

The Potential of Geothermal Systems in Kenya for Balneological Use

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Abstract

Curative properties of geothermal waters are highly valued in several countries around the world, including China, Iceland, and middle and Eastern European states. Natural hot springs and fumaroles found in various parts of Kenya have been utilised by the local residents for worship and offering of sacrifices, particularly when afflicted with ailments that were difficult to cure. At the Lake Bogoria Hotel, natural hot water is directed towards a swimming pool, in which hotel guests like to bathe. The major element chemistry of some of the geothermal waters in Kenya is similar to that of waters used at established balneological sites in other parts of the world. Trace element concentrations are less well known. More research is required to understand the factors that impart curative qualities to geothermal waters. Kenya has been developing its geothermal systems for electricity generation, but should also evaluate the different sites for balneological applications.