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Bolivia's Lithium Frontier: Can Public Private Partnerships Deliver a Minerals Boom for Sustainable Development?

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Highlights:

- Lithium is key to transitions to clean energy technologies and offers development
 - Bolivian resource nationalism has led to a hybrid mineral development path
 - Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in mineral development need investor confidence
 - Evaluative frameworks for PPPs, and their development impacts, are thus needed
 - For sustainability, PPPs can link with the global Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
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(8056 words)

1. Introduction

In this paper, we start from the materials central to the global transition to low carbon energy and focus on lithium used for energy storage batteries, as a key transition material. We investigate how the desire for cleaner technologies has cultivated unusual partnerships between state enterprises and foreign-owned

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