

Jon Hobbs (Director, Extractives Sector, WWF International).

The potential to include environmental matters in the transparency debate was rather glibly dismissed in the opening plenary session here in Sydney 2013. This was presumably because of the fear that this might dilute and complicate EITI's current narrow focus.

Yet there is appetite for innovation amongst participating countries: Liberia has included forest revenues and Mongolia won recognition for similar 'environmental' inclusions at the Paris Global Conference,

WWF – like all other organizations- has a vested interest in improved governance. We will never achieve our conservation goals in situations of bad governance. Environmental degradation is invariably a characteristic of such circumstances. Transparency in all significant decision making will encourage adequate consideration of their environmental consequences- threats and opportunities. Transparency is fundamental to prudent resource management.

Although we are not there yet, contract transparency will require due consideration of environmental factors alongside economic and social considerations if outcomes are going to be truly sustainable.

When EITI moves away from output and further to-wards outcome indicators, the sustainability of those outcomes will be dependent upon the maintenance of the integrity of ecological infrastructure – eg healthy freshwater, forests etc upon which we all depend upon the services they provide , but especially the poor and vulnerable.

It is as well to broaden the EITI discussion now - and ensure the more explicit integration of environmental criteria into the evolution of EITI – not dismiss it as a complicating factor, nor to dilute attentions but to reinforce sustainability assurances..

WWF Pledge

WWF has a presence in over 100 countries worldwide – including many of the EITI participating countries. WWF pledges to encourage their national offices to participate in the MSGs to constantly raise the awareness of the importance of environmental matters in underpinning the successful outcomes brought about by the EITI programmes.