

# An In-Depth Systematic Literature Review of the Effects of Mining Activities on Land Tenure Systems in Ghana

Bridget Adjei, Eric Tudzi, Anthony Owusu-Ansah and Joseph Kidido (Ghana)

**Key words:** Access to land; Land management; Security of tenure; Valuation; Mining, Land Tenure System, Livelihood, Sustainability

## SUMMARY

The extractive industry is indispensable for advancement, and this is particularly so for developing countries like Ghana, as it drives economic growth by generating revenue and creating job opportunities for millions of people. Nonetheless, their activities result in the deprivation of people's right to surface land, predominantly held under customary land tenure with agriculture serving as the mainstay of livelihood. Customary land tenure is founded on the belief that land belongs to a vast family of whom, many are dead, few are living, and countless are still unborn. Mining activities have extensive repercussions for the land tenure system resulting in the displacement of people, loss of land rights, reduced control and access to land, and land fragmentation. All of which impact the social, economic, and environmental conditions of the people in the community. This systematic review provides a thorough analysis of the impact of mining on the land tenure system in Ghana, revealing the complex dynamics, challenges, and possible remedies. To achieve this, a vast range of academic journals, research papers, books, reports, policy, and legal documents were critically reviewed.

The research reveals the challenges faced by mining-induced communities as a result of the displacement which has resulted in the loss of ancestral lands and disruption to community life. The displacement is also coupled with economic disparities, social tension, and land tenure disputes. Also, the consequences of environmental degradation such as deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution have dire consequences on land use and ownership, particularly for communities dependent on natural resources. The review reveals a range of responses and effective approaches to alleviate the adverse consequences of mining on land tenure in Ghana. These include strategies involving community engagement, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and legal reforms, all directed toward enhancing land tenure security. Also, the review uncovered that when mining licenses are renewed, individuals who have been expropriated are compensated for the deprivation

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of land use. However, after mining activities cease, the land often does not revert to its former owners; instead, it becomes the property of the government. This underscores the need for a review of the law governing mining, sustainable mining practices, and environmental management to safeguard the land tenure system.

This review enlightens policymakers, researchers, mining enterprises, and local communities regarding the intricacies of this convergence, offering a foundation for well-informed decision-making. It underscores the crucial importance of upholding sustainable development, social fairness, and responsible resource management within the framework of Ghana's diverse land tenure traditions.

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