

Artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa: challenges (a)



Artisanal and small-scale mining is common in Africa. It employs a vast number of people involved directly in mining activities stricto sensu and in related services and makes it possible to cater for many dependents... As a result of its highly labor-intensive character, artisanal and small-scale mining is generally considered to be a greater job-creator per dollar invested than large-scale mining... Accordingly, not only does artisanal and small-scale mining contribute to the national and continent-wide economy within the framework of global development programs, but also may afford important opportunities for improving living conditions in rural and remote areas, especially where means of subsistence are limited.