

## **Environmental and Land Use Effects from Mining and Quarrying: A Case Study of Kwale and Kajiado Counties**

Kenya's significant mineral wealth presents a substantial economic growth opportunity, yet the mining sector's contribution to GDP remains low. This study examines the environmental and land use impacts of mining and quarrying activities in Kwale and Kajiado Counties, Kenya, employing mixed-methods research. Findings reveal diverse mining methods and their associated impacts on water, air, wildlife, soil, social values, and climate. While mining offers economic benefits and potential biodiversity enhancement, it also results in social displacement, human-wildlife conflict, and environmental degradation. Key challenges include land access, benefit sharing, and regulatory oversight, particularly regarding environmental rehabilitation. The study recommends enhanced inter-agency collaboration, national environmental management guidelines, expedited benefit-sharing implementation, and improved land reclamation monitoring to ensure sustainable development in Kenya's mineral-rich regions.

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