

THE FOOTPRINT OF GALAMSEY IN GHANA



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IN BRIEF

- This study documents galamsey operations, and their respective attributes and environmental impacts.
- It also outlines a strategy for a comprehensive costed reclamation and closure plans for the various galamsey types within the Western Region.
- It is estimated that approximately GHS 988 million is required to reclaim the affected lands and water bodies in the region.

This paper aims to inform policy efforts directed at addressing the galamsey menace in Ghana.

The uncontrolled activities of galamsey are adversely affecting water bodies, vegetation, wild animals, human health, and safety. Various stakeholders are calling for the abolishment or regularisation of galamsey as well as the restoration of abandoned sites across the country. Indeed, several policy initiatives have been taken to stop illegal mining, but these efforts appear ineffective as galamsey operations are on the rise.

A major challenge is that the operational disposition of galamsey is poorly understood. There is limited information on the operational types, attributes, and their relative environmental effects, which are fundamentally required for an effective policy response to the galamsey menace. A related challenge is the limited information on the cost of decommissioning and restoring the degraded sites.

This study documents five broad categories and 11 subgroupings of galamsey operations, and their respective attributes and environmental impacts. It also outlines a strategy for a comprehensive costed reclamation and closure plans for the various galamsey types within the Western Region. It is estimated that GHS 987,707,165 is required to reclaim the affected lands and water bodies in the region. These findings represent a major step for effective policy response to the galamsey challenge across the country.