

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

A JOINT CENTER OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL AND
THE EARTH INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ccsi.columbia.edu

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, is a leading applied research center and forum dedicated to the study, discussion and practice of sustainable international investment.

Our Mission

CCSI develops and disseminates practical approaches for governments, investors, communities, and other stakeholders to maximize the impact of international investment for sustainable development.

The Challenge

Although foreign direct investment can play a crucial role in advancing sustainable development--catalyzing the transfer of capital and technology, job creation, linkages with local industries, infrastructure development, and capacity building--international investments can also pose risks and challenges for host governments and their citizens. The extent to which benefits are realized and problems are avoided depends on the policies and practices of governments and investors, and the institutions available to find satisfactory outcomes for all stakeholders.

Our Focus

INVESTMENT IN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Nowhere are the stakes higher than with extractive industries, where such investments have sometimes been a springboard to development and at other times a source of corruption, social degradation and environmental disturbance. CCSI researches trends and good practices, and works with governments, civil society, communities, and development partners to develop and implement approaches to ensure that countries and communities benefit from their resources.

INVESTMENT IN LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Investment in agriculture can accelerate sustainable development and help meet growing food security needs at domestic, regional and global levels. Yet, if not structured equitably or regulated carefully, investments can fail to provide benefits to host governments while dispossessing people of their land, livelihoods and rights. These risks have only heightened as investments in land for agriculture have become increasingly attractive to foreign investors and host countries alike. CCSI works to advance agricultural investment that supports sustainable development while respecting rights.

INVESTMENT LAW AND POLICY

A framework of international, national and sub-national law and contracts governs international investment and is a fundamental factor in determining whether, when and how countries and communities can benefit from foreign direct investment. This area of focus, which intersects with CCSI's industry-specific work on extractives and agriculture, explores elements and effects of that legal framework, including the impact of investment treaties, investor-state dispute settlement and home- and host-government policies governing inward and outward investment.



Sustainable international investment is investment that maximizes economic, social and environmental benefits and minimizes risks for all stakeholders.



Our Approach

Guided by its five-pillar framework, CCSI integrates interdisciplinary research, advisory projects, multi-stakeholder dialogue, educational programs, and the development of resources and tools.

FIVE-PILLAR FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

CCSI has defined a five-pillar framework for maximizing the impact of investment for sustainable development. These interrelated pillars create a holistic framework that underpins our work. They are:

- A transparent and mutually beneficial legal framework
- A commitment to long-term planning and revenue management at the national and local levels
- A strategy to leverage investments for broad-based socio-economic development through infrastructure and other linkages
- An approach that promotes human rights and integrated development
- A system to manage environmental risks and impacts

This framework is based on the premise that the shared goal of public and private stakeholders is a mutually beneficial, long-term relationship.

RESEARCH

CCSI produces qualitative and quantitative research crucial for advancing the body of knowledge on investment for sustainable development. This research provides a foundation for CCSI's other activities and for advancing its overarching mission.

POLICY AND ADVISORY WORK

Drawing on its interdisciplinary research, CCSI works with governments, the private sector, civil society and communities to formulate and implement policies and strategies in support of sustainable investment.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER AND EXPERT DIALOGUE

CCSI serves as a leading forum for high-level global dialogue among scholars, practitioners, the business community, and government regarding key topics in international investment and sustainable development.

TEACHING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

As an academic center, CCSI develops courses and trainings on sustainable international investment for students, policymakers, and practitioners.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

CCSI develops user-friendly resources and tools for stakeholders to maximize the benefits of international investment.

Our activities are integrated: our interdisciplinary research, curricula and resources inform and are informed by our advisory work, practical engagements and dialogue.



Through our interdisciplinary work, we focus on constructing and implementing an investment framework that promotes sustainable development.

Our Collaborators and Partners

CCSI collaborates with faculty and students at Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute, as well as throughout Columbia University, integrating our expertise in law, economics and investment with diverse fields of sustainable development. CCSI also partners or collaborates with numerous external organizations, including bilateral and multilateral organizations, international initiatives, civil society, the private sector, and academia.

Contact Us

For more information on CCSI and our projects, visit <http://www.ccsi.columbia.edu/>. You can reach us by email at ccsi@law.columbia.edu, by phone at +1-212-854-1830 or on Twitter at @CCSI_Columbia.

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