

Mercedes Sotoca
Head of Environmental and Social Risk Management
ING Bank
Netherlands

We actually had a look at the questions and overall methodology a few days ago and have the following observations:

- It is an in-depth assessment covering key environmental & social risk including climate and water distress, human rights and biodiversity;
- As an Equator Principles Bank we welcome the mapping done with the IFC performance Standards;
- We appreciate having an indicator not addressed in other benchmarks which is contribution to Economic Development in the region;
- The benchmark will cover 30 companies and specific ESR approaches for 150 mining assets (5 assets per mining company) which is new if compared of other benchmarks/ratings.

We have no material comments on the methodology. However we were wondering what will be your criteria to select the 30 companies and underlying assets (other than region and size as mention in the documentation). We also see a large number of new benchmark initiatives that specifically target extractive industry and wonder how these companies (including mining companies) are reacting to the amount of different benchmarks and long questionnaires that are coming their way.