

Governing the Earth's Natural Resources

Utilizing the
Open Government Partnership
for Meaningful Reform

**Openness in
Natural Resources Working Group**
October 2015



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



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■ *The working group shares information on innovative approaches and good practices, as well as the use of technological and diagnostic tools to inform the development and monitoring of natural resource-related commitments.*

About the OGP Openness in Natural Resources Working Group

WHO WE ARE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international initiative that aims to secure commitments from governments to their citizenry to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.¹ As members of the OGP, countries are required to submit National Action Plans (NAP) comprised of a series of commitments that are developed through a process of co-creation between government and civil society. This partnership model, which extends to the governance of OGP, challenges the traditional dynamic between government and civil society—it regards civil society as a contributor to policy reform. The NAP, as a whole, must tackle at least two of the five OGP grand challenges: Improving Public Services, Increasing Public Integrity, More Effectively Managing Public Resources, Creating Safer Communities, and Increasing Corporate Accountability.

The OGP Openness in Natural Resource Working Group (ONR-WG, or the working group) is a thematic member-driven community that fosters the creation and implementation of concrete and impactful natural resource-related commitments. The ONR-WG provides a space for peer learning and exchange of experiences between and across government and civil society. Its ultimate ambition is to advance our collective understanding of how openness in natural resources can improve citizen lives.

The ONR-WG brings together governments and civil society organizations that have a demonstrated track record of advancing natural resource governance and are deepening their commitments through the OGP. The 10 participating countries include Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia (to be confirmed), Philippines, Tunisia, United Kingdom (to be confirmed), and United States of America. The ONR-WG is co-chaired by the government of Indonesia, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). It is supported by international initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and organizations such as the World Bank and Oxfam America.

WHAT WE DO

The working group shares information on innovative approaches and good practices, as well as the use of technological and diagnostic tools to inform the development and monitoring of natural resource-related commitments. Additionally, it seeks to build capacity and encourage peer learning across OGP, and provides technical support on a per-request basis to participating OGP countries. Through the participation and collaborative efforts of key stakeholders within government, civil society, and international institutions and initiatives, the working group initiates and sustains efforts to improve and enhance resource governance for citizen benefit.

■ *Natural resource commitments are a small fraction of total OGP commitments (less than 10 percent).*

Overview of the OGP natural resource commitments

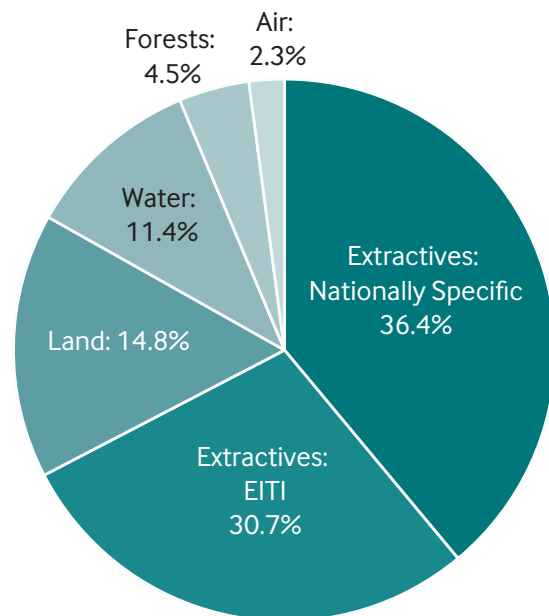
WHAT IS A NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENT?

For the purpose of this document, a **natural resource commitment** is defined as “a commitment which specifically mentions any variety of naturally occurring resources or the laws and frameworks which govern them.” In addition to these explicit natural resource commitments, the working group has also identified commitments which have the potential to make *indirect* impacts upon how natural resources are governed or extracted.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS?

- Natural resource commitments are a small fraction of total OGP commitments (less than 10 percent). Out of 1,985 commitments created between the OGP’s creation in 2011 and 15 October 2015, 186 are natural resource commitments.
- Only about half of natural resource commitments expressly address a specific resource. Other commitments put forth ideas for general environmental reforms that would have an effect on the natural resources sector (e.g. access to environmental law), or ones that do not relate to natural resources, but still have an impact on the sector (e.g. online information portals which include natural resource documents).
- Most of the explicit commitments address “extractive industries” (Oil/Gas/Minerals). Very few address other natural resources (Water, Air, Forest, Land), as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Explicit natural resource commitments by sector



■ *Access to Information is the most represented of the OGP values and plays an important role in supporting meaningful decision making processes.*

An assessment of natural resource commitments by the OGP's independent reporting mechanism

The OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) publishes assessments of OGP commitments across a range of categories designed to measure quality and effectiveness. The reports also offer technical recommendations to improve the articulation and implementation of commitments on future NAPs. The IRM's assessments were carried out between September 2013 and June 2015; thus, the following results only consider data available as of June 2015.

METHODOLOGY

The IRM report findings are compiled using a "combination of interviews, desk research and feedback from civil society stakeholder meetings. The reports build on the findings of the government's self-assessment report and any other assessments of progress put out by civil society, the private sector or international organizations."² Many of these supplementary or "shadow" reports are available on the Open Government Guide's Civil Society Hub.³ The IRM's assessments are structured to provide an in-depth overview of the implementation progress of each commitment, the OGP values covered by the commitment, and the potential impact the commitment could have. The IRM report also presents suggestions made by the International Experts Panel, a group of senior advisors and overseers.

Note: Many of the IRM assessment criteria were developed after the OGP's launch and have not been retroactively applied to the earlier commitments. Likewise, some of the more recent commitments have not yet been fully reviewed by the IRM. Therefore, only 80 of 186 natural resource commitments have been assessed in the following graphs.

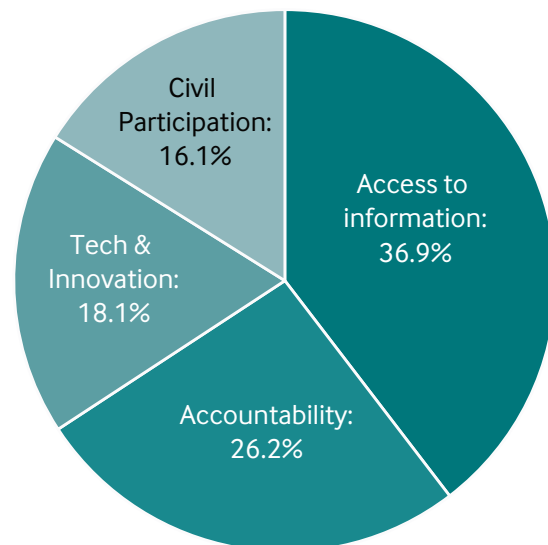
OGP VALUES COVERED IN NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

As part of its mandate, the IRM evaluates each commitment's relevance to the four core OGP values (access to information, civic participation, public accountability, and technology and innovation for transparency and accountability) within a national context.

Figure 2 shows which of the core values are covered by the 80 natural resource commitments.

Figure 2. OGP Values covered in natural resource commitments

Note: The sum of these numbers is greater than 80 because some commitments cover more than one value.



■ *Tanzania has committed to finalize its water point mapping system for local government authorities and to make the disaggregated water data available online and through other means of information.*

The data indicates that Access to Information is the most represented of the OGP values. Access to Information plays an important role in supporting meaningful decision making processes because a more informed public is more empowered to voice concerns and opinions on decisions relating to the environment and the use of natural resources.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

When determining the potential impact of commitments, the IRM asks, “would the commitment, if implemented, stretch government practices beyond business-as-usual in the relevant policy area, regardless of whether it is new or pre-existing?” IRM researchers categorize commitments according to the following criteria:

Worsens (worsens the status quo)

None (maintains the status quo)

For example, Azerbaijan has committed to continue the disclosure of the cumulative incomes obtained by the government from the extractive industry.

Minor (an incremental but positive step in the relevant policy area)

For instance, Albania has committed to continue implementing the recommendations of the EITI Secretariat to reorganize the inter-ministerial working group of the Albania EITI.

Moderate (a major step forward in the relevant policy area, but limited in scale or scope)

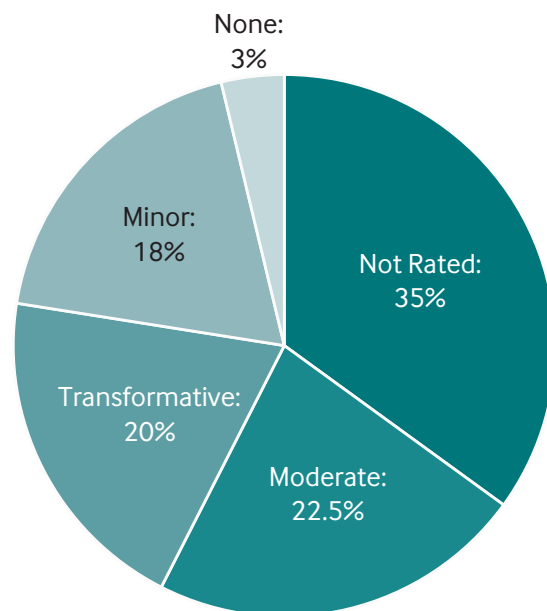
For example, Tanzania has committed to finalize its water point mapping system for local government authorities and to make the disaggregated water data available online and through other means of information.

Transformative (a reform that could potentially transform “business as usual” in the relevant policy area)

For instance, Bulgaria has committed to create a public information system with data about the location, group of mineral resources and their status and/or deposits of underground resources, specialized maps and registries of exploration permits and concessions. Each citizen will be entitled to receive an official copy of the documents.

Figure 3 shows that of all the commitments actually rated by the IRM, a majority was recognized for the potential to either make a moderate impact or to be transformative.

Figure 3. Potential impact of natural resource commitments



■ *Fifty-five percent of all natural resource commitments have either been completely implemented or have achieved substantial progress.*

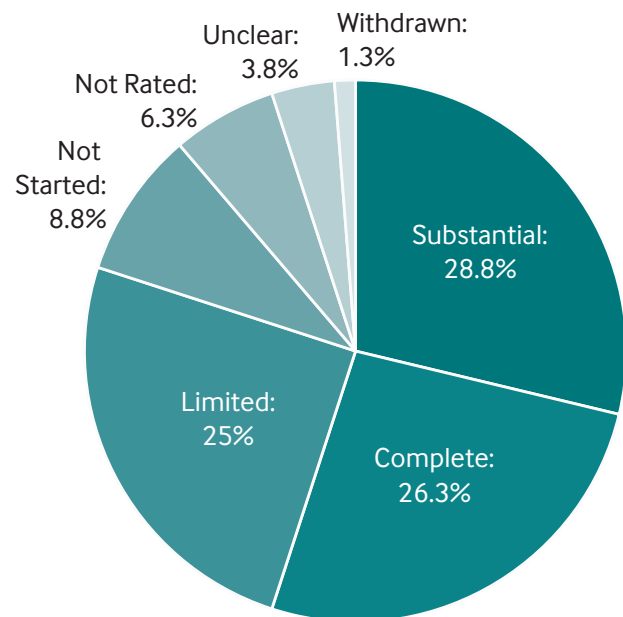
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

The most important assessment of commitments is arguably whether they are actually implemented. This is as far as the IRM takes their analysis. Ground-level impact assessments are left in the hands of each country's government and civil society groups. Figure 4 is a measure of whether governments have followed through with commitment implementation, but is not an assessment of whether the commitment has had the desired impact.

Fifty-five percent of all natural resource commitments have either been completely implemented or have achieved substantial progress. For instance, Liberia's commitment to make its extractive industry transparent (i.e., to publish and popularize the fourth EITI reconciliation report of Liberia and the revenue-tracking report covering the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011) is considered to be substantially completed.

Thirty-four percent of commitments, however, have seen limited or no progress. For example, the United States' commitment to provide enforcement and compliance data online has had limited progress. These implementation hang-ups can be caused by unclear goals or a vague definition of the commitment. In many cases, the IRM report calls for the "revision of the commitment to be more achievable or measurable."

Figure 4. Implementation progress of natural resource commitments



■ *Twenty percent of all natural resource commitments are considered to be exemplary, and are heavily weighted toward the extractives sector.*

EXEMPLARY STARRED COMMITMENTS

The IRM uses a system of benchmarks in the above criteria to select exemplary commitments that have scored well across the board. These are referred to as “starred” commitments; theoretically, these have the best chance of being successful. Figure 5 shows that only 16 of the 80 explicit natural resource commitments were given stars.

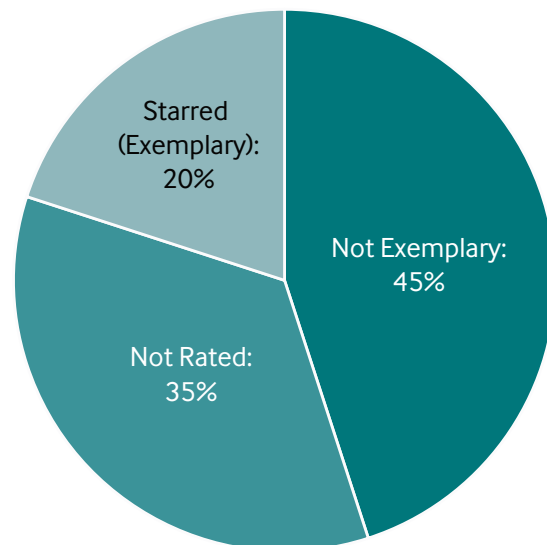
The countries that have created natural resource commitments with star ratings are: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria (2), Chile, Colombia (2), Denmark, El Salvador, Guatemala, Liberia (2), South Korea, Tanzania (2), and Ukraine.

The starred commitments are nearly all in the category of extractive industries (both EITI and nationally specific), with a few outliers in forests, water, and general environmental governance reform. None directly address land or air. An example of a “starred” commitment is Tanzania’s water data and mapping initiative. Liberia’s plan to conduct post-contract award audits. It will also investigate material contracts, concessions, and licenses entered into by the government with companies operating in the mining, oil, forestry, and agriculture sectors between 13 July 2009 to 31 December 2011. This furthers the Liberian EITI’s contract transparency mandate.

Takeaways from the IRM assessments

- Access to Information and Accountability are the OGP values most closely linked to natural resource commitments.
- Forty-three percent of natural resource commitments are expected to have either a transformative or moderate impact, compared to the 23 percent which are expected to have either minor impact or none at all.
- More than half of the natural resource commitments have been fully or substantially implemented.
- Twenty percent of all natural resource commitments are considered to be exemplary, and are heavily weighted toward the extractives sector.

Figure 5. Quality of natural resource commitments



■ *One of the main concerns addressed consistently in a number of the country IRM reports is the communication gap between governments, CSOs, relevant stakeholders, and the general public.*

IMPLEMENTATION CRITICISMS FROM THE IRM

One of the main concerns addressed consistently in a number of the country IRM reports is the communication gap between governments, CSOs, relevant stakeholders, and the general public. Evidently, this leads to limited awareness about governance reforms currently being undertaken and/or the existence of valuable tools and projects. There are a number of cases where useful data portals of environmental or public participation mechanisms exist, but have had weak response rates due to limited awareness. A clear example of this communication gap is confusion regarding Mexico's commitment to develop a mining database. Findings in the IRM report indicated that CSOs were unaware of an existent database. Links to this database were situated obscurely and difficult to find – though available – on the ministry's page.

Indonesia faced a comparable problem. Following the development of the OneMap Portal,⁴ the IRM report called for the “urgent need to encourage the use of this map” and recommended that “Indonesia consider publicizing this map so that civil society can access the

same information as the government and its private sector partners.”⁵ A similar dynamic was observed in Albania, where numerous awareness-raising activities, held as part of the EITI process, reached mostly “state institution representatives, part of the academic community and only a number of extractive industry companies operating [in-country]. Civil society and the media appeared to be largely uninformed on EITI.”

Though South Africa had committed to assess the feasibility of creating a portal of environmental management information, both a country self-assessment and an Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC) report found efforts to be wanting. The ODAC bluntly stated, “[t]his commitment has not been addressed. The issue of establishing a portal was referred to the minister for the environment, but no progress has been made.” South Africa has recycled this commitment in its latest NAP and commits to move beyond a feasibility study. The working group hopes that the minister for the environment will make better progress on the second attempt.

■ *One of the working group's functions is to facilitate a peer knowledge exchange between OGP members with similar commitments. To fulfill its role, it analyzes patterns and tracks developing trends in commitment creation.*

Trends in natural resource commitments

One of the working group's functions is to facilitate a peer knowledge exchange between OGP members with similar commitments. To fulfill its role, it analyzes patterns and tracks developing trends in commitment creation. The most common natural resource commitments involve the EITI and the creation of online portals for natural resource information, as well as efforts to increase citizen participation in environmental governance. Successfully implemented commitments from one OGP member country can be used as a blueprint for others adopting similar commitments.

EITI

The EITI is a global standard to promote open and accountable management of natural resources. Countries implementing the EITI disclose information on tax payments, licenses, contracts, production, and other key elements of resource extraction. The following countries have made commitments explicitly related to the EITI. These commitments vary dramatically, ranging from making pledges to investigate the possibility of becoming EITI compliant to the strengthening of already robust EITI policies.

Countries with commitments relating to EITI	
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of EITI recommendations
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring transparency in mining, and launch the process of joining the EITI
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of EITI Disclosure of EITI reports
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of EITI Reform of royalties system
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of EITI (among other international initiatives) EITI as theme in a "transparency school" Become EITI compliant
Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread word to citizens about the benefits of EITI
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply EITI Standard (among others)
Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate discussion about joining EITI
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish and publicize the LEITI report and conduct a contract transparency audit
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join the EITI Become EITI compliant
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support EITI secretariat, continue implementing EITI suggestions; support EITI related CSOs Continue to live up to EITI principles
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate the EITI Commission
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose 70% of mining contracts Scale up the EITI
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfill EITI commitments
Trinidad and Tobago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include mineral sector in TTEITI
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement EITI
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion a global standard in extractive industries financial transparency
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement EITI (1st NAP) Plan to disclose extractive industries payments to the citizens Implement EITI (2nd NAP)

Figure 6: EITI Commitments

■ *Electronic documentation and dissemination of information has become widely recognized as an effective and scalable method of ensuring transparency and good governance in the natural resource sector.*

E-GOVERNANCE & OPEN DATA

Electronic documentation and dissemination of information has become widely recognized as an effective and scalable method of ensuring transparency and good governance in the natural resource sector. These efforts range from the creation of publicly

accessible document databases on government websites to open data portals where the citizens themselves can submit geotagged natural resource data.

Figure 7. Tools and databases for natural resources data

Electronic Portals/ Databases for natural resources Data	
WATER	
Albania	Electronic portal on water resources administration and management
Tanzania	Water data and mapping (http://wpm.maji.go.tz/)
LAND	
Albania	e-Concession procedures Electronic access to protected areas
Brazil	Develop tools for increasing transparency and enhancing land governance
Mongolia	Develop central information database of land tenure license owners, and make open to the public
Tanzania	Make land-use plan, ownership and demarcated areas for large-scale land deals accessible online for public use by June 2016
FORESTS	
Indonesia	OneMap portal for forest management (http://petakita.ina-sdi.or.id/pempar/)
GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION	
Dominican Republic	Access to environmental information
Croatia	Publish comprehensive versions of environmental impact studies on the websites of the competent bodies
Moldova	Publish environmental open data on central public authorities websites
South Africa	Develop an integrated and publicly accessible portal of environmental management information
MINING & OIL	
Armenia	Mining database (maps, financial reports, & other documents)
Bulgaria	Public information system on mineral resources
Indonesia	Environmental openness: Publication of revenue information of the government (central & region) from the extractive industry
Mexico	Mining database
Mongolia	Develop central information database of minerals and oil license owners and make open to the public
Sierra Leone	Establish an open data portal to improve transparency in fiscal and extractive transactions
Trinidad & Tobago	Make publicly available the cadastre of licenses and contracts for the exploration and production of oil and gas in Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia	Develop an open data platform dedicated to information dealing with oil and mine sector investment
United Kingdom	Create a publicly accessible central registry of company beneficial ownership information

■ *Commitments for citizen engagement can range from creating fora for participation to utilizing technology for crowdsourcing environmental information.*

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Creating opportunities for citizens to participate in decision making processes is vital to addressing issues and adopting policies and laws that take community needs into account. Commitments for

citizen engagement can range from creating fora for participation to utilizing technology for crowdsourcing environmental information.

Figure 8. Citizen Participation

Citizen Participation in natural resource Issues	
Chile	Citizen participation in environmental matters
Costa Rica	Create a forum about access to information and citizen participation in environmental issues
Guatemala	Expand informed participation in already existing community mapping initiatives
Indonesia	Improve public participation in environmental preservation
Mexico	Participatory protection of the environment
South Africa	Develop an online crowdsourcing tool that will allow the public to submit data on protected areas and conservation areas

■ *The working group seeks to promote disclosure of contracts, beneficial ownership and environmental policy, and management and compliance data.*

Functions of the working group

PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE WORKING GROUP

The working group recognizes that while significant progress has been made in the disclosure of information related to the natural resource sector, persistent areas of opacity remain. The working group seeks to promote disclosure of contracts, beneficial ownership and environmental policy, and management and compliance data. Participating OGP countries have already made progress on many of these fronts. To illustrate, the United Kingdom announced a publicly accessible central registry of company beneficial ownership information in 2013. Mongolia has committed to develop a central information database of land tenure, minerals, and oil license owners that would be open to the public. The working group intends to capitalize on that momentum and broaden the number of countries and commitments promoting disclosure in these key areas.

Disclosure of information will only be made meaningful if countries adhere to open data standards that promote accessibility and usability by a range of stakeholders. The working group members have the knowledge and expertise in using spatial data, maps, and portals effectively to ensure that disclosure advances transparency. The working group will leverage this to draw lessons on good practice in the release and organization of information.

The working group also provides support to better understand and identify key natural resource issues, formulate commitments that offer concrete solutions, share experiences in implementation, and seek partnerships with contacts across the globe for expertise and advice. The working group supports regional gatherings, such as the Africa and LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) meetings on open data and extractives, and the publication of OpenGov Guide. Through such efforts, the working group is able to capitalize on the collective knowledge of its members.

APPLYING INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND UTILIZING INDICES

The working group goes beyond the IRM's findings and assesses commitments against standardized natural resource and environmental standards including the Environmental Democracy Index (EDI), the Resource Governance Index (RGI), the Environmental Performance Index, Global Forest Watch, the Natural Resource Charter and the Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework. It also provides expertise on key standards such as the EITI and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Principle 10 and the Bali Guideline. This cross-examination helps develop context and expectations for whether OGP countries with natural resource commitments are effectively addressing areas of need.

For more information on the indices and frameworks, please refer to Annex 1.

■ *The Environmental Democracy Index (EDI) measures the extent to which the laws of a country establish and recognize the environmental democracy rights of its citizens.*

The Environmental Democracy Index

The Environmental Democracy Index (EDI) measures the extent to which the laws of a country establish and recognize the environmental democracy rights of its citizens, which involve three mutually reinforcing rights: (1) the right to freely access information on environmental quality and problems, (2) the right to participate meaningfully in decision making, and (3) the right to seek enforcement of environmental laws or compensation for harm. These rights facilitate information exchange between governments and the public. Protecting them is the first step toward promoting equity and fairness in sustainable development. Establishing a strong legal foundation is the starting point for recognizing, protecting and enforcing environmental democracy.

EDI evaluates 70 countries across 75 legal indicators, based on objective and internationally recognized standards established by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) – Principle 10 and the Bali Guideline. The table below outlines each country's composite EDI score, and provides the weak guideline identified within the Access to Information component, which relates to the disclosure practices of government agencies, including accessibility and information dissemination practices. For instance, EDI identifies that Ghana's laws do not mandate access to environmental information to be provided upon request. Through this and similar data, countries are able to compare and contrast their own laws with others, and draw from their experiences to strengthen their own legal frameworks. The working group supports efforts to expand and refine the research of EDI to further promote environmental democracy. It also lends the network and collective knowledge gained through the EDI and the expertise of WRI to its members.

Figure 9. The Environmental Democracy Index ratings for the OGP participating countries with significant natural resources

COUNTRIES	EDI Score	Access to information: weakest score
South Africa	2.16	No state of the environment report
United States	2.16	No state of the environment report
United Kingdom	2.14	No early warning information
Hungary	2.12	Grounds for refusal for requests for environmental information unclear
Bulgaria	2.10	Law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Panama	2.02	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Colombia	1.99	Law does not require the state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Ireland	1.93	Law does not require the state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Peru	1.87	Law does not require the decision maker to take into account public interest when denying requests for environmental information
Estonia	1.85	Law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Romania	1.83	Law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Brazil	1.80	Law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
El Salvador	1.80	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Indonesia	1.80	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Dominican Republic	1.78	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Mexico	1.74	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action
Macedonia	1.73	Law does not require government to publish advice on how to obtain environmental information; law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Chile	1.67	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action; law does not require state of the environment report to be comprehensive
Trinidad & Tobago	1.67	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Argentina	1.63	Law does not require the decision-maker to take into account public interest when considering exemptions for refusing access to environmental information
Ukraine	1.58	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Mongolia	1.56	No state of the environment report
Israel	1.50	No state of the environment report
Canada	1.48	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action
Kenya	1.46	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action
Australia	1.42	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Philippines	1.35	Law does not require information on environmental quality to be made proactively available to the public
Honduras	1.29	Law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive, nor released periodically at reasonable intervals
Tanzania	1.28	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action
Guatemala	1.26	Law does not require public authorities to regularly collect and update relevant environmental information; law does not require public authorities to comprehensively monitor the environmental performance and compliance by such operators of activities affecting the environment, and to collect and update the information
Turkey	1.24	Law does not require government to publish advice on how to obtain environmental information; law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive
Paraguay	1.06	No state of the environment report; law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action
Ghana	0.89	No accessibility to environmental information requests; law does not define grounds for government's refusal for access to information; no state of the environment report
Jordan	0.76	Law does not require government to disseminate information to the public when there is imminent threat of harm to human health or the environment to enable them to take preventive action; law does not require state of the environment report to be updated or comprehensive, nor released periodically at reasonable intervals

■ *The Resource Governance Index (RGI) measures the level of transparency and accountability in the oil, gas, and mining sectors of 58 countries (including 20 OGP participating countries).*

The Resource Governance Index

The Resource Governance Index (RGI) measures the level of transparency and accountability in the oil, gas, and mining sectors of 58 countries (including 20 OGP participating countries). It assesses four different components of governance: the Institutional & Legal setting, the Reporting Practices, the Safeguards & Quality Controls and the Enabling Environment. The table below outlines each country's RGI composite score and provides examples of a weak indicator identified within the Reporting Practices component.

This relates to the actual disclosure of information by government agencies. For instance, the RGI identifies that countries like Colombia and Tanzania do not publish extractive contracts. Contract transparency is essential to ensuring that all parties benefit from these industries. Disclosure of terms is necessary for effective government management of natural resources and allows citizens to ensure that companies fulfill their environmental and social obligations. The working group can capitalize on its knowledge and research in this area—augmented by the experience of NRGI—to support the work of its members.

Figure 10. 2013 Resource Governance Index scores for OGP countries

COUNTRIES	RGI Score	Highlighted indicator with weakest score on government reporting practices
Norway	98	Lack of information on the value of the production
United States (Gulf of Mexico Only)	92	Lack of information on the value of the production
United Kingdom	88	Lack of information on exploration data
Australia (Western Australia only)	85	Lack of information on social payments made by extractive companies
Brazil	80	No publication of contracts
Mexico	77	Lack of information on the licensing process
Canada (Alberta only)	76	Poor quality of Alberta's sovereign wealth fund report
Chile	75	No publication of contracts
Colombia	74	No publication of contracts
Trinidad & Tobago	74	No publication of contracts
Peru	73	Lack of information on subsidies
Indonesia	66	No publication of contracts
Ghana	63	No publication of environmental and social impact assessments
Liberia	62	No publication of environmental and social impact assessments
South Africa	56	No publication of contracts
Philippines	54	No publication of contracts
Mongolia	51	No information on state-owned enterprises' financial transactions
Tanzania	50	No publication of contracts
Azerbaijan	48	No publication of contracts
Sierra Leone	46	No publication of contracts

■ *By sharing lessons and good practices, we can advance our collective understanding of how leveraging and promoting greater openness through the OGP platform can bring greater benefits to citizens and governments.*

ENCOURAGING NATURAL RESOURCE-ENDOWED COUNTRIES TO BEGIN MAKING COMMITMENTS

A substantial number of OGP-participating countries have made no commitments to natural resource issues despite their being prevalent and pressing domestic concerns. The working group actively encourages these countries to begin including natural resource commitments in their NAPs. The working group seeks to convince the OGP representatives from such countries that their NAP is a good forum for pushing natural resource governance reform in the areas of data portal establishment, mapping of natural resources and concessions, and tagging of additional data—such as beneficial ownership documents, Environmental Impact Assessments, and land tenure documents—onto interoperable and accessible maps.

BENEFITS OF WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Peer knowledge exchange

A number of OGP countries have made significant advancements in transparent, accountable, and effective management of natural resources. By sharing lessons and good practices, we can advance our collective understanding of how leveraging and promoting greater openness through the OGP platform can bring greater benefits to citizens and governments. We can also further our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Opportunity to draw attention to natural resource issues

The OGP presents an opportunity to attract attention to issues that have been identified for potential reform, but lack the clout or exposure to gain traction among government ministries. The working group is poised to review submissions for commitment ideas from individuals in civil society, the private sector, and the government. The working group's official recommendations can shed light on a pressing issue and increase its chance of becoming a commitment on the next NAP.

Monitoring and evaluation of commitment implementation

It is difficult to evaluate whether natural resource commitments are achieving their intended impact. The working group can facilitate contact with local organizations who are in a position to monitor and report on the impacts of a given commitment.

Membership networking

The working group maintains a database of natural resource contacts on a national and global scale. It can serve as a conduit for members to reach out to the organizations and experts they seek for knowledge or partnership opportunities.

Annex 1. Tools for Assessing natural resource Issues

INDICES

Environmental Democracy Index

EDI is a unique online platform that aims to raise awareness, engage audiences and strengthen environmental laws and public engagement. It measures the following, called Pillars: 1) the right to freely access information on environmental quality and problems (Access to Information), 2) the right to participate meaningfully in decision-making (Public Participation), and 3) the right to seek enforcement of environmental laws or compensation for harm (Access to Justice). Each Pillar consists of a number of Guidelines. There are 26 Guidelines in all.

Resource Governance Index

The Resource Governance Index (RGI) measures the quality of governance in the oil, gas, and mining sector. The RGI assesses the quality of four key governance components: 1) Institutional and Legal Setting, 2) Reporting Practices, 3) Safeguards and Quality Controls, and 4) Enabling Environment. It also includes information on three special mechanisms used commonly to govern oil, gas, and minerals: state-owned companies, natural resource funds, and subnational revenue transfers.

Environmental Performance Index

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranks how well countries perform on high-priority environmental issues in two broad policy areas: protection of human health from environmental harm and protection of ecosystems.

INFORMATION PORTALS

Global Forest Watch

Global Forest Watch (GFW) is an interactive online forest monitoring and alert system designed to empower people everywhere with the information they need to better manage and conserve forest landscapes.

Aqueduct

Aqueduct's global water risk mapping tool helps companies, investors, governments, and other users understand where and how water risks and opportunities are emerging worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The Natural Resource Charter

The natural resource Charter is a set of economic principles for governments and societies on how to best manage the opportunities created by natural resources for development. The Charter comprises 12 precepts, or principles, that encapsulate the choices and suggested strategies that governments might pursue to increase the prospects of sustained economic development from natural resource exploitation.

The Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework

This is a comprehensive menu of indicators that can be used to diagnose and assess strengths and weaknesses in forest governance.

Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)

EITI is a global standard to promote open and accountable management of natural resources. It seeks to strengthen government and company systems, inform public debate, and enhance trust. In each implementing country it is supported by a coalition of governments, companies and civil society working together.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Principle 10 and the Bali Guideline

Principle 10 sets out three fundamental rights as key pillars of sound environmental governance: access to information, access to public participation and access to justice.

Annex 2. Co-Chair Contact Information

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ENDNOTES

- 1 http://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/attachments/leaflet_no.pdf
- 2 <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/about-irm>
- 3 <http://www.opengovguide.com/>
- 4 OneMap Portal is a mapping system encompassing basic geospatial information on forestry management
- 5 Indonesia – IRM Report : <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/indonesia/progress-report/report>



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