

Sierra Leone launches ResourceContracts.org site; global site passes 1,000 documents!

By Sophie Thomashausen, Anders Pedersen, and Charles Young

The Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), the World Bank and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) have partnered with the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources in Sierra Leone to implement a ResourceContracts.org country site to publish oil, gas and mining contracts.

The collaboration was initially confirmed during a January 2016 scoping trip to Freetown by CCSI and NRGI. At that time, Deputy Minister Abdul Ignosi Koroma made a commitment to publish contracts in the extractives sector on ResourceContracts.org, to complement existing transparency initiatives in Sierra Leone. The Deputy Minister also highlighted the importance of providing summaries of contract provisions in order to facilitate an understanding of the contracts for the public.

The Sierra Leone ResourceContracts.org country site will be managed by the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources in collaboration with the National Minerals Agency, which will add contextual information and associated documents to complement Sierra Leone's existing Iron Ore, Diamonds and Bauxite contracts on the site.



Sierra Leone ResourceContracts.org Website

The Sierra Leone ResourceContracts.org website is hosted at: http://www.nma.gov.sl/resourcecontracts

The partners behind ResourceContracts.org continue to work with governments and EITI offices who wish to publish extractives contracts as open data. Sierra Leone becomes the third country to establish a ResourceContracts.org country site following the <u>Philippines</u> (2015) and <u>Guinea</u> (2013).

Global site passes 1,000 contract documents

It was also announced at the EITI Global Conference that ResourceContracts.org now hosts 1,000 contracts and associated documents, passing an important milestone. Contracts are available across 72 countries and 38 different resources.

Since the <u>re-launch of the site in 2015</u>, more than 300 contract documents have been added including:

- More than <u>250 contracts from Peru</u>, from both the mining and hydrocarbons sectors
- Contracts from a series of EITI countries including the <u>Democratic Republic of Congo</u>, <u>Bolivia</u>, <u>Mozambique and Zambia</u>

About ResourceContracts

The ResourceContracts.org site is an online repository of oil, gas and mining contracts developed in partnership between the World Bank, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. The site enables CSOs, governments and researchers to search; view summaries of key social, environmental, fiscal and operational provisions; and download full contracts as open data. The site was <u>re-launched</u> in 2015 with new features and contracts.

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