

# CHAPTER 1 – [www.eisourcebook.org](http://www.eisourcebook.org)

## 1.4 Our Approach

Globally, there are a number of knowledge centres or policy institutes that specialize in addressing the development issues which the *Source Book* has identified as priority ones. Usually, these are institutions or units with a high degree of exposure to societies in which there is a strong demand for knowledge about EI development, in terms of providing them with assistance in contract negotiation, on-site workshops and longer-term advice on legal and fiscal arrangements. In virtually all cases, they are responding to a need for additional capacity in the state requesting assistance. Their goal is to apply their specialist expertise to specific problems that urgently need to be addressed; they are ones that fall within the categories of the EI Value Chain. However, these are institutions that already have a strong research base and which draw more or less upon that research experience in their engagement with governments, parliaments, media, local communities and civil society in the resource-rich states.

**In developing its compendium, the Source Book project has taken a first step towards establishing a Global Knowledge Consortium, an international network that brings together specialist centres, convening discussions and participating in knowledge management.**

CEPMLP  
Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy

The *Source Book* has brought together a strategic partnership or network of universities and policy centres with considerable experience of, and interest in, EI and development issues. It has initially showcased their research into the core subjects for debate on development in the EI sector. The lead partner in the *Source Book* Consortium is the University of Dundee's Centre for Energy, Petroleum, and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) in the UK. Start-up funding for the *Source Book* came from a multilateral grant managed by The World Bank.

From a core of partners, the *Source Book* Consortium has grown to include more than a dozen centres and aims to expand further to ensure a genuinely international collaborative approach. The key criterion for inclusion has been international recognition of their research in areas relevant to the EI sectors. The disciplines are varied, from economics and law to environmental and policy analysis. As a result, an embryonic international network of diverse institutions with specialist knowledge is now developing. Its goal is to incorporate a set of varied inputs on good practice around the world into the *Source Book*, which lies at the heart of the network.

In its first phase, the international partners included the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia), the Center for Sustainability in Mining & Industry at the University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa), and a

partnership with the Mining Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA) (London, United Kingdom (UK)). This grouping has developed significantly since the *Source Book* was launched in September 2011. Partners now include WWF International, the Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment, a partnership between Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute at Columbia University (USA), the University of Bourgogne's *Centre de recherche sur le droit des marchés et des investissements internationaux* (Centre for International Investment Law) (CREDIMI) (France) and the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (Calgary, Canada). Advocacy groups which have joined include Global Witness, PACT and the the Natural Resource Governance Institute. Leading capacity building bodies now affiliated to the *Source Book* include ACET, the African Center for Economic Transformation (Accra, Ghana), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and Adam Smith International (London, UK). Well established as the foremost source of standards in transparency, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a partner in the *Source Book* Consortium. So too are The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. To ensure that the *Source Book* properly accesses industry practice, partnership status has also been given to leading associations of companies in the EI sector: the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA).

A feature of the research collaboration within the *Source Book* Consortium is that a partner may bid for work which has been identified as a 'knowledge gap'. Such work may be specially commissioned for inclusion in the online version of the *Source Book*. Works carried out to date by *Source Book* partners to date are referenced in this narrative, and are available in full on the *Source Book* website. These are accompanied by *Source Book* Briefs, which summarize the objectives, contents, and conclusions of each of these specially commissioned works.

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In reaching out to its target audience, the *Source Book* complements a number of valuable, related initiatives directed at improved governance of the EI sectors<sup>1</sup>.

Overarching principles have been produced in recent years by various expert bodies, from the Africa Mining Vision and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) and the Natural Resources Charter. A selection of these initiatives is listed in the references below, and comprehensive mapping of many of these initiatives has been included in the online version of the *Source Book*.

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<sup>1</sup> See Selected References at the end of this Chapter.

These principles are all – more or less - centered on good governance and are directed at achieving a positive, sustainable developmental impact, and a reduction in poverty through careful attention to the management of the EI sectors. Success in implementing them depends on a range of what may be considered technical inputs or practices, primarily legal and economic in nature, covering the entire EI sector value chain, and will necessarily be constrained by political economy considerations which will vary from state to state. This is the subject matter of the *Source Book*.

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