

Extractive Industries and Local Resistance: An Environmental Justice Analysis of Mali's Mining Sector, 2004

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| Abstract

Background: Environmental justice movements in resource-rich African nations represent a significant area of inquiry within African Studies. This study examines this phenomenon within Mali's mining sector, focusing

specifically on the year 2004. Purpose and objectives: The purpose was to analyse the relationship between extractive industries and local resistance in Mali during 2004. The objectives were to identify the key grievances driving resistance, assess the strategies employed by communities, and evaluate the alignment of these conflicts with core environmental justice principles. Methodology: A mixed-methods design was employed. Data were collected throughout 2004 via a structured survey of residents in three mining-affected communities and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including community representatives, civil society actors, and local government officials. Findings: The findings reveal that local resistance in 2004 was primarily driven by grievances over land dispossession, water pollution, and the inequitable distribution of mining benefits. Resistance strategies ranged from formal petitions to public protests. The conflicts demonstrated clear dimensions of distributive and procedural injustice, where marginalised communities bore disproportionate environmental burdens while being excluded from decision-making processes. Conclusion: The study concludes that during 2004, conflicts around Mali's mining sector were fundamentally environmental justice struggles. Community resistance highlighted a systemic failure to address the social and environmental externalities of extraction. Recommendations: Mining companies and government authorities should establish transparent, participatory mechanisms for community consultation and environmental monitoring. Future policy must formally recognise land and resource rights to address core grievances. Key words: Environmental justice, mining, resistance, Mali,

extractive industries, Africa Contribution statement: This research provides an empirical analysis of environmental justice conflicts in Mali's mining sector during a critical period, contributing a detailed case study to the literature on resource politics and social movements in Africa.
