

International Conference on Applied Research in Business, Management and Economics

12 - 14 June 2026

Tokyo , Japan

Institutional and Organizational Barriers to ESG Adoption in the Mozambican Construction Sector: A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective

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Abstract

The integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles has become increasingly important in promoting sustainable infrastructure development. However, the adoption of ESG practices within the construction sector remains limited in many emerging economies. This study examines the institutional and organizational barriers affecting ESG implementation in the construction sector of Mozambique. Using a qualitative multi-stakeholder research design, the study draws on semi-structured interviews with construction industry leaders, engineers, regulators, and representatives of development institutions. The research explores how regulatory environments, organizational practices, and stakeholder dynamics influence the adoption of ESG principles within construction firms and infrastructure projects. Preliminary insights suggest that ESG integration is constrained by limited regulatory enforcement, financial constraints associated with sustainability compliance, and insufficient awareness of ESG frameworks within industry organizations. Internal governance limitations and short-term project priorities also affect the implementation of sustainable practices. The study contributes to discussions on sustainable infrastructure development by providing a multi-stakeholder perspective on ESG adoption challenges in emerging economy construction sectors. The findings aim to inform policymakers, industry practitioners, and development partners seeking to strengthen ESG governance frameworks and improve sustainability outcomes in Mozambique's construction sector.

Keywords: Corporate Governance; Infrastructure Policy; Organizational Sustainability; Regulatory Capacity; Stakeholder Engagement