

Financing Extractives in Southern Africa: Questions on Human Rights Due Diligence

The [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) make clear that all companies have a responsibility to respect human rights. This includes avoiding negative impacts on people affected by their operations and business relationships, including throughout their supply chains, and addressing negative impacts when they do occur.

Financial institutions play a critical role in determining which projects and companies receive access to capital. This survey aims to better understand the current approach banks and investment firms take to assessing their clients with respect to human rights issues in the extractive industries. Human rights issues in the sector include the rights to land, access to clean water, livelihood, fair and safe working conditions, and consultation about the use of land and other natural resources. They also include respect for indigenous land rights and adherence to the process of securing free, prior and informed consent.

It is our hope that you will view this invitation as an opportunity share your institution's best practices with the investor community and a chance to exchange knowledge. Thank you for your time.

Name of company: _____

1. What policies and procedures does your institution have to undertake human rights due diligence regarding the companies and projects it finances, beyond what is publicly available on your website?
2. Do you require new clients or new projects in the extractives sector to have undertaken human rights due diligence prior to providing financing?
3. Which human rights issues are included in your risk assessment process for extractive projects?
4. Does your institution adapt its human rights policies and procedures for the specific sector of investment in order to account for the varied risks across sectors? If so, do you have specific policies on the mining sector?
5. Does your institution adapt its human rights policies and procedures for the specific country of investment in order to account for the varied risks across nations? If so, do you have specific policies for any countries or areas in Southern Africa?
6. Who assesses human rights risks at your bank (departments, positions, internal/external, etc.)?
7. Do you require companies to have grievance mechanisms in place for each extractive project and if so, what do you see as essential in an effective grievance mechanism?

8. Have you ever taken any steps to require or support a client in remediating a human rights impact?
9. Have you ever withheld loans or other financial services as a result of a human rights assessment or allegation?
10. Do you undertake any form of on the ground assessment of conditions at project sites?

Further information and guidance:

[UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)

[OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#)

[Mapping of Sustainable Development Goals to human rights instruments and issues](#)

[OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#)

[EU Regulation on Due Diligence in Mineral Supply Chains - Civil Society Guidance for Companies](#)