

# ALIGN

## Technical support on land-based investments for governments in low- and middle-income countries

### **The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)**

offer technical support on issues related to land-based investment.

**Advancing Land-Based Investment Governance (ALIGN)** covers multiple sectors including investments in agriculture, mining, forestry, infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

ALIGN supports governments, civil society, communities and peoples, and other relevant actors in strengthening the governance of land-based investments. Support is available on policy development and implementation, regulatory assessments, legislative drafting, institutional reform or similar activities, as well as tailored trainings and lesson sharing on relevant topics.

This technical support is provided by IIED and CCSI, with complementary expertise from additional partners where beneficial. Activities may include:

### **Training and lesson sharing**

- Design and lead training and workshops
- Develop resource materials and guidelines
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and support multi-stakeholder dialogues

### **Support to law and policy development and implementation, governance strengthening**

- Review legislative frameworks
- Support the development of laws and regulations
- Develop process flowcharts and guidance materials
- Design roadmaps and/or pilot projects to support implementation of policy and law
- Analyze institutional mandate overlap and underlap
- Conduct comparative research and provide good practice recommendations

- Identify and clarify relevant international law, voluntary instruments and their application
- Develop due diligence and investment approval systems
- Develop compliance guidelines, systems and resources
- Analyze contracts to support understanding of contract options/ model clauses/ comparative good practice (note: we do not provide direct support in negotiating contracts)

### **Support in the context of specific investments**

- Support stakeholder coordination and collaboration
- Advise regional or local government on relevant themes such as land use planning and cross-sectoral coordination, as they relate to investment
- Support development of strategies to protect local rights in an investment context
- Design monitoring processes and institutions

### **Illustrative thematic areas**

- Access to information
- Public participation
- Strengthening land and resource rights
- Legal recognition of community land/resource governance
- Community recognition and governance
- Investment models, screening and due diligence
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) processes
- Meaningful consultation
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Community benefit sharing and partnership agreements
- Expropriation, compensation and resettlement
- Redress for investment-related harms
- Contracts and dispute settlement

### **Registering your interest**

To register your interest, please email [align@iied.org](mailto:align@iied.org) with a brief outline of the issue and the support sought.



## Funding

Depending on needs, the cost of technical support will be covered by the project.

## Criteria for support

In determining whether individual requests for support can be met, the following criteria apply:

- Whether the request relates to the theme of responsible land-based investment;
- Whether the request is a good match with the types of intervention possible (such as those listed);
- Potential for long-term sustainability, particularly where there is scope to contribute to improved policy or practice.

## ALIGN: Advancing Land-based Investment Governance

This technical support facility is part of the ALIGN project, which is implemented by a consortium led by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) and Namati.

ALIGN combines in-depth country work, knowledge development strategies and learning, and short-term technical support to assist different stakeholders strengthen the governance of land-based investments and is funded with UK aid from the UK government. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the UK Government.

## About IIED and CCSI

IIED and CCSI have been at the forefront of recent research, policy and action on the governance of land and land-based investment.



IIED provides a unique combination of research and action to promote sustainable development. Our team brings:

- Recognised expertise in the governance of land and land-based investment, including agriculture, extractives and infrastructure projects;
- Extensive experience working with government, civil society and the private sector;
- A network of partnerships and collaborations in over 60 countries from both global North and South.



CCSI, a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, is a leading applied research center dedicated to sustainable international investment. Our team of lawyers and researchers brings:

- Substantive expertise in responsible investment in land, agriculture, and extractives;
- A track record of developing resources and policy proposals that advance understanding or practice of responsible investment; and
- Significant experience in supporting, training and collaborating with government officials and civil society.