**Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

**Openness in Natural Resources Working Group - Work Plan**

***June 2014 – August 2015***

**Rationale**

This Working Group is established in recognition that good governance in the natural resource sector is critical to the welfare of the people and sustainability of the environment. A wide array of countries has made significant advancements in transparency and accountability. By sharing lessons learned and good practice, we can leverage the OGP to advance our collective understanding of how greater openness can bring greater benefits to citizens and governments and encourage action at the national level.

**Aim**

The Openness in Natural Resources (ONR) Working Group aims to advance the collective understanding of how greater openness and participation in decision-making can improve the management of natural resources, transform quality of life of the people for the public good and mitigate environmental and social impacts by:

* Inspiring governments to take up commitments in this critical sector; contributing to a global norm on openness in natural resource management.
* Supporting OGP participating governments to design and implement commitments that are concrete, impactful, ambitious and targeted to the specific context.
* Sharing information and technological and diagnostic tools such as the Resource Governance Index, the Environmental Democracy Index, The Environmental Performance Index, Global Forest Watch, Aqueduct water platform, the Natural Resource Charter, and Governance Indicator toolkits and expertise on key standards such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the United Nations Environmental Program Principle 10 Bali Guidelines.
* Supporting participation and collaboration efforts between key stakeholders, extractive industry and environmental oversight agencies, networks, private sector partners, civil society and academics in OGP Natural Resource and Extractive dialogues.
* Providing a forum for peer-to-peer sharing and learning on good practices and innovative approaches.

This Working Group is successful when the quality and quantity of commitments in the area of national resources transparency of each member country is improving and being implemented.

**Governance**

The co-anchors of the Working Group are currently the Government of Indonesia with the Natural Resource Governance Institute and the World Resources Institute. A second government co-anchor will be identified. The working group will constitute a membership group and task forces to promote and advance our objectives. Participation will be open to governments, civil society organizations, with an attention to balance across stakeholder groups. It will also benefit from the engagement of the private sector multilateral institutions such as UNDP, UNEP and complementary multi-stakeholder initiatives such as EITI. An interim governance framework will be adopted for the duration of this Working Group Plan.

**Work Plan: June 2014- August 2015**

**Outcome: Increased and diversified participation in the working group.**

**Outputs:**

* TOR finalized for the working group.
* Confirmation of the Steering Group.
* Creation of a membership Group and task forces as necessary.
* Mapping of engagement of existing civil society organizations as well as focal points for natural resource governance in relevant agencies for targeted outreach.
* Mapping and inviting champion countries in transparency and good governance for each natural resource sector to participate in the Working Group.
* Hosting of an in person meeting of Working Group anchors in September 2014 in New York.
* Side events announcing the expanded scope of the Working Group e.g. EITI Board meeting in Mexico in June 2014 (completed); Costa Rica Regional Meeting November 2014 and Environmental Democracy Index Launch in March 2015.

**Outcome: Increased understanding of the importance of commitments related to the natural resource governance.**

**Outputs:**

* Preparation of blogs, presentations and capacity building events using online platforms by working group partners that justify the importance of these types of commitments within OGP both for civil society and governments.
* Events promoting natural resource transparency at regional events, as well as informal working group meetings/representation by extractives and natural resource focused civil society.
* Linkage to other working groups through participation in regular coordinating calls with the working group chairs and convening joint session with Open Data Working Group on promotion of open data and extractives and their impacts in standard setting and exploration of country best practice.

**Outcome: Improved quality and quantity of natural resource related commitments in national action plans.**

**Outputs:**

* Forty-six countries had action plans that were due to the OGP Secretariat and to be published and begin implementation between June and July this year. Countries particularly relevant for extractives transparency are suggested in bold:
	+ Cohort 1: **Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States.**
	+ Cohort 2 (second action plan launching in July 2014): Albania, Armenia, **Azerbaijan,** Bulgaria, **Canada,** **Chile**, **Colombia,** Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, **Dominican Republic**, **El Salvador**, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Israel, Jordan, **Kenya,** Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, **Paraguay**, **Peru,** Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, **Tanzania,** Turkey, **Ukraine,** and **Uruguay**.
	+ Cohort 3: Argentina, Costa Rica, Finland, **Ghana,** Hungary, **Liberia** and Panama.
	+ Cohort 4 (first action plan launching in July 2014): **Australia,** Ireland, Malawi, **Mongolia,** New Zealand, Serbia, **Sierra Leone, and Trinidad and Tobago.**
* Short policy notes on recommendations for country commitments produced by the working group members with national partners.
	+ Working group members will provide advice on action plans as requested based on the Resource Governance Index and the Environmental Democracy Index and other relevant resources and will conduct outreach through our regional offices and governance team to link up to local civil society partners in country.
	+ Champion countries for each natural resource will be engaged to provide recommendation to the action plan.
* Serve as a resource on a demand basis to review draft action plans and provide feedback on relevant commitments.
* Refinement, reporting on and regular providing updates on the status of natural resource and extractive commitments database produced internally by the IRM and externally by partners.
* Publishing an analysis of commitments coming out of the new action plans with updates on implementation progress.
* Development of mechanisms to visualize commitments.
* Ensure interoperability of sectorial commitments with the IRM database of commitments.

**Outcome:** **Improved understanding of how to advance openness in managing natural resources.**

**Outputs:**

* Support open data efforts and proactive release of information in the use of natural resources and extractives to improve transparency and to increase the interoperability of open data across multiple jurisdictions.
* Updated Open the Government Guide and promotion of its use.
* Webinars on key issues such as contract transparency, mandatory disclosure requirements, diagnostic tools, use of technology to increase transparency around the impact of extractives, etc. These can showcase the expertise of different members of the working group.
* Facilitate exchange visits between countries to learn about openness in natural resources and extractives along targeted areas including both governments and civil society representatives.

**Outcome: Robust civil society and government monitoring of the natural resource sector.**

**Outputs:**

* Compilation of best practices related to extractives and natural resources monitoring including case studies (drawing on regional and country level observatories).
* Identifying support (financial and technical) for civil society and government to monitor the impact of commitments.
* Sharing best practices from existing OGP monitoring by government and civil society on sector related commitments.

**Outcome: Strengthen civil society and government engagement within OGP on creating an enabling environment for civil society voice on openness and natural resources.**

**Outputs:**

* Align discussions that are underway in EITI and other human rights fora, the working group can contribute to dialogue around creating an enabling environment and civic space and ensure coordination between OGP on this front.
* Coordinate and share information between relevant initiatives, such as EITI; and discussions on safeguarding environmental defenders in the Human Rights Council; activating networks and encouraging engagement of national level coalitions in OGP processes on this issue.

**Budget**

The OGP Support Unit has limited funds to support Working Group engagement. NRGI and WRI will cost share activities and also carry out specific fund raising efforts including with the OGP Support Unit to support the activities proposed below:

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| **Description of activities** | **Amount and Source** |
| ***Activating the Working Group*** |  |
| Meeting of co-anchors and participation in PLS Meeting in New York in September 2014. | ***$1000 (Support Unit)*** |
| Webinars on diagnostic tools, implementation of commitments in this sector and highlighting the opening government guide and new scope of working group. | ***Staff time*** |
| ***Support National Action Plan Development*** |  |
| Preparation of short policy notes, blogs etc. based on the Natural Resource Index and the Environmental Democracy Index etc. on commitments to be made in the OGP. | ***Staff time*** |
| ***Analysis and Mapping*** |  |
| WRI and NRGI will work with working group members to continue to report on relevant databases of natural resource and extractive commitments and conduct an analysis of all national action plans to identify gaps in terms of commitments and key countries to enable targeted outreach. This will include mapping the engagement of civil society organizations in relevant countries and conducting outreach to the extractives and natural resource management focal points for relevant countries. The IRM database will be reviewed. | ***Staff time*** |
| ***Meetings***  |  |
| Launch of the Environmental Democracy Index, Washington DC March 2015 –members of the OGP working group will be invited to attend and present on the importance of this tool and its relation with OGP. | ***$2000 (Support Unit)*** |
| Latin America Regional OGP Meeting – support to panels and participants  | ***$25,000 (NRGI)*** |
| Roundtable on EITI and OGP in Mexico in June (completed) | ***$2,000 (NRGI)*** |
| ***Creating resources for OGP Countries*** |  |
| Update the Opening Government Guide on extractives and natural resources building on initial content. | ***Staff time*** |
| Presentation on the Open Government Partnership to new civil Society group at TAI networks Global Gathering  | ***Staff time*** |
| ***Peer Exchange***  |  |
| Anticipating travel costs for bilateral exchange on a demand-driven basis | ***$4,000 (Support Unit)***  |
| ***Publications***  |  |
| Translation and creation of publications and data visualizations | ***Subject to need*** |
| TOTAL | ***$34,000.00*** |

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