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.
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. Projects include:

- **Making Natural Resource Funds Work for Citizens:** CCSI, together with the Natural Resource Governance Institute, conducted a global survey of natural resource funds, looking at their management, investments, transparency, accountability, and fiscal rules, and producing policy briefs for stakeholders and policymakers.

- **Improving the International Law and Policy Regime:** CCSI evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the current international investment regime and outlined options for improvement.

- **Addressing Land Grievances After Awarding Concessions:** CCSI is examining the legal frameworks governing what governments can do to address land-related grievances after investment concessions have been awarded.

- **Leveraging Mining-Related Infrastructure for Development:** CCSI is exploring regulatory, operational and commercial models to leverage mining-related infrastructure for broader development needs.

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. Projects include:

- **Strengthening Governments’ Fiscal and Legal Frameworks:** CCSI works with governments and civil society organizations, providing advice on issues relating to the regulatory regime for natural resources.

- **Making Investment Treaties Work for Sustainable Development:** CCSI provides advice to governments on how to design and manage investment treaties to advance policy goals.

- **Leveraging Paraguay’s Hydropower for Sustainable Economic Development:** CCSI analyzed the challenges of the electricity sector in Paraguay, the world’s largest hydropower exporter, and advised the government on using its excess electricity to diversify its economy, as well as on managing future export revenues.

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. Projects include:

- **Annual Columbia International Investment Conference and Spring Speaker Series:** CCSI hosts an annual International Investment Conference and a Spring Speaker Series on International Investment Law and Policy, bringing together government officials, corporate executives, academics, and civil society for policy-oriented discussions.

- **Columbia FDI Perspectives:** CCSI publishes a bi-monthly series of thought pieces from experts around the world on important and topical foreign direct investment issues.
As an academic center, CCSI develops courses and trainings on sustainable international investment for students, policymakers, and practitioners. Projects include:

- **Executive Trainings on Natural Resources and Sustainable Development**: CCSI offers interdisciplinary trainings that equip participants with knowledge and skills to promote the responsible development of natural resources and address key challenges. Trainings are hosted annually in New York and as requested in host countries.

- **Masters Courses at Columbia University on Investment Law and Extractive Industries**: CCSI staff have built curricula on foreign investment at Columbia University, and teach courses on foreign direct investment and public policy and on extractive industries and sustainable development.

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

- **Making Resource Contracts Publicly Available**: CCSI, with the World Bank and the Natural Resource Governance Institute, has created ResourceContracts.org and OpenLandContracts.org, two interlinked, online repositories of publicly available resource contracts from around the world.

- **Tool to Assess the Human Rights and Environmental Implications of Land Contracts**: CCSI is developing a tool to assist stakeholders in analyzing the human rights and environmental implications of land contracts. An online component will map out the relevant issues, norms and best practices.

- **Negotiation Support for Developing Country Governments**: Endorsed by the G7, CCSI developed www.negotiationsupport.org, a portal for developing country governments, including a repository of useful tools and resources and a database of support providers and trainings. CCSI also facilitates coordination among support providers and host governments to improve the availability of expert support.

**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.
OUR COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

• CCSI is the only university-based applied research center and forum dedicated to the study, practice and discussion of sustainable international investment worldwide.

• CCSI’s diverse staff combines legal, economic and policy expertise, and approaches sustainable investment holistically, bridging investment law, natural resource management, human rights, economics, political economy, and environmental management.

• CCSI works closely with colleagues from the Earth Institute and throughout Columbia University who are experts in a wide range of disciplines, integrating our expertise in law, economics and investment with diverse fields of sustainable development.

• As an academic center, CCSI serves as a neutral platform for multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary dialogue, maintaining an open environment for discussion and supporting the public accessibility of information and research.

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

• CCSI’s courses, trainings and publications provide critical knowledge and skills to students, policymakers and practitioners.

WHERE WE WORK

Cameroon Democratic Republic of the Congo East Timor Ecuador Finland Guinea Haiti India Israel Kyrgyzstan Liberia Malawi Mongolia Mozambique Namibia Paraguay Sierra Leone Sao Tome and Principe Tajikistan United States

OUR COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS

CCSI collaborates with faculty and students throughout Columbia University, as well as with numerous external organizations, including bilateral and multilateral organizations, international initiatives, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The following partners are among those that have financially supported CCSI research, activities and events:

GOVERNMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES
Australian Aid Ecuador Finland Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH United Kingdom Department for International Development United States Timor-Leste

FOUNDATIONS
Ford Foundation Open Society Foundation

UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
National Economic Research Institute (China) University of Queensland (Australia)

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS
Inter-American Development Bank UNCTAD UNDP World Bank

COMPANIES, LAW FIRMS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS
AngloGold Ashanti Crowell & Moring Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP Noble Energy Vale S.A.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
Natural Resource Governance Institute Sustainable Development Solutions Network

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CCSI, formerly the Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment (VCC), is an independent non-profit academic center established in 2008. Its predecessor, the Columbia Program on International Investment, was established in 2006.