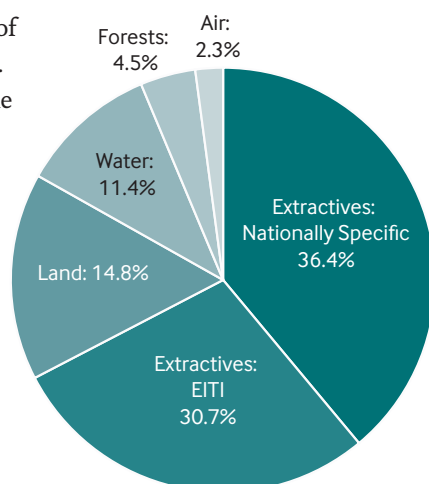


Governing the Earth's Natural Resources: Utilizing the Open Government Partnership for Meaningful Reform

The OGP Openness in Natural Resources Working Group (ONR-WG) is a thematic member-driven community that fosters the creation and implementation of concrete and impactful natural resource-related commitments. The ONR-WG takes a focused approach on natural resource issues, zeroing in on disclosure of contracts, beneficial ownership and environmental policy, management, and compliance data, as well as adherence to open data standards. The working group provides a space for peer learning between and across government and civil society. It encourages information exchange on innovative approaches and good practices that inform the development and monitoring of natural resource-related commitments. Additionally, it seeks to build capacity and provides technical support on a per-request basis to participating OGP countries.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The working group aims to synthesize natural resource commitments to provide a backdrop against which OGP countries operate, and to contextualize how current commitments affect the natural resource sector as a whole. To achieve this, the working group reviewed the 1,985 commitments of OGP countries. (as shown in the pie chart).



Explicit natural resource commitments by sector

THE REVIEW OF OGP'S INDEPENDENT REPORTING MECHANISM (IRM)

The below box summarizes the key takeaways from the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism's review of 80 of the 186 natural resource commitments.

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.

FUNCTIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

To promote meaningful disclosure and adherence to data standards and to provide support for better understanding and identifying key natural resource issues, the working group cross-examines natural resource commitments with international frameworks and indices. These include the Environmental Democracy Index and the Resource Governance Index. Moreover, the working group actively encourages OGP-participating countries with no natural resource commitments to include these in their National Action Plans. Aside from peer learning and exchange, the working group is also a platform to attract attention to issues identified for potential reform, and is a valuable resource for countries to monitor and evaluate commitment implementation. Finally, the working group is a rich network for countries to reach out to organizations and experts for knowledge or partnership opportunities.