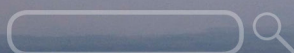




OPENING UP LAND CONTRACTS – NEW GLOBAL REPOSITORY



OpenLandContracts.org will serve as the first online, searchable and user-friendly repository of publicly available contracts for large-scale land, agriculture and forestry projects. The online repository will include the full text of contracts; annotations of each contract summarizing key social, environmental, fiscal and operational terms; and tools that assist users in understanding and comparing contracts. OpenLandContracts.org, which will be linked to the existing ResourceContracts.org database and is expected to launch by the end of 2014, will provide useful information to a number of stakeholders.



WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Large-scale land acquisitions can have serious implications for land users and local communities, as well as for host governments' sustainable development efforts. These acquisitions are often governed by contracts between host governments and investors that define the parties' respective responsibilities and affect a range of issues. Land contracts are often not easily accessible, however, and there are limited resources to analyze and compare them, which can result in a critical lack of knowledge. Host governments lose the opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences, including by comparing the terms that other governments offer for similar investments. Communities are less able to hold governments and investors accountable throughout the lifecycle of a project. And investors run the risk of entering into deals for land that has already been allocated, imperiling their investment while increasing the potential of social tension and local conflict.

Making contracts available and accessible to the general public can build a climate of stronger accountability and trust, yet currently there is no existing online resource that collates and analyzes large-scale land contracts. OpenLandContracts.org will fill that gap, providing access to full contracts as well as easy-to-understand summaries and user-friendly tools, and equipping citizens, leaders and the media with indispensable support for understanding large-scale land contracts and their underlying deals. Availability and use of the repository will provide support to the growing campaign for disclosure of information around land acquisitions, by demonstrating that disclosure of land contracts is feasible and valuable.

The OpenLandContracts.org platform will be made available as a tool for governments interested in land contract disclosure and seeking technical support.



SUPPORTING FRONTLINE ENGAGEMENT

OpenLandContracts.org aims to support a number of stakeholders:

- communities and civil society organizations pushing for greater accountability around land transactions,
- host governments seeking to negotiate with investors and monitor contract implementation,
- companies researching concessions or seeking to reinforce their own commitments to transparency and openness,
- media covering major investments and natural resource issues, and
- development practitioners advocating for more transparency in large-scale investments.

OUR TEAM

OpenLandContracts.org is an extension of ResourceContracts.org, which is an existing online repository of oil, gas and mining contracts that was created by the Natural Resource Governance Institute, the World Bank, and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). The development of OpenLandContracts.org is being led primarily by CCSI and the World Bank.

For more information and a preview of contract annotations, visit www.OpenLandContracts.org or contact: info@openlandcontracts.org