

INDUSTRIAL MINERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD: SOME CASE HISTORIES

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Large increases in industrial mineral capacities will be required in the new millennium to meet the demands of a rapidly growing world population, the majority of whom will be living in developing countries, especially around existing cities. For even a basic level of subsistence, this increased population will require housing, food, clean water and effective waste disposal, and the present paper describes a number of projects in the industrial minerals sector aimed at meeting these development needs. Project case histories covered include: improved procedures for rapid mapping of limestone resources; evaluation of volcanic rocks as construction materials; production of low-cost lime for agriculture and water treatment; use of diatomite for treating land contaminated by mine waste; and promotion of local bentonite for use in urban waste disposal. All these projects were funded by the UK Department for International Development.