Learning Consultancy on Colombia's Fossil Fuel Transition Experience
Terms of Reference

March 2025

Introduction

The Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) supports informed, inclusive decision-making about natural resources and the energy transition. NRGI accompanies resource-rich developing countries to minimize harms and equitably benefit from growing demand for transition critical minerals, build inclusive economies that end dependence on fossil fuel extraction and manage revenues from natural resources in accordance with citizen priorities.

Background

NRGI is commissioning a learning consultancy to document and assess our work in Colombia since 2022, identifying what we have done, what has worked or not, and why. The primary goal is to generate internal learning to refine our strategy moving forward, while also distilling lessons from the Colombia experience which could inform NRGI's work in other fossil-fuel producing countries. Colombia provides a unique case study: despite early commitments to phase out fossil fuels, the transition has faced political, economic and governance challenges. This consultancy will examine these dynamics to maximize learning for other countries and to inform NRGI strategy moving forward. We also aim to leverage this consultancy to capture success stories from our work in the region which could be shared externally and to consider what methods or approaches to capturing impact and learning work well, as part of informing and strengthening our MEL function.

Scope of Work

This consultancy will produce structured learning outputs which:

- Assess NRGI's work in Colombia and document key lessons to inform future programming, including:
    - What strategies were implemented, and what were the intended results?

    - What worked well, what didn't, and why?
    - How did our work contribute to policy and advocacy outcomes?
    - What can we learn for our work going forward?
- Develop 1-2 success/impact stories that can be used to engage donors and external audiences.
- Analyze how the Colombia experience may provide lessons for other fossil fuel-producing countries

Key Learning Questions

This consultancy aims to address the following key internal and external learning questions – which will be further refined in consultation with the consultant.

Internal learning:

1. What were NRGI's key advocacy strategies and interventions in Colombia, and how have they contributed to results (or not)?
2. Internal: What were the key enablers and barriers affecting our work, including political, economic, and institutional factors both in the context of work and in our internal organizational arrangements?
3. Internal: What lessons should shape future work? What are the most important lessons for refining our strategy in Colombia (and other fossil fuel producing countries) in the future?

External learning:

1. What is the Colombia case demonstrating about phasing out fossil fuels in resource-producing countries? To what extent did the government's actual performance stray or align with what we expected, and how did we react? What does this tell us about the setting, which may be transferrable to other contexts or settings? What insights from Colombia's transition experience are applicable to other fossil fuel producing countries? Do the same governance variables (economic, political, institutional) shape transitions in other countries?

Proposed Methodology

To answer the above learning questions, the consultant will propose a detailed methodology as part of developing the workplan. Anticipated approaches may include:

- Desk review: Review and analysis of relevant NRGI internal documents and publications/reports, government policies or publications, research or media reports, etc.
- Key informant interviews with NRGI staff and partners, and with relevant external stakeholders such as policymakers, civil society actors, local leaders, and academics
- Success story collection: As part of the review and assessment of NRGI work in Colombia, identifying and developing 1-2 compelling impact stories based on tangible results from NRGI's work in NRGI so far
- Case study development: Structured documentation of the Colombia experience, linking findings to broader fossil fuel governance and energy transition discussions, and using a structured framework (for example, economic, political and institutional variables) to assess whether lessons from Colombia may be relevant elsewhere.
- Internal learning/validation workshop: facilitate internal discussions to validate findings and ensure practical application of recommendations/insights provided

Deliverables

The consultant will produce the following:

- Deliverable 1. A work plan submitted one week after the beginning of the consultancy, including the refined key learning questions, proposed approach and methods to answer those learning questions (including data collection/interview plans), consultation plan (including feedback points on the draft deliverables before finalization), and timeline of activities.
- Deliverable 2. One internal learning report, including an analysis of NRGI's strategies, results, and lessons from Colombia, and recommendations for future work (15 pages approx.).
- Deliverable 3. One external-facing case study, sharing insights from Colombia's experience which could apply in other fossil fuel producing countries (20 pages approx.).
- Deliverable 4. Success/impact stories (1-2), illustrating tangible impact from NRGI's work in Colombia, to be shared with donors and published on NRGI's website.

- Deliverable 5. One internal learning session with NRGI staff, to present key findings and discuss applications for future work.

Please note, completion of each final deliverable will involve rounds of review, commenting, and revisions of draft versions. To the extent possible, this should be planned for accordingly in the workplan (as part of the consultation plan and anticipated feedback points).

Timeline

March – July 15, 2025

Fees

USD 10.000. Paid in sum after the completion of the project.

Qualifications/Consultant Profile

- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience in monitoring, evaluation and learning methodologies, and familiarity with advocacy strategy evaluation
- Demonstrated knowledge of extractive industries, fossil fuel governance, and political economy preferred
- Experience working in Colombia
- Demonstrated research and writing skills, experience conducting case studies, and ability to synthesize complex information into clear, actionable insights
- English required. Written and oral Spanish language proficiency preferred
- Attention to detail, flexibility and responsiveness

How to apply

Applications, including CVs and a brief letter of interest (no more than 1-2 pages, describing briefly the anticipated approach and methodology you would undertake in response to this ToR), should be submitted to procurement@resourcegovernance.org with earganbright@resourcegovernance.org in cc.

Please submit your application by 20 March 2025.

Disclaimer: "This is not an employment opportunity and employment-related benefits do not apply to this consultancy".