

# Global Signature Program: Natural Resource Governance



## Our ambition is to harness the power of natural resource wealth for sustainable and inclusive human development.

Natural resources underpin the infrastructure, energy, transport and communications which improve the lives of billions of people around the world. When countries bestowed with natural resources attract responsible investment, they can benefit from job creation, local procurement and revenues from the payment of significant taxes and royalties to governments.

Those payments fund basic services for citizens that are at the core of human development and social progress, such as health, education and infrastructure. Corruption and poor governance of natural resources divert funding away from those essential services, denying people access to the quality education, healthcare and core amenities that improve lives.

## Our vision

We aim to improve how natural resources are governed across the entire resource value chain – from exploration to the sale of products. No single organisation can achieve this bold ambition alone; all parties have a role in eliminating corruption through purposeful transparency and effective capacity building.

We want to broaden our partner base and invest in additional projects with international institutions, governments, civil society and business – aligning our aspirations behind a

## What we do

The BHP Billiton Foundation was established in 2013 and works to address some of the most critical global sustainable development challenges facing our generation. By working in partnership with others we seek to raise the bar, find new solutions and set new standards for the future.

common goal to achieve lasting change. Through our investments, we seek to:

- Improve mechanisms to support disclosure, transparency and accountability, which reduce corruption and bribery related to natural resources
- Make it easier for citizens and other stakeholders to access and interpret public data on natural resources
- Build governance capacity and increase the effectiveness and accountability of civic and public institutions.

Transparency is a prerequisite for raising governance standards and eliminating corruption, but it is not an end in itself. Citizens whose livelihoods depend on good governance must be able to use the data to drive accountability, so we champion purposeful transparency to make data easy to interpret and use to effect positive social change.

Our projects deliver evidence-based results that we share to help inform public policies that raise standards of natural resource governance, for the benefit of citizens and their communities.

## Who we are

We are a charity funded by BHP Billiton, a leading global resources company, and through our programs we address challenges that are directly relevant to the resources sector. Our global programs focus on Natural Resource Governance, Environmental Resilience and Education Equity.

For more information, visit [bhpbilliton.com/foundation](https://bhpbilliton.com/foundation).



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## Our projects

The portfolio of the Natural Resource Governance program spans the entire resources value chain:



### Case Study

We fund Transparency International's Mining for Sustainable Development program, which works across 20 countries to improve transparency and eliminate corruption associated with mining-related permitting, licensing and agreements.

Each project has the following characteristics:

- Brings together civil society organisations, international institutions, governments and business to collectively address common challenges through dialogue and problem-solving
- A sustainable approach to implementation which allows three to five years to effect change with a view to being self-sufficient after that time
- Bolsters the capacity of civil society and national and sub-national institutions to help to govern natural resources

- Draws on BHP Billiton expertise to support project design, implementation and monitoring
- Measurement of impact and delivery, to develop relevant insights and an evidence base to share with others.

Throughout the lifecycle of each project, we conduct rigorous monitoring, reporting and evaluation as well as receiving regular financial statements from our partner organisations to maintain our own standards of governance.

All of our programs are designed to make a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Natural Resource Governance program contributes to the following goals:

**“Corruption can be a significant risk for resource-rich countries. Improving the governance of natural resources reduces opportunities for corruption and enables countries to use the benefits of natural resource wealth to improve the lives of their citizens.”**

Karen Wood  
Chairman, BHP Billiton Foundation

