NomoGaia’s activities expanded during the past five years to account for the changing landscape in business and human rights. To maximize our influence while remaining a small and efficient organization, we have leveraged partnerships with a variety of institutions. This report highlights that.

After an overview of our mission and history, this annual report describes our partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, with governments and with academic institutions, closing with an update on our ongoing human rights assessment work – the core of our mission – and our financial statements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director 3
About NomoGaia 4
The State, Business & Human Rights 6
Human Rights & Financial Institutions 7
Business, Human Rights & Children 8
Monitoring 9
Publishing 10
Featured Projects 11
Financials 13
Dear NomoGaia supporters,

2014 was considered by many to be a turning point in the business and human rights movement. Three years after the UN Guiding Principles were unanimously endorsed, the activists, governments and companies that had kept their distance from one another found common ground in a variety of global and local initiatives. NomoGaia had the opportunity to engage with each of these parties, through workshops, consultations, impact assessments and direct guidance.

We continued to partner with governments, companies, universities and intergovernmental organizations to amplify our voice and advance our work helping companies respect rights.

We piloted a fast-track human rights risk assessment methodology, engaged with the private security sector, and began an extended project to help international financial institutions understand and manage their responsibility to respect human rights.

We remain deeply grateful for your support, and we continue to be committed to providing actionable tools to advance the business and human rights movement.

Kendyl Salcito
Executive Director, NomoGaia
**Mission Statement.**

**NomoGaia** is a nonprofit research and policy organization dedicated to clarifying the role of business in the advancement of human rights, fostering greater human rights awareness among corporations, and securing greater protection of rights for people who are touched by increasingly globalized industries.
NomoGaia’s Background

NomoGaia has been developing, testing and publishing corporate human rights tools and field reports since 2008. At the outset our aim was to find workable solutions to human rights problems associated with corporate infrastructure development.

The urgency of this mandate was compounded in 2011 with the United Nations Human Rights Council’s unanimous endorsement of Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, which required companies to begin conducting “human rights due diligence” to verify and demonstrate that their operations respect human rights.

Defining the terms and boundaries of “human rights due diligence” has proven a long-term task. Collaborative approaches and relentless inquiry have effectively protected rights only when paired with a concrete means for assessment. We have made it our work to develop such assessment tools, applicable in diverse industries and contexts.

This has entailed communicating extensively with company representatives, unrepresented “rightsholders,” consultants, community leaders, NGOs, industry groups, governments and international bodies.

Our aim continues to be to produce the most effective, implementable tools available to companies, investors, governments and civil society members endeavoring to ensure that business respects human rights across the globe.
The State’s Role in Business & Human Rights

NomoGaia has continued to engage with governments that are working toward hard- and soft-law approaches to managing corporate impacts on human rights.

Our relationship with Tanzania’s Commission on Human Rights & Good Governance (CHRAGG) strengthened in 2014 as we ran a 4-day training on HRIA for 30 CHRAGG staff.


Engagement with Malawi’s Human Rights Commission, as well as its National Institute for Medical Research, is ongoing. Likewise, we have retained ties to Ghana’s Akoben industrial monitoring body.
Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) is a robust, time-intensive process for evaluating and managing human rights impacts. These assessments are most valuable (to both companies and rightsholders) where human rights risks are the greatest.

To identify sites where HRIA provides maximum benefit, a vetting process is needed. This is particularly true for the largest corporations, which have hundreds or thousands of global operations, not all of which can be evaluated simultaneously.

To help such companies prioritize their operations, we began developing a Human Rights Risk Assessment (HRRA) tool, which we piloted in the financial sector in 2014. One pilot, in Jordan, retroactively evaluated the human rights impacts of investment in Amman’s domestic water sector. Applying the tool retrospectively enabled us to look at impacts as they existed, allowing us to consider the chain of events that culminated in certain negative outcomes. The second, prognostic, pilot was employed on a World Bank-funded power plant refurbishment in Myanmar.

We look forward to implementing it on (and tuning it for) industries such as food and beverage producers, manufacturing companies and other businesses with global supply and production chains in the future.
Due Diligence to Protect Children

Children are affected by business in myriad subtle ways. Their parents may be enriched by employment with a multinational corporation or marginalized when big business supplants them from artisanal livelihoods.

Children may be involved in labor to support a corporate supply chain, breaking stones for roads used by company vehicles; or they may gain their first-ever opportunity to attend school due to corporate investment in local skills development.

Young girls may become the objects of employee flirtations, which can have significant consequences for their standing in society. Young boys may become involved in anti-corporate activities that lead to arrests or other government sanctions.

In 2014 NomoGaia worked closely with UNICEF, both on guidance documents for companies seeking to respect the rights of children in their operations, and in dialogs with the private sector as they described the struggles they experience while trying to manage their impacts on youth.

Leading a workshop for the Mining Association of Canada and UNICEF, we produced basic overviews of issues and potential management approaches.
MONITORING

TULLOW OIL – HOIMA, UGANDA

Two years after completing initial fieldwork on Tullow’s exploration operations in Hoima, we published our initial human rights risk assessment, alongside a policy update. Tullow engaged extensively with NomoGaia in 2014 preceding the publication of the update.

GREEN RESOURCES – UCHINDILE, TANZANIA

This year we carried out our fourth monitoring mission at Uchindile, tracking continued improvements in human rights conditions. The lucrative forestry industry has brought new political power to the people of Uchindile, which they are using to secure improvements in schools, water access and other infrastructure. Housing conditions remain a challenge for workers living in dormitories, however the company has committed to make continuing upgrades. At present, wages are livable, retirement support is beneficial, unionization rights are respected and working conditions, while not yet to human rights standards, are improving.
There is a strong push to benchmark human rights against established indicators. In 8 years as practitioners of human rights due diligence, NomoGaia has learned the limitations of such indicators. We explain. 

http://bit.ly/17tQ0r6

Human rights conditions are not static, they change as a company’s operations change. As such, impacts identified early in construction will differ from those during mid-operations. This paper demonstrates that ongoing human rights monitoring enables companies to more nimbly address human rights risks before they become impacts. doi:10.1016/j.eiar.2014.03.004

The World Bank has begun a multi-year, consultative process of updating the guidelines by which it aims to protect the people and environments affected by World Bank loans. We contributed inputs based directly on our findings assessing a World Bank loan in Myanmar. 


Input into World Bank Safeguards Review

Monitoring in Human Rights Due Diligence

The London School of Economics and Political Science
NomoGaia began piloting a human rights risk assessment methodology in 2014, emphasizing the identifiable risks in project finance to help guide international financial institutions to make loans and investments that respect rights. One pilot was in Myanmar (formerly referred to as Burma).

The World Bank is underwriting an urgently-needed upgrade to a 40-year-old powerplant on Myanmar’s dysfunctional and inadequate grid. In its technical components, the loan is sensible, strategic and important for Myanmar’s development.

In its implementation, it poses major human rights risks.

At Thaton, an ethnic-majority workforce supplies power to a grid dominated by ethnic-majority institutions, while the ethnic minorities of the area are left in the dark. Meanwhile, within the power plant itself, workforce health and safety is managed so precariously that workers arrive on site to operate heavy machinery in flip flops.

The aging plant requires replacement, but replacement itself is complicated by the 40 years of mismanagement. Operations have contaminated soils directly below the plant and, likely, downstream from the plant, where farmers grow rice and other subsistence crops.

When our risk assessment commenced, the World Bank consultants had not collected soil samples. They had not interviewed local populations in the local Karen language. They had not surveyed workers to understand labor conditions.

After receiving our preliminary assessment findings, the World Bank has slowed the timeline for the plant’s development and commissioned the soil and water studies needed. In early 2015 it sent a social consultant to evaluate our findings and contribute to the development of management strategies. The World Bank’s work, and ours, is ongoing.
OPIC, EIB, AFD Disi Water Pipeline - Jordan

Our second financial sector human rights risk assessment pilot was carried out on the Disi Water Conveyance Project, transporting domestic water to Amman from a fossil aquifer on the Saudi border. The pipeline and associated infrastructure transports water 325 kilometers and cost $1.1 billion to construct. Operating costs are also high, owing to the fuel costs for pumping water such a great distance.

NomoGaia first began investigating the human rights impacts of Disi when it was under construction in 2011. The impacts of the pipeline construction proved largely insignificant, while the impacts of its operation were markedly more complex.

We developed approaches to evaluate impacts on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in order to narrow the scope of investigation from the full suite of human rights.

Findings from this pilot project will be targeted toward the pipeline’s funders, because the Government of Jordan would not have been capable of implementing the costly infrastructure project without foreign assistance. Evaluating whether that assistance contributed to human rights respect has involved in-depth political analysis, which is not as essential in project-level HRIA.

This work was conducted with collaboration from a practicum course at the American University School of International Service.
Financials

NomoGaia operates on an extremely small budget. Expenditures for 2014 totaled under $13,000. This is possible partly because experts generously donate their time and facilities to assist our work. These contributions are not fully reflected in our “in kind” donations, but we wish to acknowledge those who contribute to our work in meaningful but unquantifiable ways.

Revenues

Expenditures
NomoGaia is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. EIN# 33-1203791