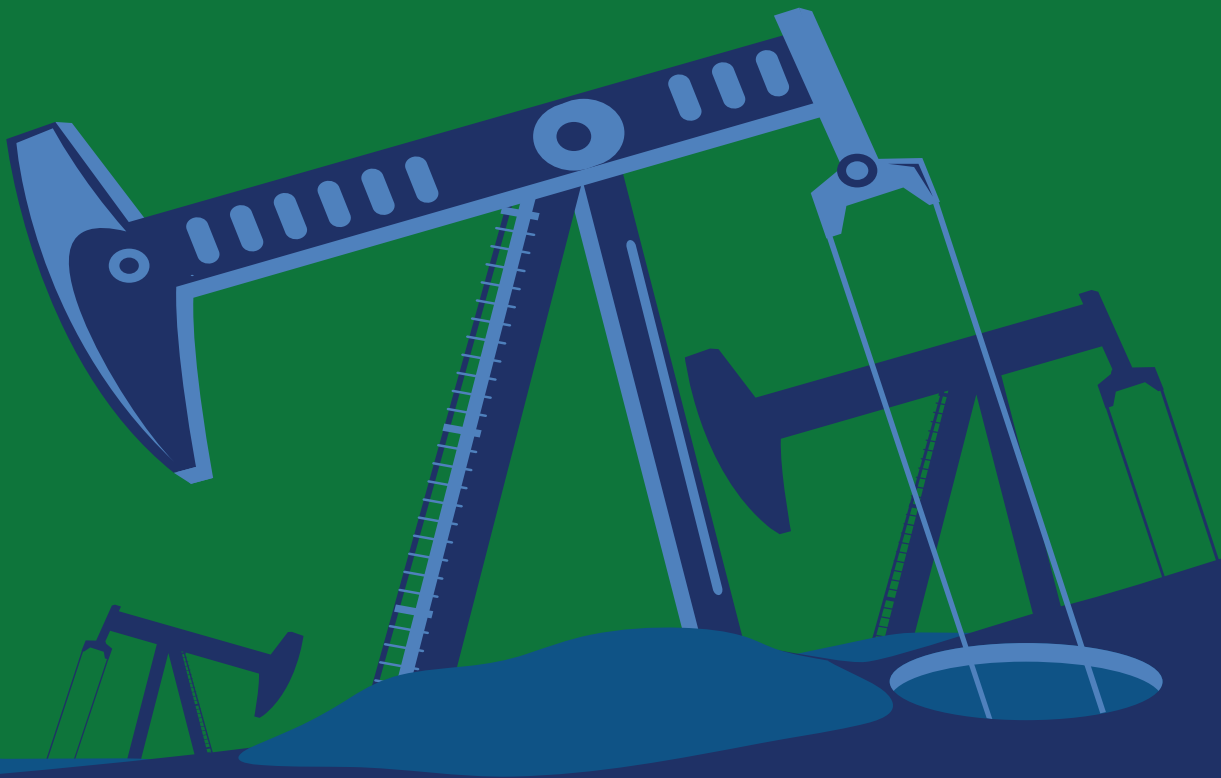




Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

GUYANA EITI OPEN DATA POLICY



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Background

ACT No. 21 of 2011 (Access to Information Act 2011) of the Laws of Guyana provides the rights for persons to secure access to information under the control of public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and public authorities. Part V of the Act provides exemptions to the access to information¹.

Whereas the Government of Guyana seeks to promote good governance through access to information for the citizens, the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the Extractive sector in Guyana.

In furtherance of these covenants, Guyana EITI Reports have been the main output of the GYEITI efforts and processes. These reports are approved and published by GYEITI Multi Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) annually for the mining, oil and gas, agriculture, and forestry sectors, since 2018.

Data included in the EITI reports covers all material payments by extractive companies to the government. It also includes exports, production, employment, and other relevant sector data as well as contextual information. Information found the EITI report is compiled and verified by an Independent Administrator recruited by GYEITI MSG.

GYEITI MSG seeks to implement an Open Data Policy in accordance with [Requirement 7.2.a of the 2019 EITI Standard](#). The requirement states that implementing countries should “agree a clear open data policy on the access, release and re-use of EITI data.” It is the expectation that government and companies will publish EITI data under an open license and inform users that the information can be reused without prior consent.

The Principles of Open Data

GYEITI's Open Data Policy is based on principles of the [International Open Data Charter](#) and domesticated to reflect GYEITI disclosure requirements.

They are as follows:

- Primary Data
- Open by Default
- Easy Access
- Timely Data Availability
- Completeness
- Machine Readability
- Free Use
- Comparable and Interoperability
- Improved Governance and Citizens Engagement
- Inclusive Development and Innovation

¹ [3650-act_no_21.pdf \[parliament.gov.gy\]](#)

GYEITI Open Data Policy Objectives

Open data policy is the governance instrument on making data publicly available and accessible in a format that is reusable, modifiable, in open format, easily retrievable, indexed, and well organized.

The key objectives of GYEITI's Open Data Policy are to:

- Provide unrestricted access and re-use of data on the extractive sector contained in GYEITI reports to the public to stimulate debates on the extraction and management of the country's natural resources under GYEITI scope.
- Enhance the demand-side of social accountability by providing the public access to information on the management and expenditure of revenues derived from extractive sector resources in order to promote sustainable development.
- Promote transparency and good governance in the use and management of Guyana's non-renewable natural resource revenues.
- To Eliminate the incidence of corruption and embezzlement in the country's extractive resource sector.
- Provide a valuable tool for government in improving policy making process.

Sources of Data for the Open Data

- The primary source of data shall be the GYEITI reports on the extractive sector.
- This would be complemented by credible data from other sector agencies assured through the application of international standard, subject to the approval of the MSG.

Guidelines for Open Data Policy Implementation by GYEITI

GYEITI MSG has agreed to the following measures to support implementation of the Open Data Policy:

- Promote regular updates and publication of credible data in a timely manner.
- Data published in Guyana EITI Reconciliation Report shall also be uploaded into the GYEITI open data portal and published on the GYEITI website in open data format such as excel or csv and others, subject to MSG approval.
- Provide adequate information on source of data, data gathering process and limitations on published data.
- Encourage the integration of the open data principles into government systems to promote ease of access to data at minimum cost to the user.
- Sensitize and educate stakeholders and the public on how to use and re-use published data on the open data portal.
- Ensure that data is interoperable and reflects current and future national and EITI standards (e.g. include GFS classification of revenue streams as encouraged by the EITI Standard).
- Liaise with the Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority (DCRA) to progressively digitize the Beneficial Ownership register and integrate the information into GYEITI disclosures.

- Promote and support the exchange of international best practices in the development and implementation of open data in GYEITI.
- Incorporate open data requirements into the Terms of Reference for the Independent Administrator.
- Undertaking studies and/or recommending reforms to promote routine automated online disclosure by companies and government agencies.

