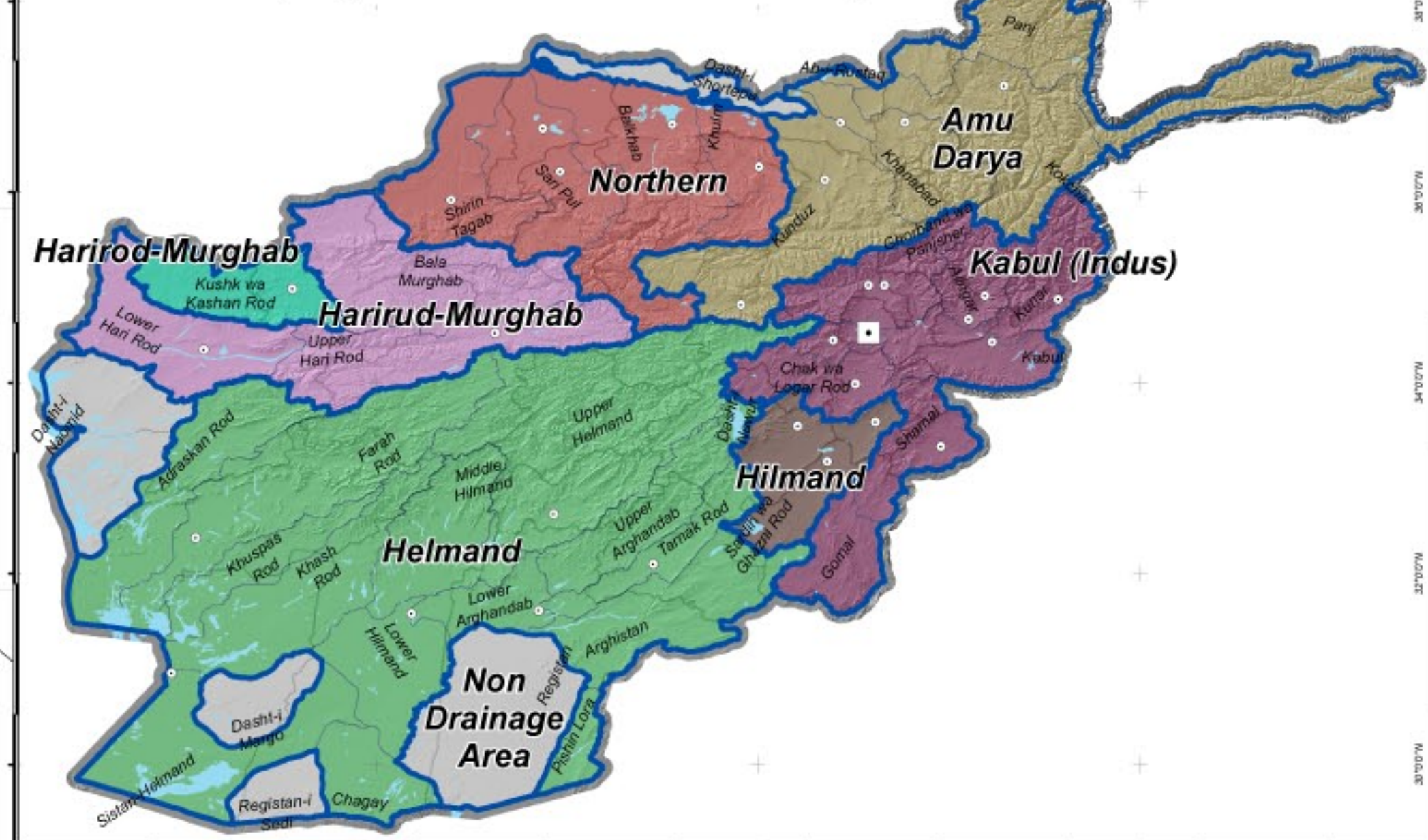


Main Geological Regions

Scale of 1:1,500,000 on an A0 page

0 50 100 200 km
0 20 40 80 miles

Watersheds (Major Basins and Sub-Basins)



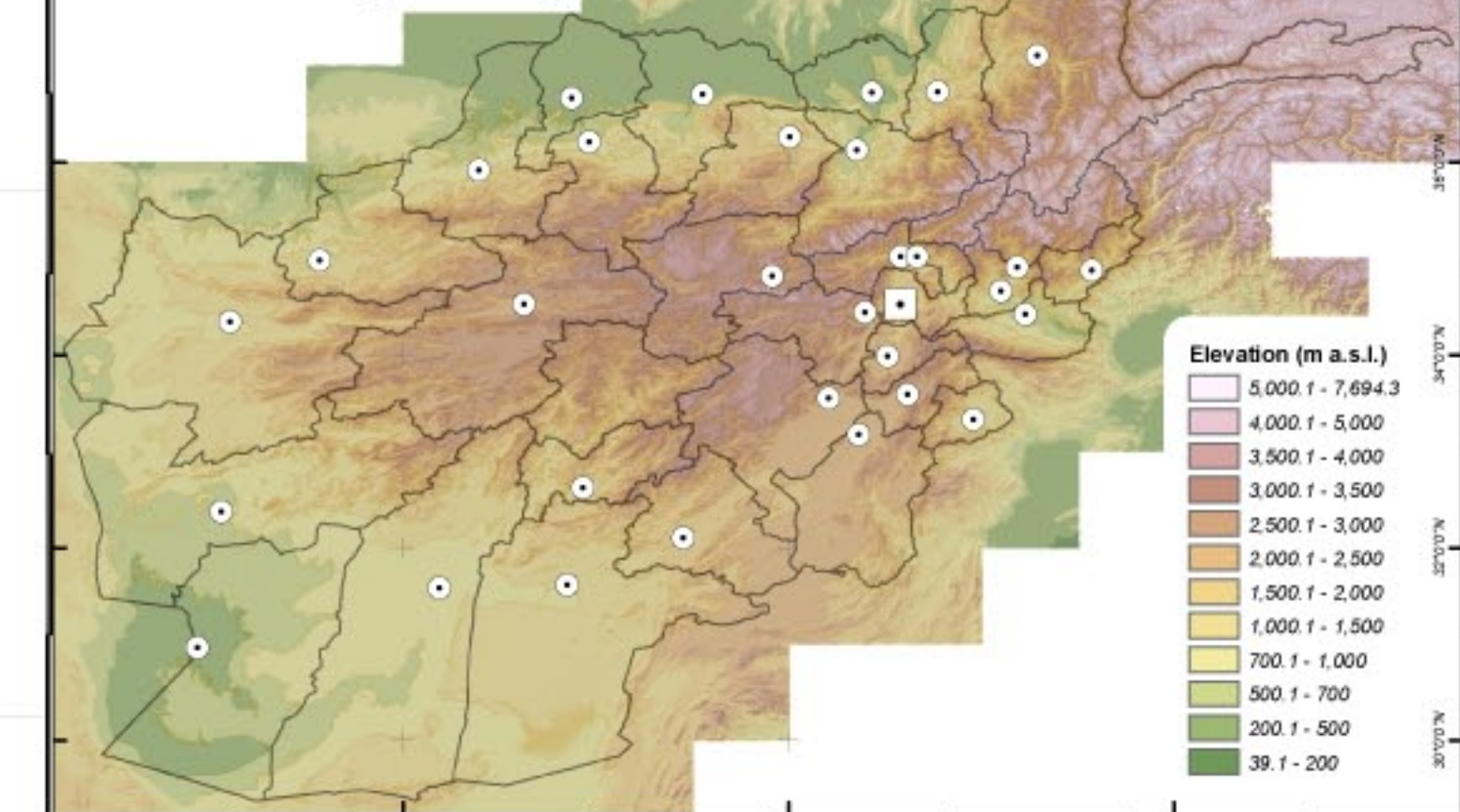
Afghanistan is a landlocked, mountainous country in south Asia. Its strategic position sandwiched between the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent along the ancient "Silk Route" means that Afghanistan has long been fought over despite its rugged terrain. It was at the center of the so-called "Great Game" in the 19th century when imperial Russia and the British Empire in India vied for influence. It won independence from British control in 1919. A military coup in 1973 abolished the monarchy, and the country became a republic.

Afghanistan became a key Cold War battleground after the Soviet troops invaded in 1979 to support a pro-communist regime, touching off a long and destructive war. The Soviet troops withdrew in 1989, but a series of subsequent civil wars saw Afghanistan finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban which was in control of about 90 percent of the country until late 2001. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the U.S. and its partners in the anti-terrorist coalition launched air strikes against Afghanistan in October 2001 after Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden who was held responsible for the September 11 attacks. The Taliban regime was toppled, and Afghan factions opposed to the

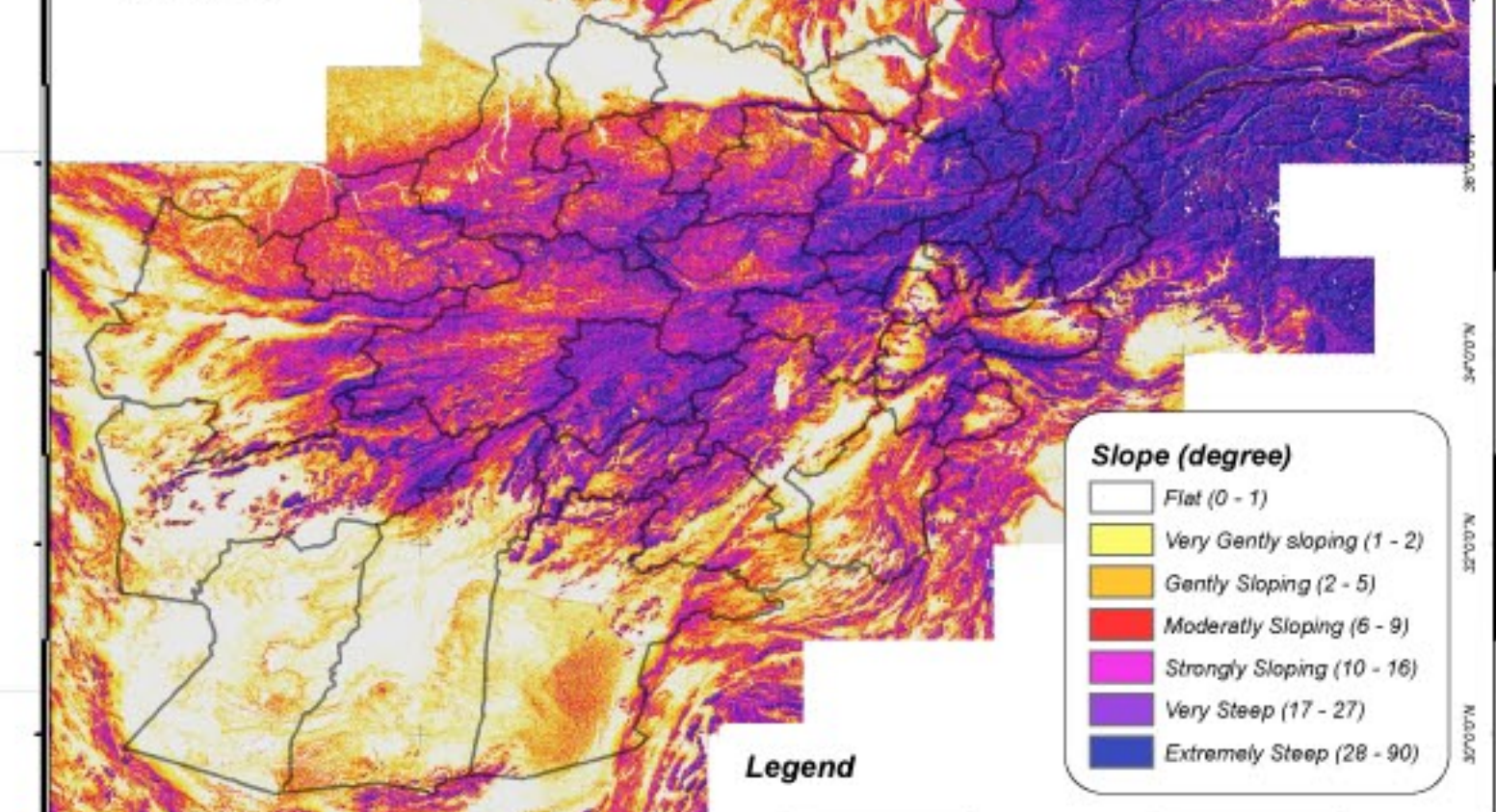
Taliban met at a United Nations-sponsored conference in Bonn, Germany in December 2001 and agreed to restore stability and governance to Afghanistan—creating an interim government and establishing a process to move toward a permanent government. Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan in December 2004, and Hamid Karzai won a second term as president in late 2009.

Despite gains toward building a stable central government, a resurgent Taliban and continuing provincial instability—particularly in the south and the east—remain serious challenges for the Afghan government. More than two decades of conflict destroyed much of Afghanistan's limited infrastructure and disrupted normal patterns of economic activity. Although the country's economic outlook has improved significantly and is showing strong signs of recovery since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy is highly dependent on foreign aid and agriculture, which is extremely vulnerable to adverse weather conditions, especially drought.

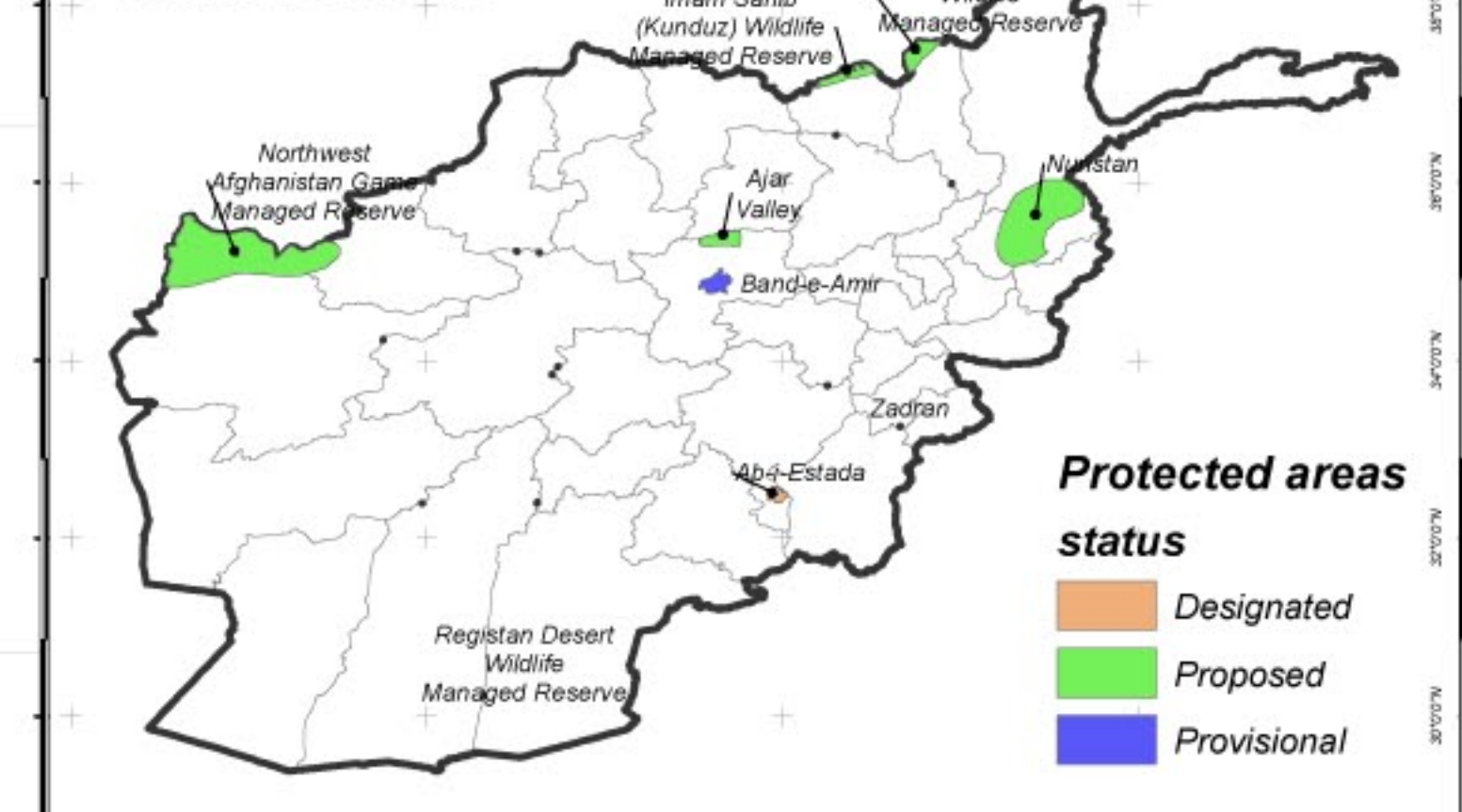
Elevation (m a.s.l.)



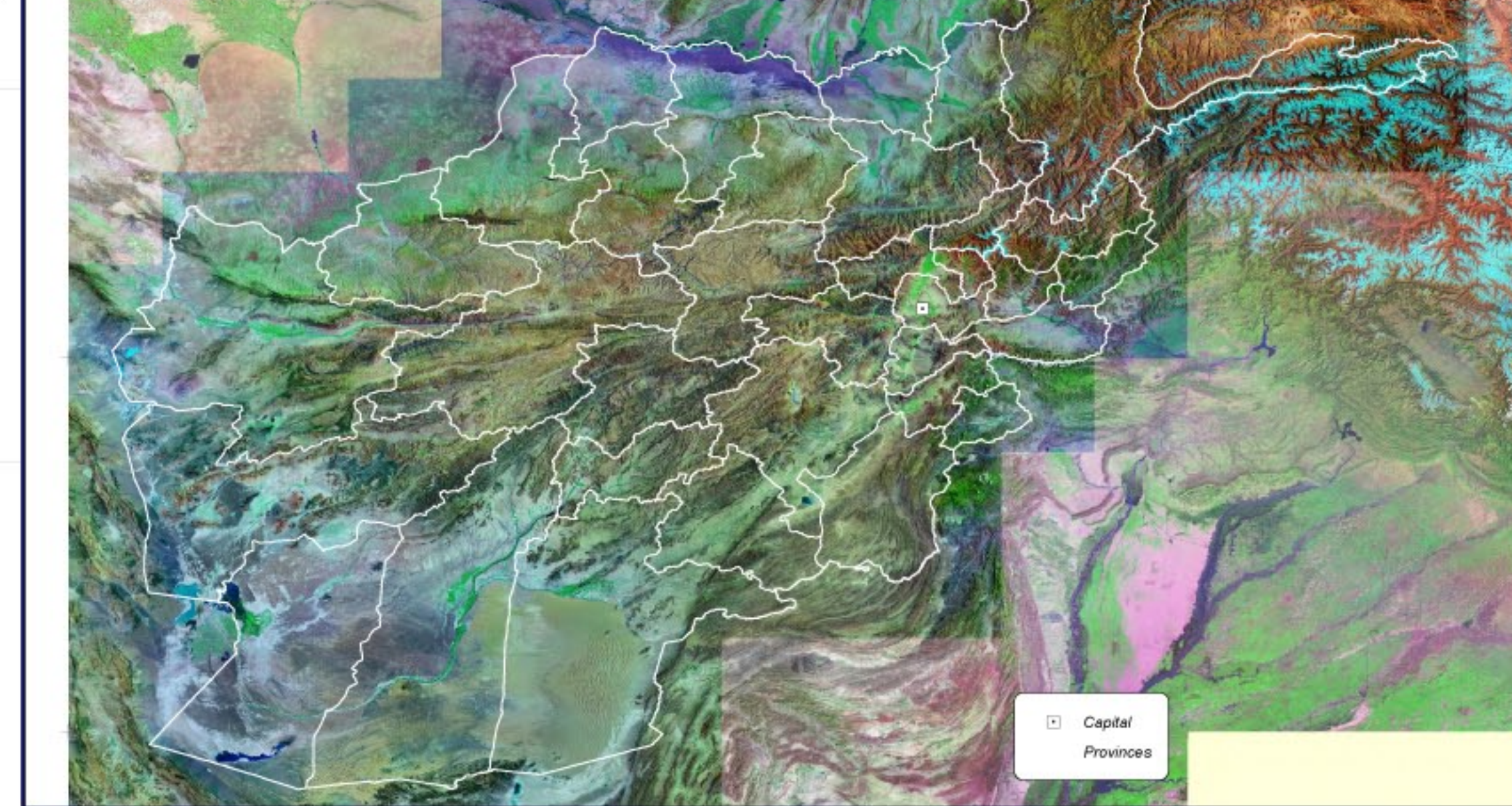
Slopes



Protected areas



Satellite view



- Provincial centre
- District centre
- Provinces
- Airports/airfields
- Major road
- Primary road
- Arterial road
- rivers
- Non-Perennial
- Perennial
- Toponyms

- Volcanoes
- Largest Faults
- Tectonic Regions
- Superimposed Neogene-Quaternary Troughs and Downwarps
- Area of Late Alpin Folding
- Area of Early Alpin Folding
- Area of Late Cimmerian Folding
- Area of Epi-Early Cimmerian Platform
- Area of Late Hercinian Folding

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Data Source:
Administrative layers, and Roads: DEM, and Rivers: USGS Afghanistan Project
Lakes: Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. (FAO) & Environmental System Research Industry (ESRI)
Drainage Basins: —————
Satellite Image: —————
Protected areas: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Tectonic Regions: USGS (Russian Tectonic Map 1M)

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