and the region's vast cultural potential, it stands a chance to evolve into one of the leading sustainable industrial hubs in Iran.