

# Asset-level Data Initiative

( A D I )

Making accurate, comparable, and comprehensive

asset-level data publicly available globally

**CALL FOR PARTNERS**



**Stanford University**



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## ADI Call for Partners

### Mission

*To make accurate, comparable, and comprehensive asset-level data tied to ownership publicly available across key sectors and geographies*

### Objectives

The Asset-level Data Initiative (ADI) is a new non-commercial research-based initiative to support the bringing together of existing asset-level data with new sources of data. ADI will support efforts to collect, verify, and distribute asset-level data on all companies in key sectors globally, regardless of whether they disclose or not. This information would enable the assessment of asset, company, asset manager, asset owner, and system-wide exposure to a wide range of environmental factors in a granular and comparable way. Such datasets will enable new value added analysis, from academics and civil society through to consultants and service providers. In the absence of perfect reporting by companies ADI is critically important for integrating the environment into decision-making across the financial system.

ADI has three objectives:

The first is to **drive the use** of asset-level data. This involves making the case through research; educating stakeholders on appropriate policies and regulations; building awareness among potential users; capacity building; promoting the introduction of a Principle of Asset-level Disclosure; and showcasing the potential of asset-level data.

The second objective is to **improve access** to asset-level data. This concerns lowering costs; ensuring format consistency and standardization; linking to commercial (e.g. Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, S&P, Morningstar etc) and non-commercial (e.g. CDP, WRI etc) distribution channels; ensuring data distribution is consistent with user licensing and IP constraints; and developing the back-end IT infrastructure.

The third objective is to **enhance the quality** of asset-level data. ADI will increase the coverage and quality of asset-level data; match, clean, and integrate data sets; develop co-ordinated work programmes to address gaps; develop and pioneer new techniques using big data, remote sensing, and advanced analytics to improve the quality and coverage of datasets; and work to enhance estimation methodologies to make sure that where estimation has to be used, it is used in a transparent and accountable way.

## Call for Partners

ADI is inviting organisations to become ADI Partners. These will be organisations creating, verifying, using, and supporting asset-level data. Partners will become part of the governance of ADI and in varying degrees, based on organisational preferences and priorities, contribute to the development of ADI. All ADI Partners will be recognised on the ADI website and in relevant materials.

ADI is being established by four Founder Partners: University of Oxford (Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme), Stanford University (Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy & Finance and the Global Projects Center), CDP, World Resources Institute, and 2 Degrees Investing Initiative.

In addition to the founders, we envisage four types of partner: Research Partners (organisations working to create and verify asset-level data), Technology Partners (organisations providing hardware, software, and expertise to support ADI and its mission), User Partners (organisations that use asset-level data, including investors, regulators, policymakers, researchers, companies, and civil society), and Funder Partners (funders of ADI). **This call for applications is targeting potential Research Partners and User Partners.**

**To apply to become an ADI Research Partner and/or User Partner please email ADI (via [ben.caldecott@smithschool.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ben.caldecott@smithschool.ox.ac.uk)) with the following information:**

- *The legal name and details of your organisation, including details of incorporation and domicile.*
- *Why asset-level data is relevant to your organisation and its priorities.*
- *How you think your organisation could contribute to ADI and its mission.*
- *Who in your organisation would be represented in the governance of ADI.*

The rights and responsibilities of each type of partnership are outlined below. Organisations may span multiple partnership categories. For example, an organisation could be a Funder Partner, as well as Research Partner and a User Partner or a Research Partner could also be a Technology Partner. As ADI is a new project the roles of partners may evolve over time and bespoke partnership arrangements can also be developed based on the needs of ADI and prospective partners.

### *Founder Partners*

- Establish ADI on a firm and sustainable basis
- Guardians of ADI's non-commercial public goods mission
- Ensure sufficient ADI transparency and accountability for stakeholders
- ADI Executive Committee in start-up phase
- Promote the use of asset-level data

### *Funder Partners*

- Provide grants or sponsorship for the work of ADI

- Have transparency and accountability on impact of grants
- Promote the use of asset-level data
- Other benefits negotiated on a case-by-case basis

#### *Research Partners*

- Support or undertake the collection and verification of asset-level data
- Share asset-level data
- Share research resources and participate in the coordination of research on asset-level data
- Participate in funding bids to undertake research on asset-level data
- Promote the use of asset-level data

#### *Technology Partners*

- Provide hardware, software, and expertise to support ADI and its mission
- Help develop novel technical methodologies and approaches for ADI to better fulfil its mission
- Promote the use of asset-level data

#### *User Partners*

- Participate to ensure that asset-level data is useable and useful
- Integrate asset-level data into workflow where relevant and possible
- Promote the use of asset-level data

## Governance

ADI is a 'structured network' – a much needed layer that sits above existing organisations to coordinate work; collect and distribute data; and make the case for asset-level data. ADI is currently a project run as a consortium between the Founder Partners, though it will acquire its own legal identity as the initiative develops.

By demonstrating coordination among organisations, particularly in terms of harmonised workflow and funding bids, ADI will increase the attractiveness of funding work on asset-level data. There are significant benefits of building ADI through well-established entities with proven track records and there are also potential economies associated with not creating an entirely new organisation in the first instance.

Each ADI Partner will nominate a representative to sit on the ADI Council. The ADI Council may nominate and elect an Executive Committee that will run and manage ADI operations day-to-day. There may also be an ADI Advisory Board, consisting of distinguished individuals to provide advice and guidance to ADI.

These three elements – the ADI Council, Executive Committee, and Advisory Board – will be constituted informally before being placed on a more formal footing through relevant governance arrangements.

In future, an Executive Committee may further delegate responsibilities to a Management Team. Depending on future decisions regarding the constitution of ADI, there may also be ADI Trustees or Board Members of a legal entity, which may or may not overlap with the Executive Committee.

The ADI Council, consisting of ADI Partners, will meet in person or via an appropriate teleconference, at least once per year. An Executive Committee will meet more regularly as required to operationalise ADI. The Advisory Board would meet once or twice per year.

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