

ALIGN

Technical support on land-based investments for civil society 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, local communities and other relevant actors in strengthening the governance of land-based investments. Support is provided by IIED and CCSI, with complementary expertise from additional partners where beneficial. ALIGN can provide a diverse range of support interventions, such as:

Support to CSO engagement with law, policy, development, and implementation

- Review legislative frameworks
- Provide technical support to strategies focused on reforming investment-related policies, laws and public institutions
- Identify gaps in existing laws and proposals for reform, based on analysis of comparative experience and good practice
- Design bottom-up pilot projects to advance implementation of 'progressive' laws
- Contextualize international human rights law and remedies and how they can be used in practice
- Support strategies for public accountability and access to redress in an investment context
- Develop approaches and collaborations for participatory monitoring of investment compliance and impacts
- Analyze contracts to support understanding of contract options/ model clauses/ comparative good practice (note: we do not provide direct support in negotiating contracts)

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 in the context of specific investments

- Support stakeholder coordination and collaboration
- Support efforts to assist communities in their relations with government and/or businesses, e.g. as regards dialogue processes, land use planning, FPIC, negotiations and partnership agreements
- Analyze contracts to support public scrutiny
- Support development of strategies to protect rights in an investment context
- Support participatory monitoring of investment compliance and impacts
- Support strategies for access to redress for investment related harms

Illustrative thematic areas

- Access to information
- Public participation
- Land and resource rights strengthening
- Community recognition and governance
- Environmental, social, and human rights impact assessments
- Meaningful consultation
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Community benefit sharing and partnership agreements
- Expropriation, compensation and resettlement
- Accountability and redress strategies for investment-related harms
- Contracts and dispute settlement

Registering your interest

To register your interest, please email 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.