

2021

Resource Governance Index

Method Paper

The 2021 Resource Governance Index (RGI) measures how well countries govern their extractive resources. This method paper explains the decisions that informed the RGI's creation:

- **Why the RGI exists and what it measures.** The need behind the RGI, what we defined as resource governance, what we measured and what we did not measure.
- **Structure.** How we constructed the index and the topics we chose to measure.
- **Country, sectors, and institutions selection.** How we chose which countries and extractive sectors to assess, and which special institutions—such as state-owned enterprises, sovereign wealth funds and subnational resource revenue sharing mechanisms—to evaluate.
- **Research process.** How we constructed the research questionnaire, how we scored the questions and what measures we took to ensure the answers were accurate.
- **Scoring.** How we used our research to calculate scores for each country.
- **Comparability.** How we ensured comparability with the 2017 RGI.
- **Changes and additions to the RGI questionnaire.** What changes we made to the 2021 RGI questionnaire and why we did so.
- **Pilot questions.** What other data we collected and why it is important.

1. Why the RGI exists and what it measures.

WHAT IS RESOURCE GOVERNANCE AND WHY WE MEASURE IT?

We measure resource governance because research suggests it is a primary factor determining whether society benefits from resource extraction or suffers from the resource curse. As Robinson et al (2006) say: “Countries with institutions that promote accountability and state competence will tend to benefit from resource booms since these institutions ameliorate the perverse political incentives that such booms create. Countries without such institutions however may suffer from a resource curse.”¹ This informs the mission of NRGI, where we are working toward ensuring that countries rich in oil, gas and minerals achieve sustainable, inclusive development, and that people receive lasting benefits from the extractive sector and experience reduced harms. The Resource Governance Index forms a key part of this effort by providing an evidence base for advocacy around the most pressing resource governance gaps.

The Resource Governance Index defines resource governance as the rules, disclosures, oversight procedures and enabling environment. It is a robust data-driven tool, which provides governments, civil society and oversight actors with a framework for ensuring extractive sectors are governed with transparency and accountability. The RGI helps to ensure that countries rich in oil, gas and minerals achieve sustainable, inclusive development, and that people receive lasting benefits from extractives—and experience reduced harms.

¹ James Robinson, Ragnar Torvik, Thierry Verdier, “Political foundations of the resource curse,” *Journal of Development Economics* 79 (2006) 447-468.

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WHAT THE RGI MEASURES

The 2021 RGI includes questions devoted to measuring the presence and quality of rules in a country. “Rules” here refers to the laws, regulations or government policy documents that are pertinent to an extractives sector. We assess whether rules exist that require government agencies (or in some cases companies) to take actions (e.g., allocating licenses competitively) or whether they subject these agencies to certain actions (e.g., audits).

The RGI also includes questions related to disclosures. We evaluate the actual disclosure of data (e.g., beneficial ownership), the disclosure of processes (e.g., what happens before and after a licensing round) and the availability of analytical reports published by government agencies and organizations who hold their governments to account.

There are also questions related to oversight. “Oversight” includes processes such as audits and the appointment of independent oversight bodies. These processes ensure that rules are followed, and that reporting is reliable, serving as an important bulwark against conflicts of interest and undue discretion.

Lastly, the RGI measures the quality of the enabling environment for resource governance. “Enabling environment” refers to the wide range of practices and processes in the government, parliament, media, and civil society that are likely to either enable or hinder the effectiveness of resource policies and governance. A good enabling environment includes an independent judiciary and adherence to the rule of law, efficient public services not marred by corrupt practices, as well as political stability and an absence of violence or persecution.

These aspects, if present in a country, are likely to mean that a government follows the policies it sets for itself and that these policies are good for the country. But good governance is certainly not a guarantee that natural resources will benefit society at large. For both conceptual and practical reasons, the RGI does not measure other factors that are as important as governance in influencing the extent to which a society benefits from resource extraction.

WHAT THE RGI DOES NOT MEASURE

Whilst the RGI is the most comprehensive measure of resource governance available, there are factors within the extractive sector that the RGI does not measure.

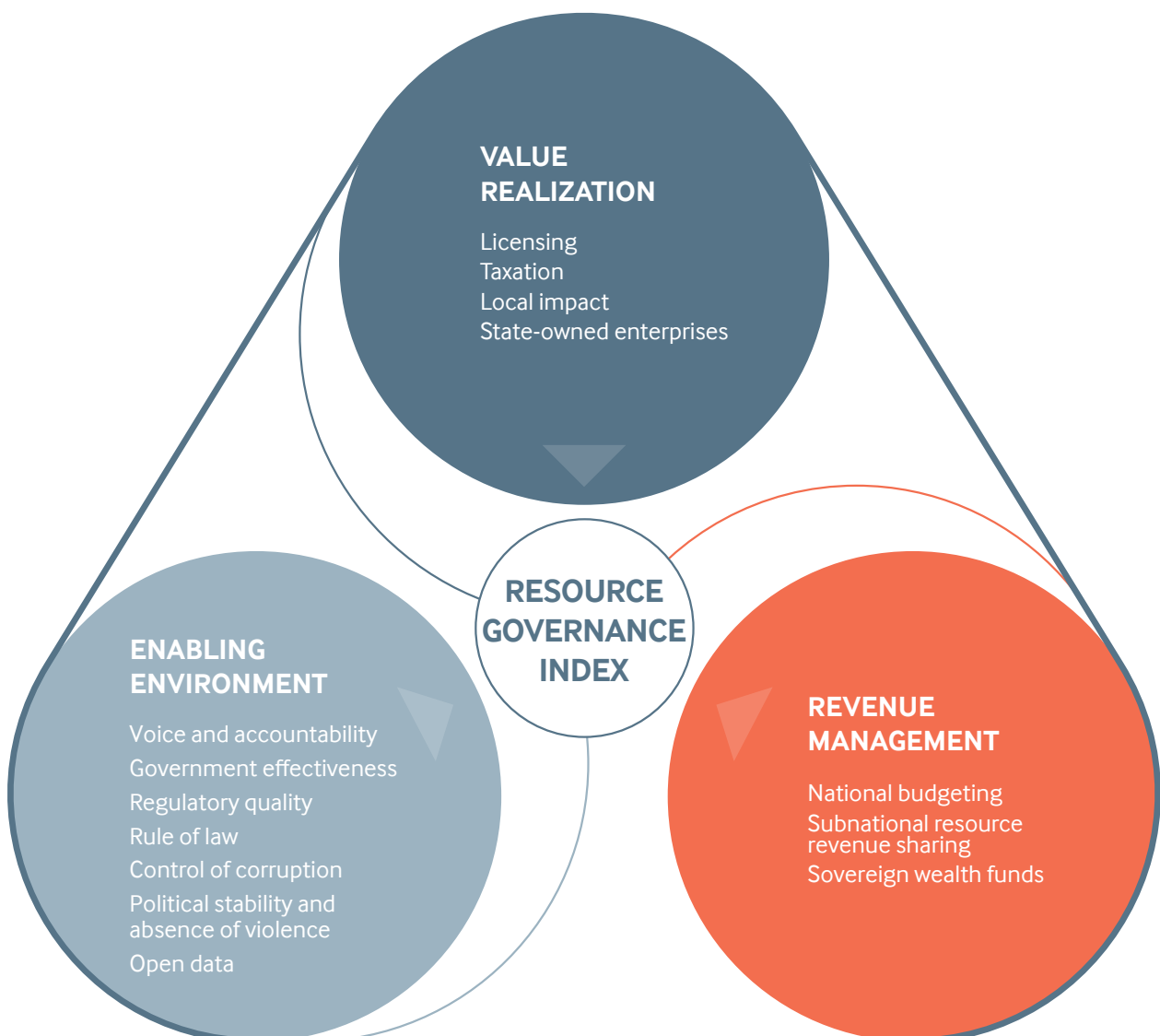
First, the RGI does not evaluate whether government policies are appropriate for a particular country’s context. For instance, we evaluate the processes and practices that are undertaken to ensure a state-owned enterprise (SOE) is well-governed. But we do not assess whether it is appropriate for the country to have an SOE in the first place. Similarly, we review some tax administration processes, but do not determine whether the tax rates themselves are appropriate for each country. These sorts of evaluations are context-specific, and each requires thorough studies and analysis that falls outside of the scope of the RGI.

Second, the RGI does not cover all areas of governance that are common in resource-producing countries. We omitted those where we found there were insufficient elements of governance that are measurable within the scope of our research. This could be due to the lack of standardized assessment methods or because certain areas would require research not feasible within the current context and timeframes. For example, though international tax treaties are critical in shaping taxation, we did not find a standardized approach to evaluating tax treaties. As research develops, we may add these issues to future editions of the RGI.

Third, the RGI’s primary focus is on countries’ domestic policies, and it therefore does not measure external factors. The impact of resource wealth depends not only on the quality of governance and policy choices but also on commodity prices, access to international markets where the resource can be sold, trade regimes etc. Instead, we choose to measure those rules, processes, and practices that we understand to improve and enhance standards of resource governance.

2. Structure

The RGI is a hierarchy of topic areas with five descending levels: composite, components, subcomponents, indicators and questions. The composite score, or RGI score, is the result of combining these elements. We describe how we calculated the scores in Section 5.



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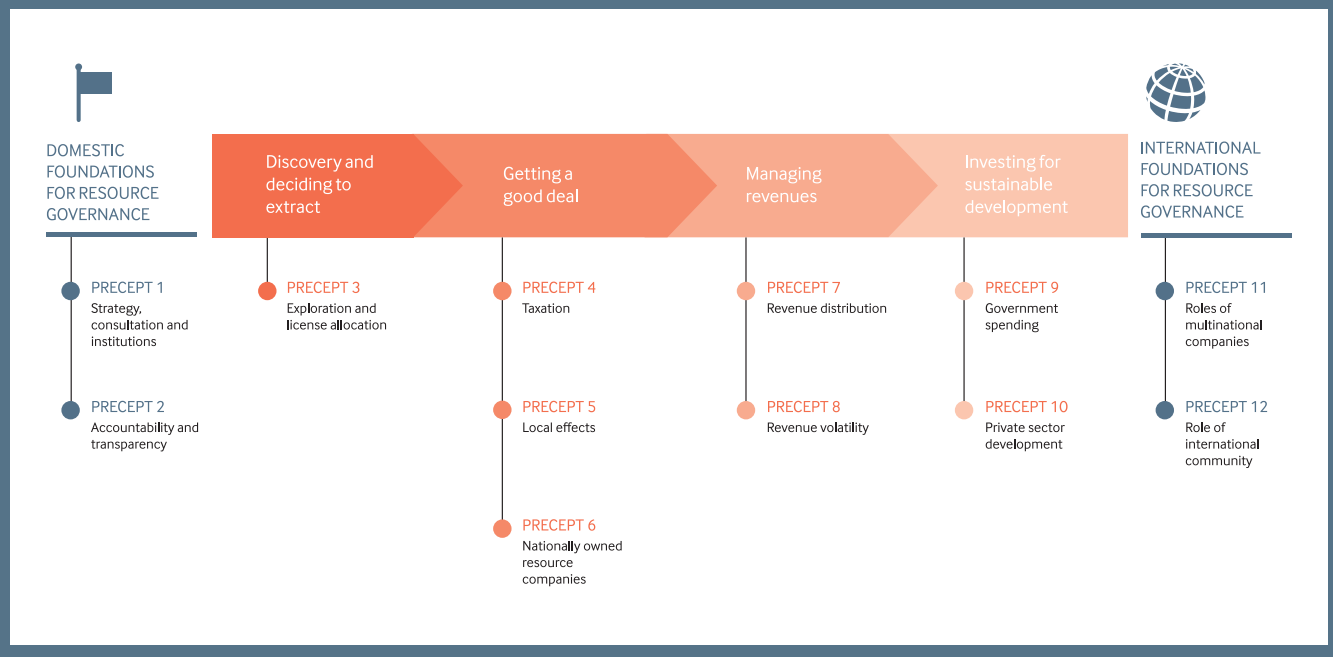
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The 2021 Resource Governance Index and the Natural Resource Charter

We have aligned the RGI with the Natural Resource Charter—a framework regarding governing extractive resources compiled from the consultations with over 200 practitioners and experts. The charter is structured across precepts, with each precept relating to an important aspect of resource governance. The chart below shows all the precepts that compose the charter. Superimposed onto the charter’s framework are the aspects covered by the RGI, governance-specific aspects of:

- accountability and transparency (precept 2)
- exploration and license allocation (precept 3)
- taxation (precept 4)
- local effects (precept 5)
- state-owned enterprises (precept 6)
- revenue distribution (precept 7)
- revenue volatility (precept 8)

Because the charter is the intellectual framework of NRGI (and because other organizations use similar frameworks²), this alignment ensures that the RGI results and data can easily be used within the suite of other tools available, such as the Natural Resource Charter Benchmarking Framework.



² For example, see World Bank, Extractive Industries Value Chain: A Comprehensive Approach to Developing Extractive Industries, Extractive Industries for Development Series No.3 & Africa Region Working Paper Series No. 125 (2009)

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There are three overarching components in the RGI. Each component represents an aspect of resource governance commonly found in resource-producing countries.

The first two components—value realization and revenue management—follow the topic structure found in the Natural Resource Charter (see Box). As the Natural Resource Charter explains, for resource-rich countries both components are necessary: a country that generates billions of dollars of government revenue from its mining sector is merely losing its natural wealth unless it can spend those dollars effectively.

The first component, value realization, measures the quality of governance around the licensing, taxation and local impact of natural resource exploration, production, environmental protection and revenue collection, and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) for those countries that have a SOE. In those assessments without a SOE, this component includes only the first three subcomponents. These are the aspects of resource governance that together work to realize public value from a country's oil, gas, and minerals, and that protect a country's local environment and communities. Value realization closely maps to precepts 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 in the Natural Resource Charter.

The second component, revenue management, assesses the aspects of governments' revenue management that are particularly important for extractive resource management: national budgeting, subnational resource revenue sharing and sovereign wealth funds. The latter two subcomponents are only assessed in countries that have these institutions. The revenue management component closely maps to precepts 2, 7 and 8 in the Natural Resource Charter.

The third component—enabling environment—measures the quality of governance in the country as a whole. We included this component under the assumption that how resource production affects people is a function of both specific rules and practices directed at the extractive sector and its revenues, and the general governance in a country that either enables or disables resource governance. We define the enabling environment as the dimensions of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) and an additional indicator measuring country adherence to principles of open data. The WGI covers key overarching aspects of governance and are grouped under six indicators: voice and democratic accountability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, corruption control, and political stability and absence of violence.³

³ Daniel Kaufmann and Aart Kraav, *World Governance Indicators*, (World Bank, 2016).

3. Countries, sectors, and institutions selection

Below, we describe how we chose the countries, commodity sectors and specific institutions evaluated in the 2021 RGI.

COUNTRY AND SECTOR COVERAGE			
Dual-sector countries	Oil and/or gas only	Mineral only	Partial Assessments
Colombia (oil & gas, gold)	Azerbaijan	Guinea (bauxite)	Algeria (O&G SOE subcomponent)
Democratic Republic of Congo (oil & gas, copper)	Guyana	Mongolia (copper)	Egypt (O&G Licensing subcomponent)
Ghana (oil & gas, gold)	Lebanon	Morocco (phosphates)	Mongolia (O&G licensing subcomponent)
Mexico (oil & gas, gold)	Nigeria	Peru (gold)	Morocco (O&G licensing subcomponent)
Myanmar (oil & gas, copper, and gems sector)	Qatar		Saudi Arabia (O&G SOE subcomponent)
Senegal (oil & gas, gold)			
Tanzania (oil & gas, gold)			
Tunisia (oil & gas, phosphates)			
Uganda (oil & gas, gold)			

Countries not included in the 2017 RGI are in orange text.
New sectors not included in the 2017 RGI are in dark blue text.

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COUNTRY SELECTION

In the 2021 RGI, we conducted 28 full assessments across 18 countries.

In comparison with the 2017 RGI, which evaluated 81 resource-producing countries, the 2021 RGI assessed the Natural Resource Governance Institute's focus countries. This allows us to prioritize the translation of RGI's findings into more tangible impact through individualized country programming which will include launches, strategic stakeholder consultations and on-going engagement with governments, parliaments, civil society partners and the private sector.

In line with NRG's programming, we have included three countries which do not appear in the 2017 RGI. In the 2021 RGI we have also assessed Guyana's oil and gas sector, Lebanon's oil and gas sector and Senegal's mining and oil and gas sectors.

In addition, we have also conducted five partial assessments focused on either the licensing or SOE subcomponent in Algeria, Egypt, Mongolia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

SECTOR SELECTION

Having selected the countries to assess, we then needed to choose which commodity sector to evaluate—oil and gas, or minerals—and, where jurisdictions differed for different minerals, to choose a specific mineral commodity.

For countries which feature in both the 2021 RGI and the 2017 RGI, we chose to assess the same sectors and minerals, with the addition of assessments focusing on the Myanmar copper mining sector and the Ugandan gold mining sector. Including dual-assessed countries means that the 2021 RGI has 28 total assessments: 14 assessments focused on the oil and gas sector and 14 assessing the mining sector. Nine countries have assessments for both oil and gas and mining sector, and seven countries have either an oil and gas or mining sector assessment.

For the mining sector assessments, in the cases where policies, laws and practices differ between minerals, we chose to focus on the governance of a specific mineral sector. In each country we selected either the most significant mineral in terms of 2019 export shares, or minerals which the government has prioritized in terms of growth and development.

In the 2021 RGI, our list of focus commodities reviewed in mineral assessments includes copper, gold, phosphate, bauxite and jade. We did not review the coal sector—even in cases where it would be the largest sector—because it yields much lower rents and thus is economically less important for government revenues than other, high-rent minerals.

INSTITUTION SELECTION

The RGI evaluates three types of institutions that are commonly but not universally found in resource-producing countries: state-owned enterprises (SOEs), sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and subnational resource revenue sharing arrangements. In some countries, there may be more than one of each of these institutions and below sets out how we evaluate which institution to assess.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs). Countries often have multiple companies owned partially or fully by the government, some of which operate in the extractive sector. For the RGI, we assessed:

- The company operating in the extractive sector and extracting the commodity chosen for assessment.
- A company that is at least 50 percent owned by the country's government.

Where multiple such companies existed, we picked the largest.

Sovereign wealth funds (SWFs). Resource-producing countries often have state-owned savings funds, which are often funded by the revenues obtained from commodities. SWFs pursue a variety of economic objectives, such as acting as an investment bank for domestic regional development; as a fund to save foreign exchange; a stabilization mechanism to counteract commodity revenue volatility, avoid inflation, and ensure foreign exchange fluctuations; or to save for future generations. For the RGI, we assessed sovereign wealth funds that:

- Derive at least 50 percent of their deposits from government revenues earned from
- extractive sector or budget surpluses in a resource-producing country⁴.
- Invest at least 50 percent of their funds in foreign assets .

Subnational resource revenue sharing. Most countries in the world have some form of decentralized government and a system to transfer funds between central and regional governments. Some resource-producing countries also have intergovernmental transfers explicitly designed to share the income from resource extraction. It is these arrangements that we evaluated in the RGI. To distinguish between intergovernmental transfer arrangements and subnational resource revenue sharing, we focused on:

- Arrangements in which the central government transfers funds based on the volume or value of extractive resources produced in a region.

⁴ We defined 'resource-rich' as those countries on the IMF's resource -rich list: International Monetary Fund, Macroeconomic Policy Frameworks for Resource-Rich Developing Countries, (2012: 47 – 50).

4. Research process

The RGI includes two types of data: 1) primary research that informs the value realization and revenue management components of the index, and 2) secondary data to calculate the enabling environment component.

PRE-RESEARCH STAGE

As a starting point, we took the 2017 RGI questionnaire and strengthened questions which could be worded better, or which needed updating to reflect evolving best practices (please see the full list of amendments in section 6).

For the first time, and in line with the changing global landscape, we included a section of ‘pilot questions’, which focus on economic linkages and the energy transition. Whilst these questions were not included in the scored portion of the RGI, we collected answers and will use them in analysis to demonstrate their importance in resource governance (please see more information on the pilot questions in section 6)

PRIMARY RESEARCH STAGE

In mid-2020, we selected 26 independent researchers to answer the RGI questionnaire for each country and sector. We used our existing networks and posted an advertisement to attract applicants. Out of these applicants we chose the researchers who best met three standards: 1) a citizen or person with good working knowledge of the country they were to assess; 2) good knowledge of resource governance; and 3) not directly employed by the government under assessment. You can find the names of these researchers on the RGI website (we withheld names of some researchers in response to requests for anonymity).

We sent each selected researcher a questionnaire.⁵ For each question, we asked researchers to choose from among the multiple-choice answers, write a justification for the choice and provide documents to support their answer. For both de jure questions— those questions relating to a piece of legislation, regulation, or policy— and for de facto questions—those questions relating to an action such as disclosure, conducting an audit or following a rule— we asked for one such supporting document per question.

PEER REVIEW STAGE

We chose 17 independent peer reviewers to review the answers of the researchers. We selected peer reviewers according to the same criteria as the researchers. In some instances, expert NRG staff were identified as best placed to conduct the peer review phase of the process.

For each assessment, a peer reviewer checked and validated the answers given by the researcher. The peer reviewers checked the answer, justification and supporting documentation. Each reviewer marked answers they agreed with, and in cases where they did not agree, reviewers chose their preferred answer, wrote a justification, and provided any supporting documents to make their case.

⁵ You can find the full questionnaire in several languages at resourcegovernanceindex.org/xxx

NRGI STAFF AND THEMATICS EXPERT REVIEW STAGE

After both researchers and peer reviewers provided their input, thematic experts, and country colleagues from NNGI thoroughly reviewed all the questionnaires. In cases where there was a difference between the results of the researcher and that of the peer reviewer, NNGI staff chose one answer as the final answer to be scored. In some cases, NNGI staff decided that neither answer was correct and gave their own, along with justification and supporting documentation.

IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING MISTAKES IN THE FUTURE

With 28 assessments of 136 scored questions and 41 unscored questions in each assessment, the 2021 RGI project includes 4956 answers. Despite the thorough research and review process, we are aware of the possibility of errors. While the score given to each country is final for the 2021 RGI, we will collate any identification of error, ascertain whether the error is valid and note the error on the RGI website.

5. Scoring

Each RGI composite score is the average of the scores of the three components of the index. We assigned equal weights (i.e., one third) to each of the three components, reflecting the idea that each component of governance is equally important when it comes to the overall quality of resource governance in a given country. This yields a single numeric score per country, which is an overarching assessment of the quality of resource governance. This composite score can be compared across all countries evaluated in both the 2021 RGI and 2017 RGI.

VALUE REALIZATION AND REVENUE MANAGEMENT SCORES

There are 136 scored questions in each assessment. Questions have multiple-choice answers. Each answer has a non-linear numeric value between 0 and 100. This value is based on extensive analysis and expert consultation of how important the question topic and answer are to a country's resource governance system. Each question also includes a "Not Applicable/Other" option. In these cases, we did not assign a numerical value. This means a "Not Applicable/Other" answer neither negatively nor positively impacts the overall score.

We grouped questions into indicators based on the thematic content of each question. To derive indicator scores, we calculated the simple average of the scores across all questions that comprise a given indicator. This means that the fewer the questions that comprise each indicator, the more each individual question within that indicator will affect the indicator scores. As with the scoring of criteria in each question, weighting was based on extensive research and expert consultation of the importance of each issue for resource-producing countries.

To derive scores for the subcomponents, we grouped together the most appropriate indicators. Subcomponents in value realization and revenue management relate to one of the Natural Resource Charter precepts, and to a common area of policy in resource-producing countries. We calculated each subcomponent using the simple average of the scores of each indicator in the subcomponent.

However, we took a different approach to calculating the subnational resource revenue sharing subcomponent. We did this because these revenue sharing arrangements are not necessarily always a good policy to follow. Calculated as a simple average of the underlying indicators, the mean of subnational resource revenue sharing scores across all assessments is high compared to other subcomponents. These scores would increase the scores of countries with revenue sharing arrangements in such a way that it would appear to be beneficial to resource

governance if countries chose to administer revenue sharing arrangements, when in fact research suggests that these arrangements open countries up to both significant economic and corruption risks. Identifying and addressing this already in the 2017 RGI, the subnational resource revenue sharing subcomponent was adjusted by a deflator of 0.777. This adjusted the scores of the subnational resource revenue sharing subcomponent so that the mean of revenue sharing across the country sample was equal to the mean for the other subcomponents in the revenue management component. For the purpose of consistency and comparability, this deflator was retained in the 2021 RGI, despite the smaller sample size.

At the component level, we adopted two approaches to ensure all assessments were comparable and robust:

- To derive scores for the value realization component, we took the simple average of the subcomponent scores obtained. For assessments that did not include a state-owned enterprise, we took the average of the first three subcomponents: licensing, taxation and local impact.
- To calculate the revenue management score, a different approach was adopted. This is because two of the three subcomponents are not universal; all countries are scored for national budgeting, but not all countries have either a sovereign wealth fund or a subnational resource revenue sharing arrangement. In the 2021 RGI, there are 11 assessments in which there are only two subcomponents so that these subcomponents gain a greater weight in the index than if there are three subcomponents. In nine cases, countries have neither a sovereign wealth fund nor a subnational resource revenue sharing arrangement. In this case, the national budgeting score is therefore the only subcomponent, and is therefore the score used for the revenue management component.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The data for the enabling environment component are sourced predominantly from the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project. The WGI provides six of the seven subcomponents in the enabling environment component. These six subcomponents are: voice and accountability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, control of corruption, and political stability and the absence of violence. The seventh subcomponent in the enabling environment component is the open data indicator, which uses the Open Data Inventory and is “designed to evaluate the coverage and openness of data published on national statistical office websites”⁶ in assessment countries.

The data from these sources are initially scaled in a different way to the scale used in the RGI. To make these data comparable to the scores calculated in the value realization and revenue management components we standardized the data using a statistical technique called the “percentile rank method”. Following this method, we ranked the scores as a percentage of that dataset. This value is then multiplied by 100 to give a normalized value for use in the index, which presents on the range of 0 (worst) to 100 (best). This method preserves linear transformation of the data and because the conversion is based on percentile, centers the data mean and median scores at 50. We chose this method because it reduces the distribution bias of the differently scored datasets. WGI country scores are presented at source within the range of -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong). The externally sourced contributions to the open data subcomponent were also harmonized using percentile rank normalization before averaging.

In our calculations of the enabling environment, we used the same country sample as the 2017 RGI (plus Guyana, Lebanon, and Senegal, which appear for the first time in 2021) to ensure consistency and prevent data bias.

⁶ Open Data Inventory website

LAW AND PRACTICE SCORES

In addition to the main scores described above, we also calculated the scores for each country's quality of legal framework and practice. While these scores do not directly contribute to a country's composite score, they represent the extent to which a country puts into practice the policies and rules it sets for itself. In the questionnaire, we have designated questions as either "law" or "practice". Law questions are those relating to the availability and quality of rules—whether as legislation, regulation, or policy. Practice questions are all other questions, including those relating to disclosures, audits and whether officials have followed one of the rules evaluated in the index.

The law and practice scores are simple averages of all the law or practice indicators. We did not follow the same hierarchy of subcomponents or components in averaging scores. We have averaged the indicators rather than questions as most of the indicators come in pairs based on law and practice (e.g., financial interest disclosure rules and financial interest disclosure practice, pre-licensing round rules and pre-licensing round practice), and averaging at the question level might unfairly bias the results where there is a significantly higher number of questions within a specific indicator.

PERFORMANCE BANDS

Each score for the composite, component and subcomponents of the index falls within a performance band. We developed these performance bands in response to the value of having an absolute performance classification to complement the relative performance shown by rankings. Further, as the true quality of governance in a country may not be exactly reflected in the respective score (due to the uncertainty that surrounds any measure of governance), the performance bands mitigate the over-interpretation of scores.

6. Comparability

The 2021 RGI assessments and results offer direct comparability with the 2017 RGI assessments for countries which were assessed in both editions. Whilst the 2013 RGI used a different questionnaire and methodology, and is therefore not comparable, both the 2021 and 2017 RGI editions utilize the same questionnaire (with minor improvements discussed in section 7) and an identical methodology for final scoring. As such, direct comparisons can be made across time, which allows for analysis of the evolution of the state of countries' resource governance.

7. Changes and Additions to the RGI Questionnaire

The 2021 RGI framework is based on the same components, subcomponents, and indicators as the 2017 edition. Nonetheless, we have made small improvements to some questions which stem from feedback we have received since the 2017 RGI, and from the evolution of best practices within the resource governance field. The changes are listed below:

1.1.2a Question on Cadaster coverage

The question was changed to emphasize the use of only one source when referring to the ‘cadaster’. This is to maintain consistency and comparability across assessments. Additionally, in line with the EITI (Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative) Standard 2019 which does not impose a hierarchy of importance of what must be included in the cadaster, we changed the scoring options to allow countries to receive partial points even if their cadasters contain only some of the required elements. The only exception to this is the name of the license holder, as we consider this a necessity in a registry of licenses.

1.3.1 and 1.3.2 Questions in Environmental Impact Assessment/Social Impact Assessment rules and disclosure indicator

Whilst the 2017 RGI assessed requirements, disclosure requirements and disclosures for EIA and SIA jointly, the 2021 RGI split these out. As such, three questions were added across these two indicators. The weighting of the indicators within the overall index score remains the same. This addition was necessary to enable better understanding of the differences between EIA and SIA requirements, disclosure requirements and disclosures across countries.

1.3.7a Question on Landowners compensation requirement

The question was updated to allow us to enquire not only about compensation, but also about rules governing expropriation and resettlement, for both landowners and land users. This reflects a key need to examine the effects of oil and gas, and mining projects on local landowners and land users.

1.4.8 Questions in Commodity sales disclosures indicator

For questions 1.4.8a (SOE sold production volume disclosure) and 1.4.8b (SOE sold production value disclosure) a new scoring option further disaggregates to what level of granularity governments or SOEs disclose their production sales. In the 2017 RGI we captured whether the disclosure is done for each sale, or in aggregate. In the 2021 RGI the options ask whether the disclosure is done for each sale, by buying company or in aggregate. We have included this additional scoring option to enable us to better understand SOE production sales disclosures. For question 1.4.8c, we modified the second scored option to ask whether production sales are disclosed by quarter. Previously we asked whether sales are disclosed in the aggregate.

2.2.2b Question on Revenue share amount specification

The question was amended to capture whether the formula governing the amount of revenue received by subnational governments specifies either the amount, indicator or share of resource revenues. This allows us to better capture the various formulas by which countries allocate resource revenue at the subnational level.

3.7 Open Data subcomponent

Previously the open data subcomponent was an average of scores taken from the Open Data Index, the Open Data Barometer, and the Open Data Inventory. The 2021 RGI uses only the Open Data Inventory, as using the recently updated version covers all RGI countries.

8. Pilot Questions

In the 2021 RGI data collection process we took the opportunity to research and assess two areas crucial to NRGi's emerging work: economic linkages and the energy transition. We asked researchers 29 questions relating to local content, forward linkages, supplier transparency, as well as climate related financial risks and environmental impacts. We did not include these questions in the scoring of the index but used the data collection process to provide an assessment of these evolving areas.

Many of the thematic areas we examined are still relatively nascent in the sector of resource governance, and we decided not to include these pilot questions into the scored sections of the RGI. Nonetheless, we might use some of the responses gathered to these questions in the wider analysis, to remain at the forefront of assessing global resource governance.

Lastly, for each of the questions posed to researchers and peer reviewers, we also included a separate space where we asked whether the coronavirus pandemic had an impact on that specific area of resource governance. We are using these responses across NRGi to get a better assessment of the effects of COVID-19 on extractive sectors in the assessed countries.