

TACKLING DEFORESTATION THROUGH TRANSPARENCY

WHAT ARE CONCESSIONS?

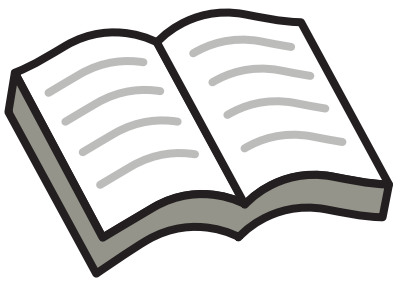
A concession grants rights to companies or individuals to exploit land for resources like timber, minerals or agricultural products. They are typically granted to private companies by governments on state-owned lands, including forests.

WHY IS CONCESSIONS TRANSPARENCY IMPORTANT?

Thirteen million hectares of forest (an area the size of Greece) are lost each year—much of it due to exploitative activities in concessions. A lack of comprehensive and accessible information about concessions in forested countries as well as a lack of global standards or incentives for the proactive release of these data limit our ability to accurately monitor this loss and identify who is responsible.

BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

8 ways governments can make concessions data more transparent:



TYPE OF ACCESS:

Make concessions data available to the public without a request



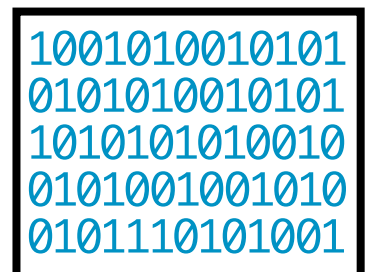
POINT OF ACCESS:

Make concessions data available through a public cadaster, register or online geportal



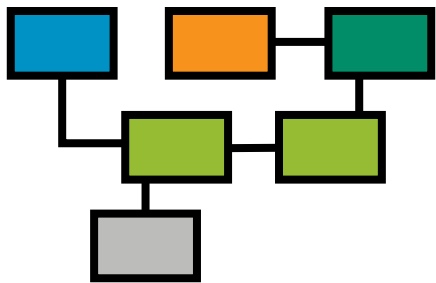
COST OF ACCESS:

Make concessions data available free of cost



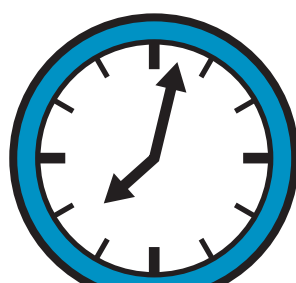
FORMAT:

Make concessions data digital, downloadable and machine readable



LICENSING:

Publish concessions data under an open license (free for use, reuse and redistribution)



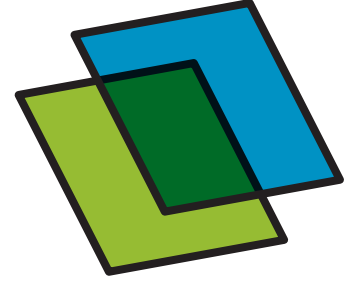
TIMELINESS:

Update concessions data in real or near real-time



COMPLETENESS:

Include attributes such as the who, what, where, when and current status of concessions

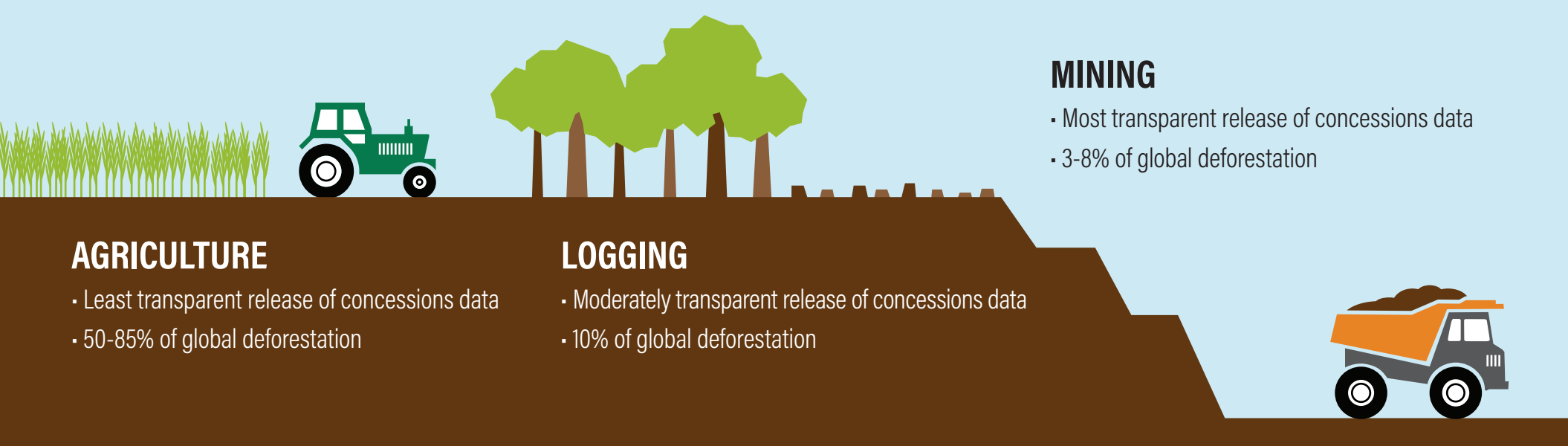


ACCURACY AND CONSISTENCY:

Make concessions data verifiable and consistent across different government agencies

TRANSPARENCY BY SECTOR

Commercial activities within concessions are major drivers of deforestation:



KEY FINDINGS

In a study of 14 countries, WRI found:

No country proactively disclosed comprehensive concessions data in open data formats.



Liberia proactively disclosed data for all sectors in the country on an online portal, however, data is only viewable and not downloadable.

Civil society plays an important role in disclosing concessions data in many countries.



In **Cambodia**, Open Development Cambodia provides access to concessions data for mining on an online platform in open data formats.

Voluntary partnerships are not consistently effective in promoting compliance to concession disclosure standards.



Indonesia is a member of a global initiative called the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative to promote data transparency in oil, gas and mining sectors, yet does not proactively disclose mining data.

FIND OUT MORE. There is need for concerted action by governments to facilitate greater access to concessions data to help curtail deforestation. Learn how other countries fare with concessions data transparency:

<http://www.wri.org/publication/logging-mining-and-agricultural-concessions-data-transparency>



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