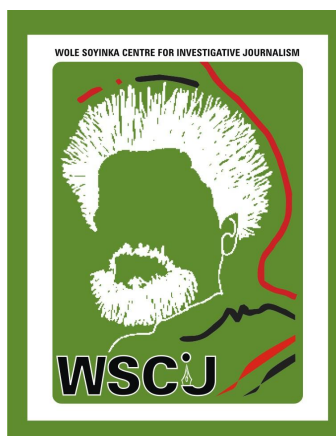


Opening Extractives

Unlocking the benefits of ownership data



With the support of:



8th-10th February

Using beneficial ownership data in Nigeria

Workshop for CSOs and journalists

February 2023



The Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) and the Opening Extractive programme invite Nigeria-based journalists, civil society, and activists to join a free training course on the use of beneficial ownership information to improve natural resource governance in Nigeria. The workshop sessions will be held over three days (8th-10th February), near the city of Lagos, and participation costs will be reimbursed.

Deadline for applications is December 30, 2022.

Background of beneficial ownership data in Nigeria

Nigeria is the world's twelfth largest producer of oil and the largest in Africa. It also holds the largest natural gas reserves on the continent. The oil and gas sector plays a significant role in the economy, contributing about 65% of government revenue and over 85% of total exports.

To improve the governance of natural resources, Nigeria signed onto the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2003 with the objectives of improving Nigeria's macroeconomic environment, strengthening public expenditure management, and implementing institutional and governance reforms. In 2007 the country was accepted as an implementing country, and since then it has disclosed 21 EITI reports covering fiscal years between 1999-2020. Nigeria EITI (NEITI) reports have included other significant information related to transparency in the extractive industry, such as revenues, contracts, production and crude oil sales.

In 2019, NEITI established a [register](#) containing ownership data for extractive companies covered by its 2012-2018 audit reports, in line with Requirement 2.5 of the EITI Standard to disclose the beneficial owners of extractive companies operating in the country. Additionally, in 2020, the government amended the Companies and Allied Matters Act, which provides a legal framework for collecting and publishing beneficial ownership (BO) information from all companies legally registered in the country. Since then, the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has made available information on persons with significant control in companies through an [online portal](#), and has [just launched](#) its open [beneficial ownership register](#) which is expected to contain data on over 4 million companies registered with the CAC. These efforts have been recognised by the Open Government Partnership (OGP) as Nigeria was awarded [first place for Africa and the Middle East](#) in the Open Government Awards for its commitment to beneficial ownership transparency (BOT), and it is the [newest member](#) of the [Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group](#).

All this progress has been followed by an active local community that monitors the government's progress and uses the information available for advocacy, investigations and transparency projects. However, there has been demand for building local stakeholders' capacity, with discussions on the governance challenges in the country and how an increase in the use of BO data can lead to improved natural resource governance and the fight against corruption.

The Opening Extractives programme

The [Opening Extractives \(OE\) programme](#) is a global initiative aiming to transform the availability and use of BO data for effective governance in the extractive sector. The programme, implemented by the [EITI](#) and [Open Ownership](#), combines political and technical engagement, to support countries implementing beneficial ownership reforms and to enable the use of the BO data by governments, civil society and companies.

In November 2021, the [Government of Nigeria committed](#) to implementing and accelerating BO disclosure and data use by joining the OE programme. The government's commitment to improving corporate ownership disclosure aims to support the fight against corruption, illicit financial flows and improving domestic resource mobilisation.

Three-day workshop to increase beneficial ownership data use

The OE programme and the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ), with the support of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Nigeria's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), invite civil society organisations (CSOs) and journalists to learn about the importance of quality and timely beneficial ownership data, and share skills, tools and methodologies to analyse and use the data. **The sessions aim to strengthen the capabilities of course participants to analyse and utilise BO data, which will improve natural resources advocacy and governance in Nigeria.**

Objectives

- Raise awareness around local stakeholders on the importance of accessible and timely BO data, and build local capacity in advocacy and data analysis.
- Train journalists, CSOs, and active citizens on BO concepts, definitions, and thresholds; the current data available; and how it could be used for investigations.
- Build a network of interested stakeholders who use BO data for their work and research.
- Provide practical user-focused feedback to NEITI and the CAC on the options for strengthening high-quality data collection and improving usability of BO data disclosures.

Expected outcomes

- CSOs and journalists gain the ability to differentiate legal owners from beneficial owners, understand the basis for existing complexities in different types of company ownership structures and associated risks, and familiarise themselves with Nigeria's legal framework for BOT.
- CSOs and journalists gain skills to identify and analyse BO data with other publicly available information to inform their investigations, advocacy analyses and journalistic reportage.
- More investigations and advocacy projects are built as a result of this workshop, and participants are better suited to collaborate with each other.

Outline

- **Day 1 (8th February): Demystifying beneficial ownership.** This session is intended to provide a general understanding of the concept of BO and disclosure, the underlying reasons for the global wave of increased BO disclosure, and provide updates on BOT implementation in Nigeria.
- **Day 2 (9th February): Accessing and using beneficial ownership information.** This session is intended to provide participants with targeted skills on how to apply BO information in their respective fields and sectors. We will showcase how to access BO information in Nigeria; present successful use cases where BO data helped investigations into corruption and illicit financial flows; and how it can be combined with other data sources available in the country (such as NEITI reports, procurement information, politically exposed persons, etc.).
- **Day 3 (10th February): Investigative journalism and storytelling.** Experienced investigative journalists will share skills, methodologies, data sources, and tools to use BO and other types of data for improved natural resource governance in Nigeria. They will also present the basics for pitching successful stories, conducting ethical investigations, and making stories appealing through visualisations and other techniques

Logistics

The three-day workshop will take place in a venue to be defined, near the city of Lagos. Reimbursements for transportation costs will be provided based on a fixed amount, as well as accommodation and meals covered for those attending the workshop in full.

How to apply

Any individual working in a CSO or media centre, or independent journalists, interested in the topic of company ownership/control, natural resources governance, illicit financial flows or related governance and business reporting or research, can apply to take part in the capacity-building sessions.

We will provide certificates of attendance to all participants that join the three sessions in full. We will also reimburse travel and accommodation costs for those needing it.

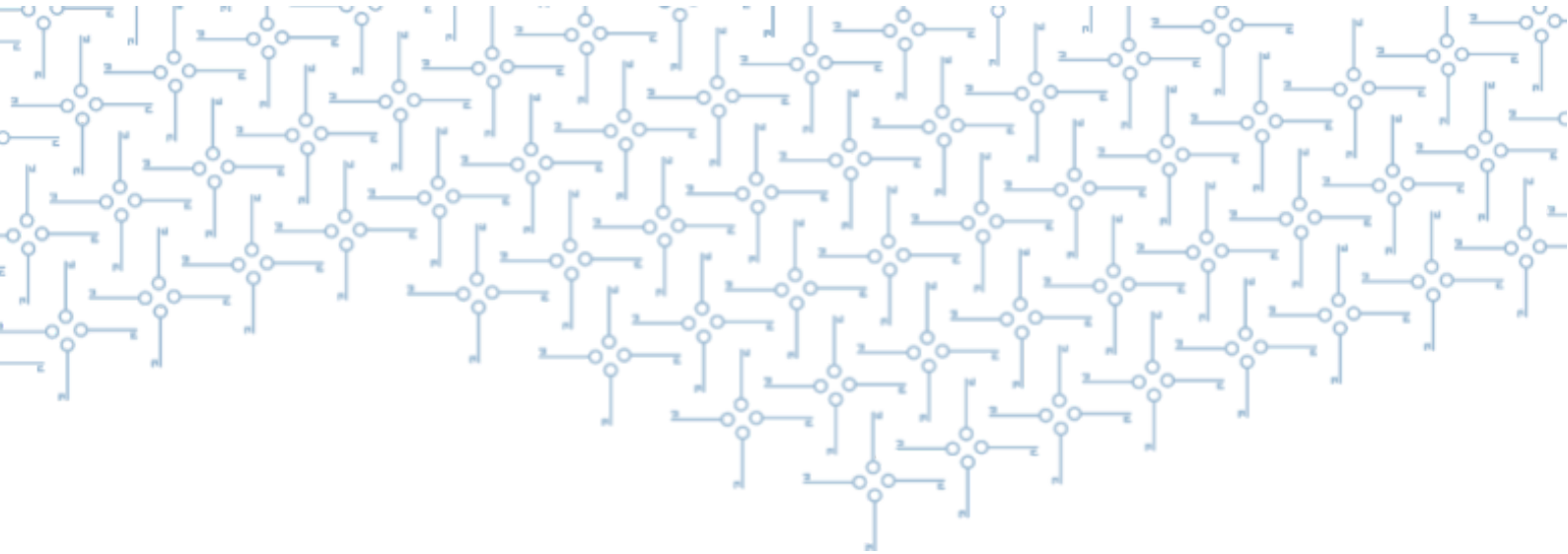
Selection criteria for participants:

- A background knowledge in public policy or a relevant field or governance issue.
- Experience in working within or reporting on Nigeria's legal and policy framework which governs the business sector. Prior experience on beneficial ownership, corporate structures, illicit financial flows or related issues in the context of Nigeria's mineral, oil and gas sector is an advantage.
- Availability (and organisational approval if applicable) to take part in the three sessions in full.
- Strong interpersonal skills: an openness and eagerness to collaborate with other groups and individuals (not just local CSO groups, but with donors, government, companies and consultants).
- Experience or interest in strengthening the capacity for BO data use amongst other interested colleagues.
- Advanced English written and verbal communication skills.

To apply, please complete this [online form](#) by **December 30, 2022**.

Important dates

- December 12th: Opening of the call for applications
- **December 30th: Deadline to submit applications**
- January 15th: Confirmation of selected applicants
- February 8th-10th: Workshop



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Jointly implemented by the EITI and Open Ownership

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