

Kenya launches Lamu port. But its value remains an open question

By Jan Bachmann and Benard Musembi Kilaka

in The Conversation Africa

Kenya's newest mega infrastructure project, the Lamu port, has received its first ship. Moina Spooner, from The Conversation Africa, asked Jan Bachmann and Benard Musembi—who study the environmental, socio-economic and security dynamics along the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor—to provide insights into the history of the port, the opportunities it presents and the concerns around it.

When and why was the Lamu port project initiated?

The Lamu port is part of an ambitious transport corridor between Lamu—a small archipelago north of Mombasa in Kenya—South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Kenya already has one deep-water port in Mombasa. Plans for a second one to diffuse economic dependency on Mombasa go back to the mid-1970s. However, it only

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