Closing the Gap

Strengthening the Development and Implementation of Natural Resource Commitments in the Open Government Partnership

Suzhe Jia, Marie Lintzer, Elizabeth Moses and Carole Excell

October 2017

Open Government Partnership

Natural Resource Governance Institute

Table of contents

Executive summary

Good governance in the natural resource sector is critical to ensuring a way out of poverty, as well as environmental protection. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) offers an opportunity to promote innovation by governments that supports the public's ability to influence decision-making about natural resource management while fostering greater transparency, accountability and public participation. To support the efforts of inclusive and accountable natural resource governance, in 2015 the Openness in Natural Resources Working Group (ONRWG, or the working group) issued a report, *Governing the Earth's Natural Resources: Utilizing the Open Government Partnership for Meaningful Reform*. The 2015 report provided an overview and assessment of OGP natural resource commitments.

This report serves as a follow-up to the aforementioned report and focuses on the implementation of natural resource commitments for better development and open government outcomes. It targets representatives from government, civil society and the private sector who work on or are interested in promoting transparency and openness in the natural resource sector. It highlights the need to increase the number of impactful commitments made and to ensure their full implementation.

A careful review of existing natural resource commitments and their implementation status resulted in the following findings:

- **Natural resource commitments represent about seven percent of the total of OGP commitments.** However, when compared to other sector commitments (e.g., health, education, infrastructure or defense), natural resource commitments are the top commitment category in OGP. Sector-specific commitments make up approximately 20 percent of all commitment categories within the OGP.

- With regard to quality of commitments, **almost all natural resource commitments are clearly relevant to OGP values**, including access to information and accountability. Most commitments reached a high or medium level of specificity. Many of the commitments have the potential for transformative or moderate impact, but implementation lags.

- **Only about half of the natural resource commitments reviewed by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) have been completed or substantially implemented.** Few transformational natural resource commitments are completed within the timeline of National Action Plan (NAP) development.

- **The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a major theme within natural resource commitments.** Many of these commitments have been completely or substantially implemented. Governments and civil society should now ensure EITI disclosure are mainstreamed in government systems and commit to broader disclosure regimes, including on natural resource contracts and environmental information.

- **Natural resource commitments related to e-governance and citizen participation are diverse in terms of content and approaches.** Providing electronic access to documents and open data tools are the most common. However, the implementation status of most of these commitments is limited.

- **Governments have not made significant natural resource commitments in the sectors of land, forestry, water, air and biodiversity.** In the air and water sectors, most commitments are indirect, while commitments in forestry and land are more explicit. The implementation status of commitments in these sectors remains limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For governments

- Government should prioritize an inclusive process of co-creation that enables both civil society and private sector groups that work on natural resource governance issues to participate and support the development of natural resource commitments. The OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders in ensuring a robust implementation process of a NAP.

- Government should focus more on outreach and engagement with key in-country groups working on land, forestry, air, water and conservation issues to participate in OGP and support additional commitments in these sectors.

- Countries' experiences with starred commitments need to be systematically shared at regional and global meetings and supported by bilateral or multilateral engagements.

- Government agencies at the national level need to make significant efforts to champion natural resource commitments and OGP focal points need to support improved coordination among government agencies. OGP focal points should engage relevant agencies at the subnational level.

- Governments must ensure comprehensive follow-through and good faith in the implementation of OGP commitments. Governments should fully fund implementing agencies and embrace open data principles.

- Governments need to reach out to the working group, the OGP Support Unit and other technical bodies for implementation support.

For civil society

- Capable and active civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in ensuring the successful implementation of natural resource commitments; however, there remains a strong need for inclusive representation of new environment and natural resource groups in the multi-stakeholder structure. The authors recommend CSOs that have organized national or regional coalitions strengthen engagement, peer exchange and awareness of groups working on natural resources to enhance their abilities and visibility in commitment development and implementation. This could include helping to:

  o Identify and support the ability of groups working in specific sectors to participate in the OGP process.

  o Expand the number of civil society groups working with the working group.

  o Promote examples of how to use OGP to strengthen natural resource governance in country.

- Civil society should also look for opportunities to create strategic regional partnerships with other stakeholders in specific water, forest, land, or other natural resource sectors. These regional coalitions can:

  o Help develop strategies and solutions between countries

  o Share resources and expertise between stakeholders to help deepen ambitious sector-specific commitments

  o Increase technical sectoral capacity in monitoring and measuring impact

For the OGP Support Unit, the IRM and the working group

- The working group (including the Natural Resource Governance Institute and the World Resources Institute) and the OGP Support Unit need to develop plans to help governments and civil society groups understand short-term and long-term impacts of natural resource commitments in different sectors. Governments need more robust technical and financial support to implement these types of commitments over a longer period.

- The OGP Support Unit needs to provide clearer guidance on the specific obligations of implementing government agencies and civil society participation requirements during implementation.

- Both the OGP Support Unit and IRM should improve access to information about commitments during their implementation, including ways to offer support and address challenges.

- The OGP Support Unit should strengthen connections and interactions between civil society and government representatives concerned about natural resources in OGP countries. This could include sponsoring dedicated forums around natural resources or sector-specific commitments.

Section I. The OGP Openness in Natural Resources Working Group

WHO WE ARE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international initiative launched in 2011 with the aim to secure commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. It has since grown to 75 participating countries with government and civil society groups working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

Each OGP member country is required to submit a National Action Plan (NAP) comprised of a series of commitments developed through a process of co-creation between government and civil society groups. Since OGP was founded six years ago, nearly 2,800 commitments in over 150 action plans have been agreed to.

The Openness in Natural Resources Working Group (ONRWG, or the working group) is a thematic member-driven community that supports the development and implementation of concrete and impactful natural resource-related commitments. The government of Mexico, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) are co-chairs of the ONRWG.

The ONRWG brings together governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) that have demonstrated accomplishments in advancing natural resource governance and that are deepening their commitments through OGP. To date, the working group counts Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States as members. International initiatives such as The Access Initiative (TAI), the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), and organizations such as the World Bank and Oxfam America, support the working group.

WHAT WE DO

Good governance in the natural resource sector is critical to ensuring a way out of poverty, as well as environmental protection. Natural resource commitments support the attainment of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, whether through the provision of clean air and water, access to land and forest resources to support livelihoods, and benefit-sharing from the use of extractive resources. OGP offers an opportunity to promote innovation by national governments and to encourage collective commitments that support the public's ability to influence decision-making about natural resources upon which they depend, while fostering greater transparency, accountability and public participation.

The working group shares information on good practices for natural resource decision-making, 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, providing technical support to participating OGP countries. More information on the ONRWG is accessible at https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/working-groups/openness-natural-resources.

Section II. Methodology

OBJECTIVE

This report targets representatives from government, civil society and the private sector, who work on, or are interested in, promoting transparency and openness in the natural resource sector. It highlights the need to increase the amount of impactful commitments made, including in the water, land, forestry and extractives sectors, and to ensure their full implementation.

To support openness in natural resources, this report identifies trends in the development and implementation of natural resource commitments in the NAPs of all OGP member countries that were included in the OGP Explorer Tool as of 26 September 2017. It aims to identify challenges and opportunities for governments and civil society groups to design and implement relevant, concrete and impactful commitments.

Furthermore, this report presents lessons learned during the implementation process, which may stimulate further discussion on how to improve the development and implementation of future natural resource commitments. It also provides recommendations for countries that are developing new NAPs.

METHODS

This report is a follow-up to the working group's 2015 report *Governing the Earth's Natural Resources: Utilizing the Open Government Partnership for Meaningful Reform*.

It used the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) data (see Table 1) found in the OGP Explorer tool and interviewed key members of the working group who have been involved in the development and implementation of selected starred commitments (Section IV). Considering all the IRM reports and their conclusions enables the identification of key gaps and potential actions for the working group. It also provides an unparalleled resource for developing concrete recommendations for countries to improve the development and implementation of future natural resource commitments.

Limitations in the methodology include the following:

- Data referenced in NAPs and midterm reports on natural resource commitments was collected using the OGP Explorer Tool. Review of NAPs and midterm report documents was limited to only a select number of countries.

- Overlapping natural resource and water and sanitation tag categories and the use of multiple languages affected the search functionality of the OGP Explorer Tool.

- Civil society interviews reflected the viewpoint of only a small number of individuals actively involved in the OGP.

The working group gratefully acknowledges the support and contribution of our members, especially civil society representatives, who provided valuable experiences and inputs based on their understanding and involvement in the implementation of respective commitments over the past few years.

Table 1. Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)

About the IRM	The IRM is "a key means by which all stakeholders can track OGP progress in participating countries." The tool releases all data in an open data format. In addition, IRM reports contain "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."
Scope	- The extent to which the commitment reflects OGP values - Actions or measures relevant to the country's participation in OGP - The degree to which OGP countries are following process requirements in NAP development and implementation - Progress made on quality and implementation of commitments and/or NAPs - Technical recommendations and steps to improve performance
Products	- Annual independent progress reports - Data and data explorer - Technical knowledge products

Section III. Overview of OGP Natural Resource Commitments

DEFINITION OF A NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENT

For the purpose of this document, a natural resource commitment is "a commitment that specifically mentions any variety of naturally occurring resources or the laws and frameworks which govern them." In addition to explicit natural resource commitments, the working group has identified commitments that have the potential for indirect impacts on natural resource governance and extraction. This document examines natural resource commitments as identified and reviewed by the OGP Explorer Tool. The following sections discuss the quality and implementation of those commitments.

THE TYPES OF NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

- Analysis of all current commitments as of September 2017 reveals that natural resource commitments represent about 7 percent of the total of OGP commitments. This fraction actually makes up the largest share of sector-commitments in OGP when compared to other categories like health, education, infrastructure or defense. For these sectors, the share of commitments ranges between 0.5 percent and 5.5 percent. It is also worth noting that most commitments are not sector-specific, e.g., open data.

- Out of 2,883 commitments made since the OGP's creation in 2011 and their inclusion in the OGP Explorer Tool in September 2017, 180 commitments are tagged "natural resources." An additional 18 commitments are tagged "water and sanitation." In total, natural resource commitments, including water commitments, represent 6.9 percent of total commitments, as shown in Figure 1.

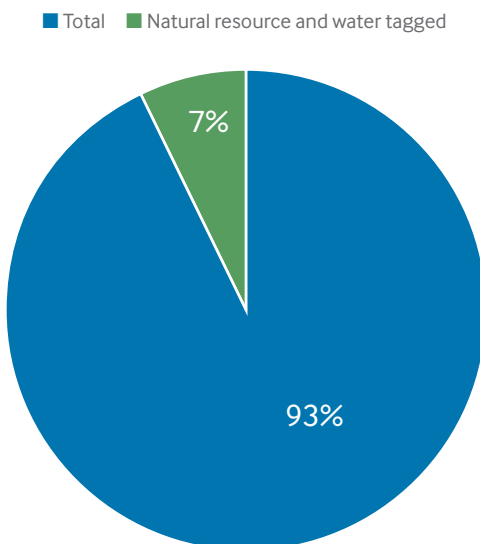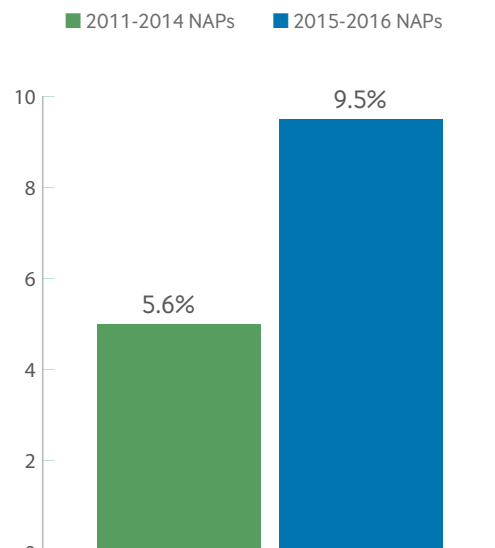Figure 1. Natural resources and water tagged commitments in 2011–2016 NAPs

■ Total ■ Natural resource and water tagged

Figure 2. Share of natural resources and water tagged commitments in 2011-2014 NAPs and 2015-2016 NAPs

■ 2011-2014 NAPs ■ 2015-2016 NAPs

- It is interesting to note that there has been a recent increase in the number of natural resource commitments including water commitments since 2014. Between 2011 and 2014, natural resource commitments represented 6 percent of the total commitment. In NAPs submitted in 2015 and 2016, however, 9 percent of the commitments were tagged "natural resources" or "water," as shown in Figure 2.

- Of all reviewed natural resource and water commitments by the IRM (112 commitments out of 1976), most of the commitments address "extractive industries" (oil/gas/minerals). Few commitments address other natural resource sectors: water (13 percent), land (12 percent), forestry (6 percent), and air (4 percent), as shown in Figure 3.

- Other commitments advance general environmental reforms that may affect the natural resource sector (e.g., access to environmental law), or do not relate to natural resources but still have an impact on the sector (e.g., online information portals that include natural resource documents).

Figure 3. Natural resource commitments by sector

Water ■ Air ■ Forest ■ Land ■ Extractives ■ Other
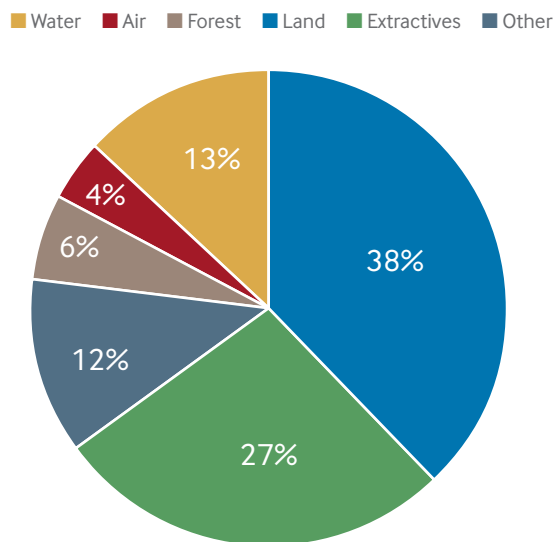
THE QUALITY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

One-hundred-and-twelve out of 1,976 commitments reviewed by the IRM and included in the OGP Explorer Tool are tagged as natural resource or water commitments as of September 2017. Therefore, only 112 of 180 total natural resource commitments are analyzed below.

To assess the quality of the natural resource commitments, the IRM has many variables designed to measure quality and effectiveness, such as relevance to OGP values (access to information, civic participation, public accountability, and technology and innovation), specificity, potential impact, completion (based on progress reports) and starred commitments.

Relevance to OGP Values

One-hundred-and-six out of the 112 commitments are clearly relevant to OGP values. Among others, access to information and accountability are the OGP values most closely linked to natural resource commitments.

Specificity

The level of specificity has the following definitions:

- "High" commitment language provides clear, measurable and verifiable milestones for goal achievement.

- "Medium" commitment language describes an activity that is objectively verifiable, but does not contain specific milestones or deliverables.

- "Low" commitment language describes an activity that can be construed as measurable with some interpretation on the part of the reader.

- "None" commitment language contains no verifiable deliverables or milestones.

- "NR" means "not reviewed."

Out of the 112 natural resource and water commitments reviewed, 52 commitments ranked as "high" specificity and 43 were considered "medium" in terms of specificity (see Figure 4).

Potential impact

When evaluating their quality, it is essential to analyze the potential impact of natural resource commitments. When determining the potential impact, the IRM categorizes commitments according to the following criteria:

- Worsens (worsens the status quo)

- None (maintains the status quo)

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

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

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

The 112 natural resource commitments reviewed are evaluated as shown in Figure 5.

Fifty-nine percent of natural resource commitments are expected to have either a transformative or a moderate impact, compared to 25 percent that are expected to have either a minor impact or none at all. Of the 24 commitments likely to have a transformative impact, 14 are starred commitments (Section IV). Though not rated as starred commitments, other countries, such as Ghana, Mongolia, Sierra Leone and Spain, have developed transformative commitments. For example, Spain has committed to increase the participation of sector stakeholders in

defining the goals of the National Maritime Rescue Plans (NAP 2-10). Sierra Leone has committed to establish a single treasury account to improve financial accountability (NAP 1-5), as well as enact an Extractive Industry Revenue Act (EIRA) to promote transparency and accountability in the granting of tax incentives (NAP 1-6).

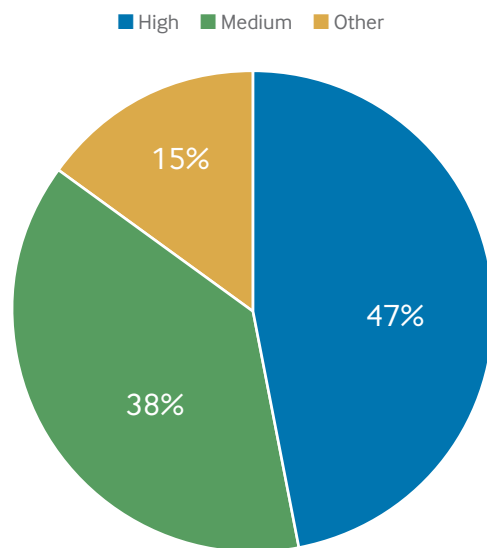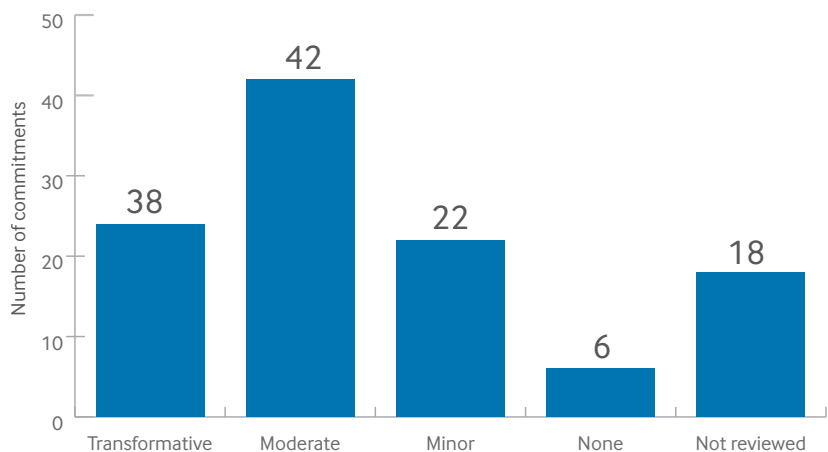Figure 4. Specificity of natural resource commitments

Figure 5. Potential impact of natural resource commitments

Section IV.
Implementation Progress of Natural Resource Commitments

Implementation of ambitious, concrete commitments is one of the cornerstones of the OGP national action planning process. Completed and starred commitments are two key indicators of success at the NAP level. As OGP-participating countries implement new action plans, understanding the types of high-potential impact commitments that have been put into effect enables them to learn and innovate.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

There continues to be a gap in the development and implementation of commitments under OGP. As shown in Figure 6 and based on the IRM report after one year of implementation, the 112 natural resource commitments are evaluated as shown in Figure 6.

Fifty-one of the 112 natural resource and water commitments (about 46 percent of them) have been completed or substantially implemented. This represents a slightly lower percentage compared to the rest of the commitments. Overall, about 49 percent (973 out of 1,976) of the reviewed commitments are completed or substantially implemented. This finding aligns with the conclusion of the 2017 Resource Governance Index (RGI) that shows an important gap between law and practice in resource-rich countries. Countries often fail to follow rules that do exist. On average, countries' legal framework score 54 of 100 points

on the RGI. For practice, countries score 45—an average difference of 9 points.

STARRED COMMITMENT

The IRM uses a system of benchmarks to select exemplary commitments that have been scored as having the best chance of being successful. It is worth noting that 14 of the 100 commitments have been rated as Starred Commitments. Starred commitments represent exemplary open government reforms in implementation and are listed on the following page. (See Table 3.)

Of the 14 starred commitments, we highlight the implementation processes of five countries, including two developed countries and three developing countries, in different regions in the world. Based on the working group's experiences in supporting countries in natural resource commitment development and implementation, Table 4 summarizes the main value and progress of the five starred commitments.

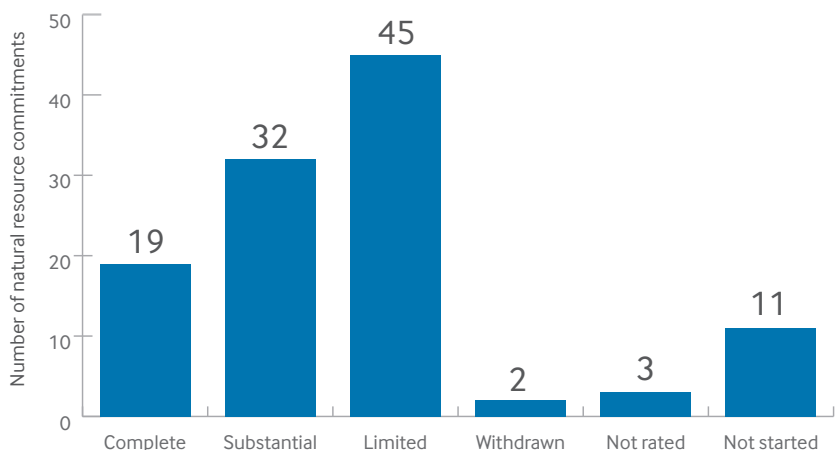Figure 6. Implementation progress of natural resource commitments

Table 3. Starred commitments by country

No.	Country	NAP and commitment title	Quality assessment
1	Brazil	NAP 2-1.9. Development of tools for increasing transparency and enhancing land governance	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Complete
2	Bulgaria	NAP 1-7. Mining industry and underground resources	Specificity: Medium OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
3	Bulgaria	NAP 1-9. Public information system on mineral resources	Specificity: Medium OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
4	Canada	NAP 2-7. Mandatory reporting on extractives	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
5	Chile	NAP 2-12. *Fortalecimiento de la democracia ambiental* (Strengthen environmental democracy)	Specificity: Medium OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Complete
6	Colombia	NAP 1-1. *Regalías e Iniciativa para la Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas: Regalías*	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
7	Colombia	NAP 1-3.4. *Regalías e Iniciativa para la Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas: EITI* (Royalties and EITI)	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
8	Croatia	NAP 2-5. Improvements of transparency and efficiency in public administration work	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
9	Mongolia	NAP 1-3.3.1.6. Publish a list of mandatory public information on environment, such as information regarding any action harmful to the natural environment and people's health	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
10	Philippines	NAP 2-8. Initiate fiscal transparency in the extractive industry	Specificity: Medium OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Complete
11	UK	NAP 2-21. The U.K. government will implement and internationally champion a global standard of financial transparency and accountability in the extractive industries (oil, gas and mining) on the part of governments and companies, in line with the principles in the G8 Open Data Charter.	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
12	Ukraine	NAP 1-11. EITI	Specificity: Medium OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
13	Uruguay	NAP 2-4.3. Catastro Abierto (Open property data)	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential Impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial
14	USA	NAP 2. Implement the EITI	Specificity: High OGP value relevance: Clear Potential impact: Transformative Completion: Substantial

Table 4. Value and progress of starred commitments

Country	NAP and commitment description
Canada	NAP 2 - Commitment 7: Mandatory reporting on extractives stands out for passing new legislation entitled *The Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act,* which came into force on 1 June 2015. It requires extractive entities to publish annual data within 150 days after the fiscal year-end, with the exception of aboriginal governments, which have a two-year deferral. Consultation with provinces, industry and civil society stakeholders took place to develop implementation tools to support adherence to *The Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act.* In addition, 70 industry representatives, over 20 civil society representatives, and more than 40 aboriginal governments and national aboriginal organizations attended engagement activities held in 11 cities.
Colombia	NAP 1 - Commitments 1 and 3.4: Colombia has two starred commitments related to royalties and EITI. Regarding royalties, Decree 414 of 2013 regulates the monitoring, tracking, control and evaluation system of the general royalty system. *Guentas* and other systems to report on bank accounts and project management were developed. In addition, the government reportedly began various contracting processes to evaluate different aspects of the system. On EITI, Colombia passed Resolution 2660 of 2013, which defined methodologies for monitoring and included dispositions related to social oversight. Based on these regulations, the Royalty Administration carried out pilot visits to design a monitoring methodology. To further civic participation, the government launched a survey on the portal to identify stakeholders interested in citizen oversight and led capacity building in citizen oversight, reportedly attended by more than 800 people in 2013.
Mongolia	NAP 1 - Commitment 3.3.1.6: The OGP report highlighted Mongolia for its "Star Reforms in the Open Government Partnership." The report notes: "Mongolia is boosting natural resource transparency by developing comprehensive policies and systems to disclose information on licenses, contracts and environmental information across the sector. For example, the government publishes information on actions taken by companies and other legal entities that are potentially harmful to the environment and to people's health. Because no centralized repository for natural resource licenses exists, authorities are working to develop a centralized database of minerals, oil and land tenure license owners. The database will be open to the public. Efforts also are underway to publish investment, stability and production-sharing contracts for resources such as water, minerals, oil and land."
Chile	NAP 2 - Commitment 12. *Fortalecimiento de la democracia ambiental* (Strengthen environmental democracy): This commitment aims to fully implement the rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental issues to guarantee the right of individuals to participate informally in decision-making, with special emphasis on vulnerable communities. It also seeks to improve transparency and accountability in decisions with environmental impacts. This commitment refers to Chile's leadership on the process to create a regional agreement for Latin America and the Caribbean on the right to access information, participation and justice on environmental issues. To implement this commitment, Chile, as co-president of the steering group of signatory countries, held 11 virtual and in-person national and international meetings, as well as regional forums and workshops.
UK	NAP 2 - Commitment 21: "The U.K. government will implement and internationally champion a global standard of financial transparency and accountability in the extractive industries (oil, gas and mining) on the part of governments and companies, in line with the principles in the G8 Open Data Charter." EITI accepted the U.K. in October 2014. The government consulted on Chapter 10 of the EU Accounting and Transparency Directives in spring 2014. During consultation, it received 31 responses from the private sector and CSOs, and then transposed Chapter 10 implementing the *Reports on Payments to Governments Regulations 2014* on 1 December 2014. The regulations require that large or publicly listed U.K.-registered oil, gas, mining and logging companies publicly report their payments to governments in all countries where they operate from January 2015. The Companies House has published reports for U.K.-registered companies since 2016. The Financial Conduct Authority has amended accordingly. This change extends the requirements within the *Reports on Payments to Governments Regulations 2014* to extractives companies listed on the U.K.-regulated market.

Box 1. Civil society viewpoint: Canada

This commitment's success lies in the development of new and strong legislation, which aligned well with similar laws in some European countries. In addition, a multi-stakeholder consultation, which included industry representatives and civil society groups, informed the preparation. However, certain challenges arose during the implementation process, such as weaknesses regarding open data, a lack of proactive inclusion of civil society and a chronically underfunded situation for the implementing agency.

Section V. Trends in Natural Resource Commitments and Implementation

The most common natural resource commitments made by governments in the partnership involve the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the development of online portals for sharing natural resource information and efforts to increase citizen participation in environmental governance. Specific types of commitments, such as those related to water, land and forests, are limited but have increased in the past cycle.

THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (EITI)

The EITI is a global standard to promote open and accountable management of natural resources. EITI implementing countries disclose information on tax payments, licenses, contracts, production and other key elements of resource extraction. The number of EITI commitments has increased over time. As the world standard for good governance in the extractive industries, many OGP member governments have incorporated EITI into their NAPs as an essential commitment to improving transparency around oil, gas and mineral resources. Countries like Malawi and Tunisia have used the OGP to commit to implementing EITI. Some countries, such as the Philippines and the United Kingdom, have reiterated their EITI implementation efforts in their latest NAP. Another country, Nigeria, has used OGP to broaden the EITI requirement on beneficial ownership disclosure to all companies and not just the extractive sector. Figure 7 shows the level of progress made on EITI commitments.

EITI commitments vary dramatically, ranging from pledging to become EITI compliant to strengthening already robust EITI policies. In addition to the requirements under the EITI Standard, a few countries have taken measures and made commitments to supplement EITI compliance and implementation. For example, Sierra Leone has committed to "publish and revise 70 percent of mining and agricultural lease agreements and contracts." The United Kingdom, in its latest NAP, has proposed "to enhance company disclosure regarding payments to government for the sale of oil, gas and minerals, complementing our commitment to EITI and implementation of EU Directives, and explore the scope for a common global reporting standard." In addition to these relevant disclosures, NAPs could serve to advance EITI "mainstreaming" efforts to ensure that core agencies such as ministries, regulators or state-owned enterprises, disclose information and enable civil society feedback as part of their everyday operations, especially information required by the EITI.
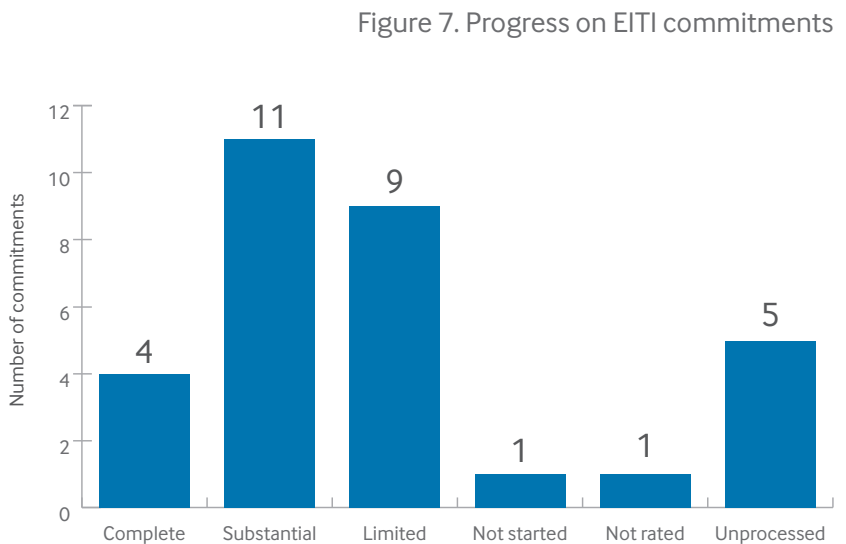
Table 5 lists current EITI-related commitments.

Figure 7. Progress on EITI commitments

Table 5. EITI commitments by country

Country	NAP and commitment title	Implementation	Year of submission
Albania	NAP 1-30. Implementation of EITI recommendations	Substantial	2012
Armenia	NAP 2-2. Ensuring transparency in mining and launch the process of joining EITI	Limited	2014
Azerbaijan (*withdrew from EITI)	NAP 1-8.1. Implementation of EITI	Complete	2012
	NAP 1-8.3. Disclosure of annual EITI reports	Complete	2012
Colombia	NAP 1-1. *Regalías e Iniciativa para la Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas: Regalías* (Reforms of royalty system)	Substantial	2012
	NAP 1-3.4. *Regalías e Iniciativa para la Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas: EITI* (Implementation of EITI)	Substantial	2012
Guatemala	NAP 1-3.1. La implementación de las iniciativas Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (COST); Implementation of EITI (among other international initiatives); EITI as theme in a transparency school; become EITI compliant	Substantial	2012
Honduras	NAP 2-10. *Conociendo la EITI y sus resultados* (Disseminating the EITI and its results)	Limited	2014
Indonesia	NAP 2-2.4. Oil, gas and mining revenue transparency	Complete	2013
	NAP 3. Accelerate open and good governance practices in natural resources management	Limited	2014
Jordan	NAP 1-3.2.7. Initiating discussions to join EITI	Not started	2012
Liberia	NAP 1-3. Extractive industries transparency (publish and publicize the LEITI report and conduct a contract transparency audit)	Substantial	2013
Malawi	NAP 1-5. EITI	N/A	2016
Mexico	NAP 1-7. Corporate accountability D: Mexico's joining EITI	Complete	2011
	NAP 2-26. *Adhesión de México a la Iniciativa de Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas*	Substantial	2013
Norway	NAP 1. Transparency in the management of oil and gas revenue / financial transparency	NR	2011
	NAP 2-4.22. Transparency in the management of oil and gas revenue	Limited	2013
Peru	NAP 1-1:k. Comisión EITI (consolidated the EITI commission)	Limited	2012
Philippines*	NAP 3-4. Attain EITI compliance (PH-EITI)	N/A	2015
Sierra Leone	NAP 1-7. Scaling up extractive industry transparency initiatives	Limited	2014
	NAP 1-9. Publish and revise 70 percent of mining and agricultural lease agreements and contracts	Limited	2014
Tanzania	NAP 2-3.5. Tanzania to fulfill its EITI commitments by June 2015	Limited	2014
Trinidad and Tobago	NAP 1-4.3. To include the mineral sector (starting with National Quarries Company Ltd.) in the TTEITI reporting mechanism	Limited	2014
Tunisia	NAP 2. Joining EITI	N/A	2016
Ukraine	NAP 1-11. EITI: Joining EITI and compliance with EITI standards	Substantial	2012
United Kingdom	NAP 2-21. Extractive transparency	Substantial	2013
	NAP 3-2. Natural resource transparency: Enhance company disclosure regarding payments to government for the sale of oil, gas and minerals, complementing its commitment to EITI and implementation of EU directives, and exploring the scope for a common global reporting standard	N/A	2016
United States*	NAP 1-2.1a. Implement EITI	Substantial	2011
	NAP 1-2.1b. Partnership to build on recent progress	Substantial	2011
	NAP 2. Implement EITI	Substantial	2013
	NAP 3. Implement EITI	N/A	2015

Box 2. Civil society viewpoint: The Philippines and the United States

The Philippines and EITI. the starred commitment to "initiate fiscal transparency in the extractive industry" is complete in its implementation progress. The government's strong commitment to the policy's implementation, along with the support it has received from the industry and CSOs, seems to be the major reason for this particular success. The government conducted EITI trainings for government stakeholders, industry representatives, CSOs and members of the media; developed an EITI website; conducted a forum on revenue management, published mining, oil and gas contracts on data.gov.ph; and launched an official EITI report. In its third NAP, the Philippines committed to attain EITI compliance (PH-EITI). The implementation status of the Philippines has not been reviewed.

Civil society members suggest that increasing participation of companies in EITI reporting, ensuring the availability of data and maintaining the EITI report's usefulness remain the major implementation challenges. To overcome the challenge of private sector participation, the secretary of environment and natural resources issued an administrative order to require companies to participate with a corresponding penalty for non-participation. In the meantime, capacity building regarding EITI, tailored to different needs of multiple stakeholders, is key to ensure active and effective engagement from both the industry and civil society representatives. Civil society groups were active in implementing EITI, taking the lead in multi-stakeholder consultations, piloting EITI at the local level and conducting capacity building to understand EITI and ensure its usefulness. To strengthen EITI compliance, civil society members recommend an increased focus on EITI implementation at the subnational level in the future.

The United States and EITI. the second U.S. NAP in 2013 has a starred commitment to "implement EITI." The U.S. became an EITI candidate country in March 2014 and established a USEITI advisory committee. Comprised of industry, CSOs and government representatives, the committee is responsible for overseeing EITI implementation in the U.S. The department of interior, in collaboration with the general services administration team, created the Natural Resources Data Portal, which reveals the amount and use of natural resource revenues extracted from U.S. federal lands. USEITI published its first report in December 2015. However, while civil society groups demonstrated good faith and high spirits in support of EITI implementation, industry resistance to the disclosure of their tax payments and efforts to nullify Section 1504 of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act have undermined the effectiveness of EITI implementation in the United States.

Currently, the U.S. lacks progress on implementing commitments related to EITI. There has been no further effort toward EITI implementation under the new administration. Strong and enforceable legislation is necessary to secure implementation success. To realize this, there must be strong commitment by the government and effective management of the implementing agency, as well as positive and good faith support from the industry. Both are equally important to active civil society participation in promoting EITI implementation.

E-GOVERNANCE AND OPEN DATA

Electronic documentation and dissemination of information is widely recognized as an effective and scalable method of ensuring transparency and good governance in the natural resource sector. Open data portals help transform natural resources information into a tool to inform decision-making, promote advocacy and enhance capacity building. Figure 8 shows the progress on e-governance and open data commitments.

The number of commitments to e-governance and open data related to natural resources has gradually increased since the OGP's establishment, and most of them aim to promote the use of data tools for transparency and accountability. These efforts have increased the availability of information about governmental activities and access to new technology tools for transparency and accountability, which reflect the guiding principles and OGP values of access to information, public accountability, and technology and innovation for transparency and accountability within a national context (See Table 6).

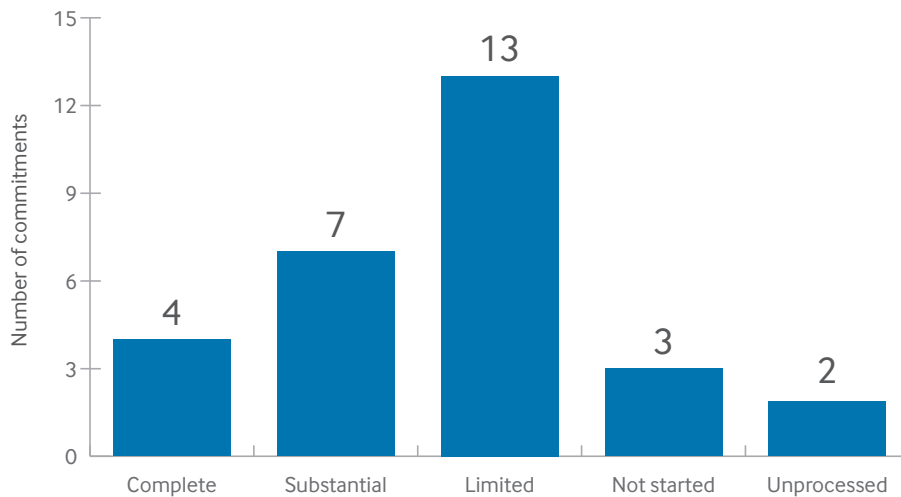Figure 8. Progress on e-governance and open data commitments

Table 6. E-governance and open data commitments by country

Country	NAP and commitment title	Implementation
Albania	NAP 2-3.1. Electronic access to protected areas	Limited
	NAP 2-3.2. National geoportal (development of a national electronic portal)	Limited
Armenia	NAP 2-1. Digitization and publication of data in the "Republican Geological Fund" SNCO: Mining database (maps, financial reports and other documents); issued mining rights to ensure transparency in mining	Not started
Brazil	NAP 2-1.9. Development of tools for increasing transparency and enhancing land governance (system of land management: https://sigef.incra.gov.br)	Complete
Bulgaria	NAP 1-9. Public information system on mineral resources	Substantial
Croatia	NAP 2-5. Improvements of transparency and efficiency in public administration work	Substantial
Dominican Republic	NAP 2. *Acceso a Información Medio Ambiental*	Limited
Indonesia	NAP 1-11. One-map portal (http://data.id)	Complete
	NAP 2-2.1. Land affairs transparency	Limited
	NAP 2-2.2. Forest management	Limited
	NAP 2-2.3. Transparency and accountability in natural resources management activities	Substantial
Mexico	NAP 1-24. Regulatory search engines (energy)	Complete
	NAP 2-11. *Fondo emprendedor abierto y participativo* (Open and participatory entrepreneurial fund)	Substantial
Moldova	NAP 1. Publish environmental open data on central public authorities websites	Not started
Mongolia	NAP 1-3.3.1.4. Develop a central information database of minerals, oil and land tenure license owners, open to the public	Limited
Sierra Leone	NAP 1-9. 70 percent of all mining and agricultural lease agreements and contracts revised and made public with a view to improve transparency, accountability and public participation	Limited
	NAP 1-11. Establish an open data portal to improve transparency in fiscal and extractive transactions	Limited
South Africa	NAP 1-8. Environmental management portal feasibility study	Limited
	NAP 2-4. Develop an integrated and publicly accessible portal of environmental management information	Substantial
Tanzania	NAP 2-3.4. Make land use plan, ownership and demarcated areas for large-scale land deals accessible online for public use by June 2016	Limited
Trinidad and Tobago	NAP 1-4.2. To make publicly available the cadaster of licenses and contracts for the exploration and production of oil and gas in Trinidad and Tobago	Not started
Mexico	NAP 1-13. Mining projects database (http://www.siam.economia.gob.mx)	Complete
Tunisia	NAP 1-18. Development of an "open data" platform dedicated to information dealing with oil and mine sector investment	Limited
	NAP 1-20. Devoted to transparency in the environment field	Limited
United Kingdom	NAP 2-21. The U.K. government will implement and internationally champion a global standard of financial transparency and accountability in the extractive industries (oil, gas and mining) on the part of governments and companies, in line with the principles in the G8 Open Data Charter.	Substantial
	NAP 3- Create a publicly accessible central registry of company beneficial ownership information	N/A
United States	NAP 1-1.7. Provide enforcement and compliance data online	Limited
	NAP 2- Implement EITI	Substantial

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic participation is one of four OGP values for which commitments relevant to natural resources have been made. Citizens and CSOs are key players in natural resource development today. Creating opportunities and space for citizens to participate in decision-making processes is vital for equipping civil society with the requisite knowledge and opportunities to strengthen their technical capacity to advocate for transparency and hold governments and companies accountable. Yet as documented in WRI's 2015 Environmental

Democracy Index (EDI) laws on public participation in natural resource decision making often lag behind the legal framework for transparency and accountability in many countries, including a significant number of the OGP countries scored in the EDI. As shown in Figure 9, progress is limited on most civic participation commitments.

Commitments for citizen engagement can range from creating fora for participation to utilizing technology for crowdsourcing environmental information. (See Table 7.)

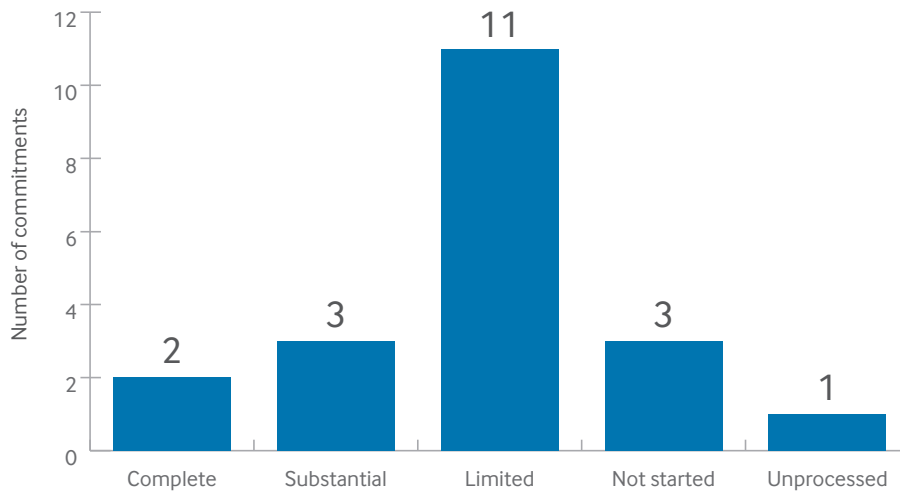Figure 9. Progress on commitments for civic participation

Table 7. Commitments for citizen engagement by country

Country	NAP and commitment title	Civic participation element	Completion
Albania	NAP 2-3.1. Electronic access to protected areas	This portal's development will strongly contribute in the increase of transparency and public participation; in fact the portal will allow for an interactive exchange of opinions on draft laws, regulations and strategies in the field of protected areas.	Limited
Bulgaria	NAP 1-10. Transparency of managing mineral resources	Involving established experts from the academic circles and NGOs in carrying out tender and competitive procedures for obtaining rights on the natural resources	Not started
Chile	NAP 1-4.1. Citizen participation in environmental matters	Citizen participation in environmental matters	Complete
Costa Rica	NAP 1-3.2.10. *Realizar un foro sobre el acceso a información y participación ciudadana en la temática ambiental* (Develop a forum about access to information and citizen participation in environmental issues)	An open discussion forum on access held on citizen participation in the environmental theme to promote awareness and popular participation	Complete
Dominican Republic	NAP 2. *Acceso a Información Medio Ambiental* (Access to environmental information)	The portal is a mechanism for citizen participation in the development of public environmental policies, incorporating resources such as public hearings and consultation workshops to develop regulations, guidelines and issuance of permits, etc.	Limited
Ghana	NAP 1-5. Extractive sector revenue management	The government will further strengthen the legal framework on other minerals by holding at least four meetings of relevant CSOs, ministries and departments to formulate a framework for monitoring and evaluation of PIAC independence	Limited
Guatemala	NAP 3-15. *Transparentar Las Acciones En La Gestión Integral Para La Reducción Del Riesgo A Desastres* (Transparency actions in the integral management for the reduction of disaster risk)	Improve accountability through the implementation and application of mechanisms, open formats and statistics that allow transparency in the allocation and use of resources for "Comprehensive Management for Disaster Risk Reduction" and the opening of spaces for social auditing, valuing the participation of civil society and encouraging citizen participation	N/R
Indonesia	NAP 2-2.1. Land affairs transparency	Public consultation regarding draft book/document	Limited
	NAP 2-2.2. Forest management	Improvement of the ministry of forestry website to be more user-friendly with better navigation

Issuance of standard operating procedures and completion of a report, following up public complaints through the website | Limited |
| | NAP 3. Improve public participation in environmental preservation | To enhance public understanding on protecting the environment and encourage public participation in environmental policy related decision-making | Not started |
| Liberia | NAP 1-3. Extractive industries transparency | To publish and popularize, through community town hall meetings, radio appearances, website and newspaper publications, the 4th EITI Reconciliation Report of Liberia and the Revenue Tracking Report. The target groups for dissemination of the above reports include: government ministries and agencies; the legislature; the judiciary; international partners; embassies and diplomatic missions near Monrovia; youth and women groups; student groups; traditional leaders; church organizations; and the general citizenry throughout the fifteen counties of Liberia. | Substantial |

Country	NAP and commitment title	Civic participation element	Completion
Mexico	NAP 2-23. *Minería para todos*	Develop jointly with civil society in diagnosis of the existence, quality, accessibility and gaps of geographic information, statistics, socio-environmental, fiscal, financial and administrative capacity related to the mining industry	Limited
	NAP 2-25. *Protección participativa del medio ambiente* (Participatory protection of the environment)	Participatory protection of the environment	Substantial
Netherlands	NAP 1-13. Develop and implement participation policy at the ministry of infrastructure and the environment	The ministry of infrastructure and the environment has set up a directorate for public participation, which provides services to help engage citizens, civil-society organizations and businesses, and advises on and develops policy for public participation.	Limited
Sierra Leone	NAP 1-6. Extractive Industry Revenue Act	The Extractives Industry Revenue Act requires the government to regulate revenue management, especially with reference to the granting of tax incentives to companies operating in Sierra Leone. Implementing the draft extractives actions required/milestones for completion includes holding public consultations on the bill within a reasonable time frame.	Not started
	NAP 1-9. Publish and revise 70 percent of mining and agricultural lease agreements and contracts	Develop more public access points for these documents to engender national debate	Limited
	NAP 1-11. Open data portal for transparency in fiscal and extractive transactions	Experts engaged in designing an open data portal with development partners and non-governmental organizations	Limited
South Africa	NAP 2-5. Development of an online crowdsourcing tool that will allow the public to submit data on protected areas and conservation areas	Improved public access to information on the conservation estate in South Africa and citizen participation	Limited
Spain	NAP 2-10. Increased participation of sector stakeholders in defining the goals of the national maritime rescue plans	Carried out through the constitution of a working group to monitor participation in the design of the *Plan Nacional de Salvamento Marítimo*, as well as through conferences and working meetings with the stakeholders in the maritime sector	Limited
Uruguay	NAP 2-4.3. Catastro Abierto (Open cadaster)	Plan to publish new datasets according to proposals received through participation mechanisms	Substantial

NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR-SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

Table 8 highlights example commitments in specific environmental sectors, such as water, air, land and forestry. Most commitments only indirectly address the air and water sectors. Commitments in forestry and land are more explicit. In all these sectors, excluding extractives, the implementation status of the commitments has been limited, while certain commitments have achieved progress.

Box 3. New Water Commitments in the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) Region.

OGP countries in the LAC region have recently created a number of innovative commitments focused on transparency and public engagement in the water sector. These commitments offer an exciting roadmap for other countries for leveraging the OGP to support better water and sanitation services. Currently in the process of implementation, these commitments include:

- Mexico's 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Access to safe drinking water, by measuring and making available information regarding water consumption (in terms of volume and quality)

- Uruguay 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Advancing open data regarding water usage, as well as co-creation of a national water plan

- Chile 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Geo-referenced visualization of requests of water property rights as well as of complaints about violations of the Water Code

- Honduras 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Social supervision and control of sanitation and water service delivery

- Panama's NAP (2015-2017) *Revised version.* Creation of 25 river basin committees

- Dominican Republic 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Adoption of a mobile app to report faults, breakdowns or failures in water pipes

- Paraguay 3rd NAP (2016-2018). Citizen participation and monitoring; which includes the development of an app for filing citizen complaints and a website on physical, financial, environmental and social monitoring of works and services concerning water and sanitation

Table 8. Commitments by environmental sector

Country	NAP and commitment description	Implementation
Water		
Brazil	2013 NAP 1.7. Development of a unified and interactive information panel on the implementation of the Water for All Program, which can be publicly accessed through the internet	Complete
Mongolia	2014 NAP 1-3.3.1.5: Ensure transparency all agreements on investment, stability and production-sharing of public-owned resources such as water, minerals, oil and land	Limited
South Africa	2012 NAP 1-8. Environmental management portal feasibility study: Explore the feasibility of establishing a single agency mandated by government to develop a comprehensive and publicly accessible portal of environmental management information. Transparency will be enhanced if citizens have access to reliable environmental data on water quality and other environmental issues.	Limited
Tanzania	2012 NAP 1.1 Finalize Water Point Mapping System for [local government authorities (LGAs)] and make the disaggregated data available online and other means of communication.	Substantial
Tunisia	2014 NAP 1-20. Devoted to transparency in the environmental field: Develop an environment and sustainable development observatory that will be responsible for collecting, analyzing, and publishing data, statistics and indicators about the environment and sustainable development, and that will publish regularly to ensure follow-up on the environmental situation (diseases, water quality, pollution)	Limited
Air		
Macedonia	2014 NAP 2-7.7: Increase responsibilities and promote the concept of environmental protection; 7a: Hold an information campaign (distribution of brochures and flyers; public debates; media promotion) and educational activities on topics including water, air, waste, forestry, health and law	Not started
Forest		
Denmark	2012 NAP 1-22. Country-by-country reporting in the extractive and forestry industries: The government will work to introduce country-by-country reporting in the EU, as an important step in the international fight against corruption and illegal tax evasion.	Complete
Indonesia	2011 NAP 1-11. One-map portal: Develop a one-map portal to promote efficiency in forestry management. The initiative would digitize data and information related to primary and secondary forests (including peat lands) on a single portal. The data and information would be synchronized with license data attached to the land area.	Complete
Land		
Brazil	2013 NAP 2-1.9: Development of tools for increasing transparency and enhancing land governance: Develop the land management system (SIGEF) with the aim of integrating information related to the identification, certification and destination of public lands, as well as data on land occupancy in the country, and on the different government levels and agencies responsible for managing territory, thus adding to the effective development of a land governance policy. This commitment also aims at ensuring public access to land information and enhancing the effectiveness of governmental expenditures with the execution of geo-referencing on public lands.	Complete

Section VI. Lessons learned and recommendations

Natural resources are an important theme for OGP and one that has shown progress in terms of number of commitments and implementation over time. We believe the working group has contributed to awareness raising of the importance of these types of commitments. The working group has also focused on providing guidance to governments and civil society groups on how to develop commitments and promote good practice models. This report underscores the need for more governments and civil society groups to work together to increase both the quantity and quality of commitments and to ensure better implementation results. While the growing number of natural resource commitments is an important milestone, only by focusing on implementation can these commitments be realized in practice to fulfill the goals jointly agreed upon. For both governments and civil societies working on natural resources governance, OGP serves as an innovative platform for dialogue and a space for co-creation and exchange of ideas for reform. In addition, OGP has "birthed" a number of starred or exemplary NAP commitments relevant to the natural resource sector, which objectively can be counted as transformative.

Therefore, based on the research and interviews conducted, we have the following findings:

- Natural resource commitments represent about 7 percent of the total of OGP commitments. However, when compared to other sector commitments e.g. health, education, infrastructure or defense, natural resource commitments are the top commitment category in OGP. Sector specific commitments make up approximately 20 percent of all commitment categories within the OGP.

- With regard to quality of commitments, almost all natural resource commitments are clearly relevant to OGP values, including access to information and accountability. Most commitments reached a high or medium level of specificity. Many of the commitments have the potential for transformative or moderate impact, but implementation lags behind.

- Only about half of the natural resource commitments reviewed by the IRM have been completed or substantially implemented. Within the National Action Plan development timeline, few transformational natural resource commitments are completed.

- EITI is a major theme within natural resource commitments. Many of these commitments have been completely or substantially implemented.

- Natural resource commitments related to e-governance and citizen participation are diverse in terms of content and approaches. Providing electronic access to documents and open data tools are the most common. However, the implementation status of most of these commitments is limited.

- Governments have not made significant natural resource commitments in the sectors of land, forestry, water, air and biodiversity. In the air and water sectors, most commitments are indirect, while commitments in forestry and land are more explicit. However, the implementation status of commitments in these sectors remains limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For governments

- Governments should prioritize an inclusive process of co-creation that enables both civil society and private sector groups that work on natural resource governance issues to participate and support the development of natural resource commitments. The OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders in ensuring the robust implementation of NAPs.

- Governments should ensure EITI disclosure are mainstreamed in government systems and commit to broader disclosure regimes, including on natural resource contracts and environmental information.

- Governments should focus more on outreach and engagement with key in-country groups working on land, forestry, air and water and conservation issues to participate in OGP and support additional commitments in these sectors.

- Countries' experiences with starred commitments need to be systematically shared at regional and global meetings and supported by bilateral or multilateral engagements.

- Government agencies at the national level need to make significant efforts to champion natural resource commitments, and OGP focal points need to support improved coordination among government agencies. OGP focal points should engage relevant agencies at the subnational level.

- Governments must ensure comprehensive follow-through and good faith in the implementation of OGP commitments. Governments should ensure implementing agencies have adequate funding and embrace open data principles.

- Governments need to reach out for implementation support to the working group, the OGP Support Unit and other technical bodies to ensure more natural resource commitments are being proposed and substantially implemented.

For civil society

- Capable and active civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in ensuring the successful implementation of natural resource commitments; however, there remains a strong need for inclusive representation of new environment and natural resource groups in the multi-stakeholder structure. The authors recommend CSOs that have organized national or regional coalitions strengthen engagement, peer exchange and awareness of groups working on natural resources to enhance their abilities and visibility in commitment development and implementation. This could include helping to:

  o Identify and support the ability of groups working in specific sectors to participate in the OGP process.

  o Expand the number of civil society groups working with the working group.

  o Promote examples of how to use OGP to strengthen natural resource governance in country.

- Civil society should also look for opportunities to create strategic regional partnerships with other stakeholders in specific water, forest, land, or other natural resource sectors. These regional coalitions can:

  o Help develop strategies and solutions between countries;

  o Share resources and expertise between stakeholders to help deepen ambitious sector-specific commitments; and

  o Increase technical sectoral capacity in monitoring and measuring impact.

For the OGP Support Unit, the IRM and the working group

- The working group (including the Natural Resource Governance Institute and the World Resources Institute) and the OGP Support Unit need to develop plans to help governments and civil society groups understand short-term and long-term impacts of natural resource commitments in different sectors. Governments need more robust technical and financial support to implement these types of commitments over a longer period.

- The OGP Support Unit needs to provide clearer guidance on the specific obligations of implementing government agencies and civil society participation requirements during implementation.

- Both the OGP Support Unit and IRM should improve access to information about commitments during their implementation, including ways to offer support and address challenges.

- The OGP Support Unit should strengthen connections and interactions between civil society and government representatives concerned about natural resources in OGP countries. This could include sponsoring dedicated forums around natural resources or sector-specific commitments.

WHAT THE ONRWG CAN DO

The ONRWG needs further support to ensure peer learning, sharing of lessons and advancing a collective understanding of innovative commitments within the OGP platform. It is not easy to evaluate whether natural resource commitments are implemented or fulfilled to achieve their intended impact. The working group can facilitate and work with governments and civil society groups to monitor and report on the implementation status and impacts of a given commitment. It can also offer to support the development of new and transformational commitments for future NAP cycles.

Annex 1. List of the Working Group's Tools and Resources to Assess Natural Resource Commitments

The working group goes beyond IRM findings. It assesses commitments against standardized natural resource and environmental standards and provides a space for governments and civil society groups to receive support to pursue the full implementation of natural resource commitments by sharing tools, expertise and best practices including in areas of open contracting, beneficial ownership and environmental disclosures. It also provides expertise on key standards, such as EITI and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Principle 10 and the Bali Guideline. The working group has gathered the following tools and resources:

INDICES

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 policy.

The Resource Governance Index

NRGI has unveiled the 2017 Resource Governance Index, which assesses the governance of oil, gas and mining in 81 countries, in policy areas including state-owned enterprises, taxation, licensing, local impact, sovereign wealth funds and subnational revenue sharing.

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.

OneMap Portal

One Map Indonesia is a portal that integrates all government maps and public service competitions on openness. (The public has limited access to the portal.)

Resource Contracts

Resource Contracts, developed by NRGI, the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) and the World Bank, is a repository of publicly available investment contracts for oil, gas and mining projects.

The Access Initiative (TAI)

The Access Initiative is the largest network in the world dedicated to ensuring that citizens have the right and ability to influence decisions about the natural resources that sustain their communities.

Landmark

Landmark is the first online interactive global platform of community land rights held by indigenous peoples and local communities.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND GUIDANCE

The Natural Resource Charter

The Natural Resource Charter is a set of economic principles for governments and societies on how to 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.

Natural Resource Charter Benchmarking Framework

The *Natural Resource Charter Benchmarking Framework* is a tool for benchmarking a country's management of oil, gas and minerals against global best practices. Developed in response to government and civil society demand for a practical way to measure resource governance, the framework is the product of five years of expert input and testing in more than 15 country projects.

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 groups working together.

The Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework

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

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.

Owning Up: Options for Disclosing the Identities of Beneficial Owners of Extractive Companies

This guidance by NRGI explores options open to countries for collecting, publishing and using information on the beneficial owners of oil, gas and mining companies. It provides background on how beneficial ownership works in the extractive industries and why it matters. It also offers governments, companies and civil society members a framework for deciding what information to publish, and it considers the critical question of what more disclosure could realistically achieve.

References

1   For all NAPs, reports, assessment and data, visit http://www.opengovpartnership.org.

2   "Independent Reporting Mechanism," https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/independent-reporting-mechanism.

3   OGP Explorer and IRM data, http://www.opengovpartnership.org/explorer/all-data.html.

4   *Star Reforms in the Open Government Partnership.* OGP, accessed 12 August 2017, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/star-commitments-ogp.

5   "Independent Reporting Mechanism – Technical Paper 1," OGP, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Technical%20paper%201_final.pdf.

6   "OGP Participation and Co-creation Standards," OGP, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-participation-co-creation-standards.

7   *Governing the Earth's Natural Resources: Utilizing the Open Government Partnership for Meaningful Reform.* Openness in Natural Resources Working Group (ONRWG), 2015, accessed 12 August 2017, https://resourcegovernance.org/sites/default/files/ONR-WG_Report.pdf.

8   ONRWG, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/working-groups/openness-natural-resources.