

Divulgación de información del sitio web de productos financieros: resumen

Worldwide Positive Change Fund

Tenga en cuenta que la siguiente divulgación en materia de sostenibilidad tiene como objetivo proporcionarle un reflejo indicativo de la estrategia en la que invierte. En algunos casos, esta divulgación no proporcionará una representación completa de su mandato si ha modificado cualquiera de los compromisos o las restricciones relacionados con los factores ESG.

Sin perjuicio significativo para el objetivo de inversión sostenible

Tras la inversión y a lo largo de la vida útil del producto, los indicadores obligatorios relativos a las incidencias adversas que figuran en la tabla 1 del Anexo I de las Normas Técnicas de Regulación (RTS, por sus siglas en inglés) del SFDR y los indicadores de inclusión voluntaria relativos a las incidencias adversas seleccionadas por el Gestor de Inversiones, que figuran en las tablas 2 y 3 del Anexo I de las RTS del SFDR y se considera que indican la presencia de una principal incidencia adversa, se evalúan y excluyen, o se supervisan, dependiendo del indicador de principal incidencia adversa.

El Gestor de Inversiones valorará a las empresas mediante una evaluación basada en normas y el cumplimiento de su política sobre la evaluación del incumplimiento de los principios del Pacto Mundial de las Naciones Unidas para empresas, tal como se describe en el documento «Stewardship Principles and Guidelines» (Principios y directrices de administración) de Baillie Gifford.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Objetivo de inversión sostenible del producto financiero

El Fondo tiene como objetivo contribuir a un mundo más sostenible e inclusivo invirtiendo principalmente en valores de renta variable de empresas cuyos productos o servicios tengan un impacto social o medioambiental positivo en relación con las cuatro temáticas de impacto del Fondo, que representan los principales retos globales: (i) inclusión social y educación, (ii) necesidades medioambientales y de recursos, (iii) atención sanitaria y calidad de vida, y (iv) base de la pirámide (es decir, atender las necesidades de los cuatro mil millones de personas más pobres del mundo). El análisis de impacto se realiza utilizando un marco basado en la evaluación de tres factores: (i) la

intención, (ii) el impacto del producto y (iii) las prácticas empresariales.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Estrategia de inversión

El Fondo se gestiona de forma activa y se centra en invertir al menos el 90 % en valores de renta variable de empresas cuyos productos o servicios tengan un impacto social o medioambiental positivo. El Fondo emplea una estrategia de impacto que se describe a continuación, ya que pretende contribuir a un mundo más sostenible e inclusivo y al crecimiento del capital a largo plazo. Además de la estrategia de impacto, el Fondo utiliza la evaluación basada en normas, la exclusión en función de la actividad empresarial y la gestión activa para lograr el objetivo de inversión sostenible.

El Gestor de Inversiones aplica una política para evaluar la buena gobernanza en áreas que abarcan las estructuras de buena gestión, las relaciones con los trabajadores, la remuneración del personal y el cumplimiento de las obligaciones fiscales. Las empresas que no superen esta evaluación no formarán parte del Fondo.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Proporción de inversiones

Con el fin de alcanzar el objetivo de inversión sostenible promovido por el Fondo, este debe invertir generalmente al menos el 90 % de sus activos totales en valores de renta variable de empresas (directamente, aunque también puede invertir indirectamente a través de organismos de inversión colectiva aptos) cuyos productos o servicios tengan un impacto social o medioambiental positivo en relación con las cuatro temáticas de impacto del Fondo, que representan los principales retos globales. Esto incluye una proporción mínima de un 1 % de inversiones sostenibles con un objetivo medioambiental alineado con la taxonomía de la UE, un 9 % de inversiones sostenibles con un objetivo medioambiental no alineado con la taxonomía de la UE y un 40 % de inversiones sostenibles con un objetivo social. El 40 % restante se repartirá entre otras

inversiones medioambiental o socialmente sostenibles, pero sin asignación fija, ya que esto dependerá de la disponibilidad de oportunidades de inversión sostenibles. Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Seguimiento del objetivo de inversión sostenible

Las características medioambientales o sociales se supervisan interna y externamente de diversas maneras. El Fondo utiliza la evaluación basada en normas, las exclusiones en función de la actividad empresarial y la gestión activa, además de la estrategia de impacto, para respaldar el logro de las características medioambientales o sociales promovidas. Estos métodos se implementan continuamente mediante el cumplimiento y el seguimiento constantes de los compromisos vinculantes.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Métodos

Se utilizan los siguientes indicadores para medir el logro del objetivo de inversión sostenible:

- El porcentaje de inversiones que cumplen la evaluación del impacto.
- El porcentaje de inversiones vinculadas a los ODS (Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible) de las Naciones Unidas.
- El porcentaje de inversiones que cumplen la política del Gestor de Inversiones sobre la evaluación del incumplimiento de los principios del Pacto Mundial de las Naciones Unidas para empresas.
- El porcentaje de inversiones que cumplen con las exclusiones en función de la actividad empresarial.
- El porcentaje de las posiciones votadas.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Fuentes y tratamiento de datos

El Gestor de Inversiones utiliza una combinación de análisis internos (documentados con información de fuentes públicas divulgada por las empresas en las que se invierte) y fuentes de datos de terceros para lograr cada una de las características medioambientales o sociales que promueve el Fondo.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Limitaciones de los métodos y los datos

El panorama de los datos ESG está avanzando rápidamente, y tanto la calidad como la metodología de los datos se enfrentan actualmente a retos que afectan a todo el sector, tales como la falta de divulgación de información corporativa y la evolución de los requisitos normativos.

Estas limitaciones se mitigan principalmente con la propia investigación interna e implicación activa con las empresas del Gestor de Inversiones, así como mediante la comparación de métricas clave con diferentes proveedores de datos. A causa de esta mitigación, el Gestor de Inversiones considera que la promoción de las características medioambientales y sociales apenas se ha visto alterada.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Diligencia debida

El punto de partida de todas las estrategias de Baillie Gifford es el análisis fundamental ascendente de valores. Este proceso se centra en describir las empresas, el sector en el que operan y su enfoque en cuanto a cuestiones materiales o posibles cuestiones materiales.

El acceso a datos externos de proveedores independientes ayuda a describir más detalladamente cada posición, y se valora en gran medida la búsqueda de perspectivas e información de expertos e investigadores externos para ayudar a fundamentar el enfoque del Fondo.

Al margen del Fondo, el Gestor de Inversiones aplica continuamente la diligencia debida a toda la actividad empresarial para supervisar los compromisos que se establecen, tal y como se especifica en la sección relativa al seguimiento, bajo la vigilancia de un comité designado.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Políticas de implicación

La supervisión de las inversiones y la implicación que el Gestor de Inversiones realiza en nombre de los clientes es un factor esencial en el proceso de inversión y un aspecto fundamental del modo en que el Gestor de Inversiones ejerce sus responsabilidades administrativas. Todos los gestores de inversiones, los analistas de inversiones y los analistas ESG participan en este proceso. Se reúnen con el equipo directivo y otros miembros del personal ejecutivo, jefes de divisiones y miembros no ejecutivos.

Cada año, se divulgará información relativa a las inversiones que estén sujetas a procesos formales de implicación y seguimiento en virtud de la política del Gestor de Inversiones sobre la evaluación del incumplimiento de los principios del Pacto Mundial de las Naciones Unidas para empresas.

Puede encontrar más información sobre la política de implicación del Gestor de Inversiones en el documento «Stewardship Principles and Guidelines» (Principios y directrices de administración) de Baillie Gifford, que está disponible públicamente en su sitio web.

Puede consultar más información en el texto completo de la divulgación de información.

Logro del objetivo de inversión sostenible

No se ha designado ningún índice como índice de referencia para lograr las características medioambientales o sociales que promueve el producto. Cada año se publica un informe sobre el impacto positivo del cambio, que está disponible públicamente en el sitio web de Baillie Gifford. En este informe se muestra cómo cada empresa de la cartera está aportando cambios positivos a través de sus productos y servicios. En el informe se incluyen las métricas clave de cada empresa en relación con las aportaciones de sus productos y servicios a las cuatro temáticas de impacto y su contribución a los ODS.

Financial product website disclosure

Worldwide Positive Change Fund

This document provides the investor with detailed information about the fund in relation to the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation ('SFDR'). This is a regulatory document required under SFDR. The information contained in this document is to help the investor understand the sustainability characteristics and/or objectives and risks of this fund. This document should be read in conjunction with other relevant regulatory documentation so the investor can make an informed decision to invest.

No significant harm to the sustainable investment objective

Upon investment and over the life of the product, mandatory indicators for adverse impacts in Table 1 of Annex I of SFDR Regulatory Technical Standards ('RTS') and opt-in indicators for adverse impacts selected by the Investment Manager in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex I of SFDR RTS that are deemed to indicate the presence of a principal adverse impact are assessed and excluded or monitored depending on the principal adverse impact indicator. When not explicitly excluded, principal adverse impacts are monitored through stewardship activities which include the following non-exhaustive actions to mitigate or reduce principal adverse impacts: (a) voting (b) dialogue and engagement and (c) collaborative activities. In instances wherein a sustainability objective has been agreed with the investee company as part of stewardship activities and this objective is not achieved, escalation measures (e.g. collective engagement) will be initiated. Divestment, although an action that can be taken, will be the last resort.

The Investment Manager will assess companies using norms-based evaluation and their compliance with its policy on assessing breaches of United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business as outlined in Baillie Gifford's Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document. As such, all the companies in which the Fund invests in are expected to operate in accordance with

the principles set out in the United Nations Global Compact and related standards, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Sustainable investment objective of the financial product

The Fund aims to contribute towards a more sustainable and inclusive world by investing primarily in the equities companies whose products and/or services make a positive social and/or environmental impact in the Fund's four impact themes, each of which represent key global challenges: (i) social inclusion and education, (ii) environment and resource needs, (iii) healthcare and quality of life and (iv) base of the pyramid (i.e. addressing the needs of the poorest four billion people in the world). The impact analysis is carried out using a framework that is based upon assessing three factors: (i) intent, (ii) product impact and (iii) business practices. Through the product impact analysis, all companies in the Fund's portfolio are included because their products and/or services address a global environmental or social challenge. As part of the assessment of product impact, the contribution that the companies' products and/or services are making to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is mapped by using the 169 targets that underpin the SDGs. The UN SDGs are made up of 17 goals some of which can be mapped on a high-level basis against the six environmental objectives outlined in the EU Taxonomy. As the Fund does not invest in line with a predetermined environmental theme, there is no commitment as to which specific environmental objectives in the EU Taxonomy the Fund contributes to. However, these specific environmental objectives will be disclosed as part of the periodic reporting template to be appended to the annual report.

Investment strategy

The investment strategy of the Fund is to produce capital growth over the long term and contribute towards a more sustainable and inclusive world by investing at least 90% in the equities of companies whose products and/or services in the Investment Manager's opinion, deliver a positive social and/or environmental impact.

Investments will initially be selected by the Investment Manager based on its own research. An independent analysis of a company's products and/or services will be conducted to assess whether they contribute to one of the four impact themes. The impact analysis is carried out using a qualitative framework that is based upon assessing three factors: (i) intent, (ii) product impact and (iii) business practices. All companies in the Fund's portfolio are included because their products and/or services address a global environmental or social challenge.

As part of the assessment of product impact, the contribution that the companies' products and/or services are making to the UN SDGs is mapped by using the 169 targets that underpin the UN SDGs. Companies are assessed to determine which targets they are contributing to through the delivery of their products and the SDG mapping methodology and process has been independently assessed by a third party auditor.

The Investment Manager will manage the Fund in order to align the Fund's holdings with the goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C ("net zero"). As part of this process, all portfolio companies are actively assessed and prioritised for engagement for their alignment with net zero on an ongoing basis.

The Fund will comply with the Investment Manager's policy on assessing breaches of the United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business as outlined in Baillie Gifford's Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document and will exclude from the Funds holdings: (i) companies that derive 10 per cent. or more of annual revenues from the production of military weapon systems and components, and provision of support systems and services for production of military weapon systems and components; (ii) companies that derive 1 per cent. or more of their annual revenues from the exploration, mining, extraction, distribution and/or refining of thermal coal; (iii) companies that derive 10 per cent. or more of their annual revenues from the exploration, extraction, distribution and/or refining of oil; (iv) companies that derive 50 per cent. or more of their annual revenues from the exploration, extraction, manufacturing and/or distribution of gas; (v) companies that derive 50 per cent. or more of their annual revenues from electricity generation with a GHG intensity of more than 100g CO₂ e/kWh; (vi) companies involved in the production of tobacco.

The Investment Manager exerts the right to vote by voting according to its Voting Policy, unless impediments occur (e.g. share blocking). The Investment Manager's Voting Policy is available publicly on its website.

SFDR requires that products promoting environmental and/or social characteristics do not invest in companies who do not follow good governance practices. As such, the Investment Manager has adopted a policy to apply 'good governance tests' on areas covering sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. Companies that do not pass these tests will not be held in the Fund.

The Investment Manager believes that good governance works best when there are diverse skillsets and perspectives, paired with an inclusive culture and strong independent representation to assist, advise and constructively challenge the thinking of management. However, the Investment Manager also believes that there is no fixed formula to create a constructive and purposeful board but it expects that boards have the resources, information, cognitive and experiential diversity they need to fulfil its responsibilities. More detail on the Investment Manager's policy to assess good governance practices of investee companies can be found in Baillie Gifford's Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document, which is publicly available on its website.

Proportion of investment

To meet the sustainable investment objective, the Fund generally invests at least 90% of its total assets in equity securities of companies whose products and/or services make a positive social and/or environmental impact in the Fund's four impact themes, each of which represent key global challenges. The remaining proportion of the investments are primarily cash and cash equivalents but may also include investments used for efficient portfolio management purposes (e.g. currency forwards to reduce currency risk). Cash is a residual element of the investment process and as such, it does not affect the promoted environmental and/or social characteristics of the Fund. The assessment of counterparties and issuers for cash management (including cash and cash equivalents) focuses on creditworthiness of these parties, which can be impacted by sustainability risks.

The expected minimum level of Taxonomy alignment is at least 1% of the Fund's investments in the equity securities of companies calculated using turnover as the key performance indicator due to the nature of companies being non-financial undertakings. This expected minimum level of Taxonomy alignment has been obtained through a combination of third-party data and investment research. At the end of the accounting period, investments made in economic activities contributing to an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy will be disclosed and those investments' compliance with the requirements laid down under the EU Taxonomy will not

be subject to an assurance or review provided by an auditor or third party.

The Fund commits to having a minimum proportion of sustainable investments of 9% with an environmental objective not aligned with the EU Taxonomy and 40% with a social objective. To achieve the 90% total sustainable investment commitment, the remaining 40% will be allocated between other environmental and/or socially sustainable investments but with no fixed allocation as this will depend on the availability of sustainable investment opportunities. Economic activities that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy are not necessarily environmentally harmful or unsustainable. In addition, not all economic activities are covered by the EU Taxonomy Regulation and its Delegated Acts as it is not possible to develop criteria for all sectors where activities could conceivably make a substantial contribution.

Monitoring of sustainable investment objective

The environmental and/or social characteristics are monitored internally and externally in a variety of ways. The Fund uses norms-based evaluation, business activity-based exclusions and active ownership in addition to the impact strategy to support the attainment of the promoted environmental and/or social characteristics and these are implemented on a continuous basis through ongoing compliance with, and monitoring of, the binding commitments. A nominated committee has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the environmental and/or social characteristics the Fund is promoting, and exceptions-based reporting is sent to this committee quarterly for challenge and oversight.

- The monitoring of positive social impact is ongoing and is interwoven with our monitoring of the investment case for a company. The Investment Manager looks at company reports and disclosures and are engaged with management, monitors significant news, always with a focus on the long term and the key milestones a company is expected to reach in order to deliver impact. The sell discipline mirrors our buy discipline: it is based on fundamentals. With a long-term investment horizon, portfolio turnover will be low, expected to be below 20% per annum over the long term. The Investment Manager will carefully monitor the companies in which the Fund invests through ongoing research and engagement with management teams. It is inevitable that companies will have setbacks and the Investment Manager is happy to own companies through periods of short-term operational weakness. However, if longer-term concerns develop that are not addressed by management or, if there is a deterioration in the fundamental impact (or investment) case detected, the Fund will sell a holding. Similarly, if a company has performed as expected and the impact (or investment) case has played out over the long term (five years plus), then the Fund will sell the holding. The Investment Manager has developed a robust

approach using its in-depth knowledge of companies

to measure the impact of sustainable investments. Consistent with the Investment Manager's bottom-up, fundamental investment approach, it identifies bespoke metrics for each company that will help monitor its progress in delivering positive change. This impact is represented through 'The Positive Chain', a model which illustrates how each company is contributing to positive outcomes and impacts through their inputs, activities and outputs. The Investment Manager depends primarily on company reported data but does not limit itself to current levels of disclosure: where there are gaps it will engage with companies and request more information.

- The designated investment restrictions team monitors compliance with the policy on assessing breaches of United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business (norms-based evaluation), working in conjunction with ESG analysts and/or the investment managers and using a third-party data feed (which is updated quarterly), supplemented by internal research.
- Exclusion of business activities deemed harmful to the environment and society (business activity-based exclusions) is monitored by the designated investment restrictions team on a daily basis, working in conjunction with ESG analysts and/or the investment managers and using a live third-party data feed, supplemented by internal research.
- Voting is monitored and actioned by voting analysts as and when votes are due, working in conjunction with other ESG analysts and/or the investment managers and reported to clients on a quarterly basis.

Methodologies

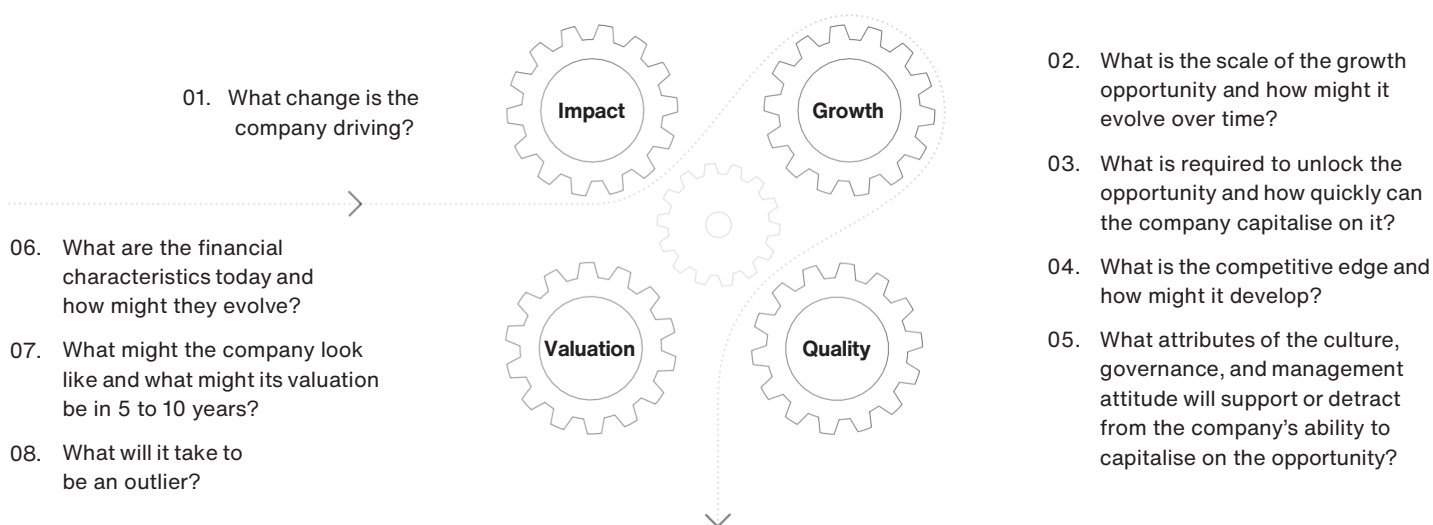
The following indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective:

- The % of investments that meet the impact assessment.
- The % of investments that have linkage with UN SDGs.
- The % of investments that comply with the Investment Manager's policy on assessing breaches of United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business.
- The % of investments that comply with the business activity-based exclusions.
- The % of holdings voted.

Reflecting that Positive Change has two objectives: investment returns and impact, there are two stages to the research process: fundamental company analysis and impact analysis. The Investment Manager looks for companies for whom delivering a positive impact is core to their business; whose products and services represent a significant improvement to the status quo; and whose people conduct business with honesty and integrity.

Fundamental Company Analysis

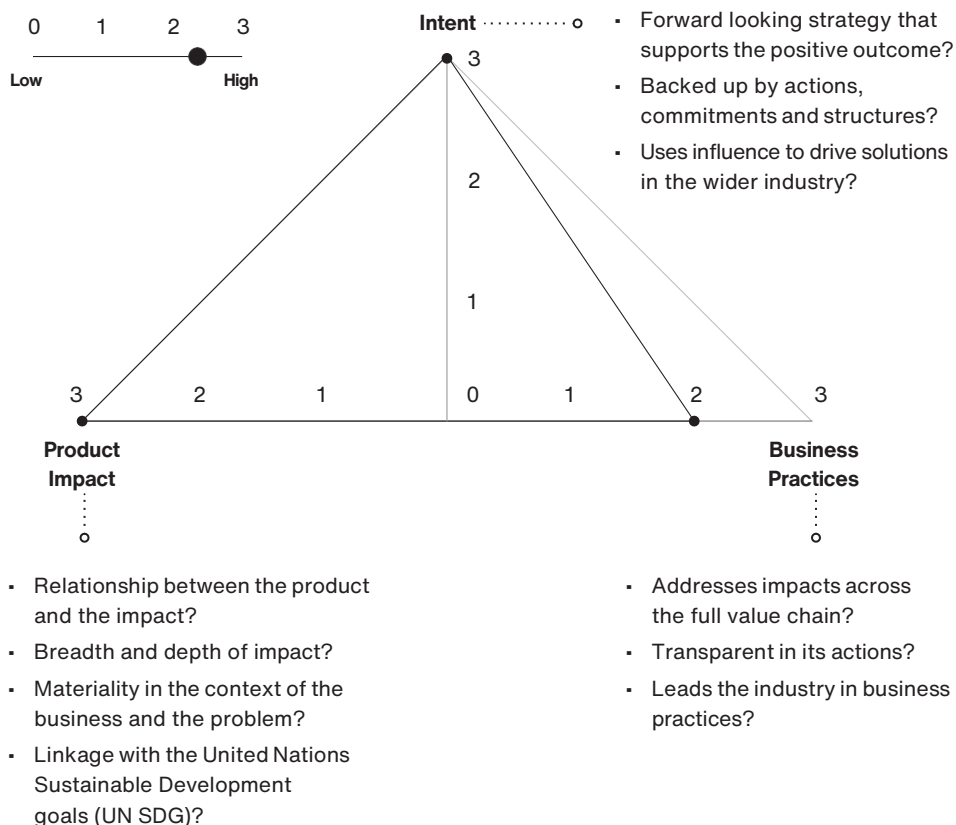
Fundamental company research involves a portfolio manager or an analyst examining eight questions relating to the quality of the business and its growth prospects, as well as the impact the company is expected to deliver.



To assess the growth potential and quality of a business, the company's broad opportunity set is considered, as well as the strength and durability of the competitive advantage, the financial characteristics and management attitudes. To assess the expected impact of a holding, the Investment Manager considers the challenge the company is tackling, its product characteristics, if relevant, and business practices. If a company has backing from a portfolio manager, it will be taken forward to the second stage of research: The Impact Analysis.

Impact Analysis

The second stage of research focuses specifically on the impact potential of a business. This is carried out by one of the Positive Change Team's Impact Analysts. Analysing impact is complex and can be highly subjective. Impact analysis is carried out independent of the investment case using a rigorous, qualitative framework that is based upon three factors, shown below.



This analysis is holistic: the Investment Manager recognises that there is no perfect company and under each of these three factors areas of controversy are also considered, the negative consequences of operations and a company’s awareness of those issues.

The Positive Change Strategy may only invest in companies where delivering a positive impact is core to their business and whose products or services represent an improvement to the status quo. Any new purchases will be checked against the below activities to ensure they are not deemed detrimental to the Positive Change Strategy:

- Adult Entertainment
- Alcohol
- Cluster Bombs
- Firearms
- Fossil Fuels
- Gambling
- Land Mines
- Predatory Lending
- Tobacco
- Weapons Producers

Ethical Exclusions – Norms- and Business Activity-Based Exclusions The Fund minimises the existence of adverse impacts by formally excluding companies from its investable universe by applying ethical screens: a norms-based evaluation of investee companies, and business activity-based exclusions. Initial negative screening is done using a variety of third-party data sources (such as Sustainalytics and MSCI), supplemented by additional research from ESG analysts and/or investment managers as required.

See the Investment Strategy section for further details on the business activity-based screening applied to the Fund. Holdings which are inconsistent with the business activity-based exclusions will be excluded.

Norms-based evaluation: The Fund will assess equities using a norms-based evaluation which is based on the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact, which cover areas including human rights, labour rights, environmental safeguards and combating bribery and corruption. If a holding is identified as having breached the Principles, based on the Investment Manager’s judgement, supported by internal research alongside data feeds from third-party sources, a formal engagement and monitoring process will be implemented. Material improvement is expected within a reasonable timeframe (a maximum of three years), and should a company fail to demonstrate progress then the Fund will divest.

Voting The Voting team oversee voting analysis and execution in conjunction with investment managers and use voting as a tool to consider environmental and/or social issues via stewardship. Unlike many peers, the Investment Manager does not outsource the responsibility for voting to third-party suppliers. Research from proxy advisers is used for information only. The Investment Manager analyses all meetings in-house and endeavours to vote every clients’ holdings in all markets (when given voting rights and in line with the Voting Policy outlined in Baillie Gifford’s Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document).

Data sources and processing

The Investment Manager uses a combination of internal research (informed by publicly available sources disclosed by investee companies) and third-party data sources to attain each of the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Fund are listed below as well as the data sources.

Companies that satisfactorily meet the Investment Manager’s impact assessment	Internal proprietary research
Companies that have a linkage with the SDGs	Internal proprietary research
UN Global Compact exclusions policy	Internal proprietary research, Sustainalytics, MSCI
Business activity-based screens	Internal proprietary research, MSCI
Holdings voted in line with Baillie Gifford’s Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document	Internal proprietary research, aided by Glass Lewis, ISS, BoardEx, ZD Proxy, IiAS, and company disclosures

Where data is extracted from third party providers, the Investment Manager evaluates their methodology and coverage at the outset (initial due diligence) and then carries out spot checks of the data each month, escalating issues to the third-party provider where necessary. A dedicated team is tasked with ensuring effective relationships and operational interactions with key third-party providers, recognising that effective use of third-party vendors can support client service and stewardship activities. The level of oversight depends on the nature of the services provided. Providers of critical or important services and those that have access to sensitive data are subject to a vendor management framework.

The Investment Manager is regularly adding more automated quality checking of third-party data. Data metrics required for reporting are currently calculated in house in line with recognised guidance and regulations. The Investment Manager is actively improving data processing, introducing automation where possible and looking for ways to receive and ingest data from a wider set of data providers.

However, there is sometimes a reliance on estimated data when it comes to the business activity-based exclusions. Third party-providers occasionally make estimates of revenue exposures relating to business activity-based exclusions where disclosure is lacking; proportionally, less data is estimated than not.

Due to this the Investment Manager is wary of using third-party data sources as the sole input. Third-party data sources are used to flag any potential issues and to focus work on companies or issues that warrant further attention, at which point thorough analysis is conducted to ensure there is a detailed understanding of the company's current position and its direction of travel towards necessary improvements.

Limitation to methodologies and data

The ESG data landscape is rapidly developing, and data quality and methodology currently face industry-wide challenges such as lack of corporate disclosures and evolving regulatory requirements. Specifically, the data used in the Fund may be provided by third-party sources and is based on backward-looking analysis, while the subjective nature of ESG criteria means a wide variety of outcomes are possible. There is a risk that the data provided may not adequately address the underlying detail around material ESG considerations. The analysis is also dependent on companies disclosing relevant data and the availability of data can be limited.

These limitations are mitigated primarily through the Investment Manager's own in-house research and active engagement with companies, as well as cross-referencing key metrics against different data providers. Due to this mitigation, the Investment Manager believes that the promotion of the environmental and social characteristics is not appreciably altered.

Due diligence

The starting point for all Baillie Gifford strategies is bottom-up fundamental stock research. This process focuses on understanding each company, the sector it operates in and their approach to material or likely to be material issues. Investment ideas for inclusion in the strategy will undergo a critical assessment in the form of a question framework that will seek to capture the pertinent investment considerations. Supporting this are bespoke pieces of investment and ESG research that allows the investment managers to easily compare and contrast potential new purchases with competing ideas and existing holdings.

The Fund's investment management approach is focused on stock-level research and analysis, with the assistance of dedicated sustainability, governance and risk specialists working across the firm. Access to

external data from independent providers helps add further detail to understanding each holding, and great value is placed on seeking the perspectives and insights of external experts and researchers to help inform the Fund's approach. This information is used primarily as an aid to engage with companies to ascertain how they are mitigating risks and maximising opportunities. If it is felt that companies are not making enough progress in mitigating risks, then the option of exercising voting rights in shareholder resolutions and ultimately divesting holdings is retained.

External to the Fund, ongoing due diligence is carried out by the Investment Manager across the business to monitor the commitments being made, as specified in the Monitoring section, with oversight provided by a nominated committee.

Engagement policies

Engaging with and monitoring investments the Investment Manager makes on behalf of clients is an integral element of the investment process and core to how the Investment Manager discharges its stewardship responsibilities. All investment managers, investment analysts and ESG analysts are involved in this process. It meets with management and other executive staff, heads of divisions and non-executive board members.

As a patient, active owner, the Investment Manager aims to engage with the companies in which it invests on behalf of its clients, encouraging a long-term focus and meaningful change when needed. Engagement is preferable to divestment, which is typically the tool of last resort. There are four primary reasons for engaging with a company: to fact find, to assess progress, to support the management team and to influence. It is important to note that influence is only one of these four aims. The Investment Manager firmly believes in taking time to understand companies and making its own, long-term agenda known to management. This is an important foundation of being responsible holders and over time makes it easier to advocate for changes, as both sides have a better understanding of and appreciation for what the other party is trying to achieve.

On an annual basis, investments that are subject to formal engagement and monitoring processes under the Investment Manager's policy on assessing breaches of United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business will be disclosed.

More information on the Investment Manager's engagement policy can be found within Baillie Gifford's Stewardship Principles and Guidelines document, which is publicly available on its website.

Attainment of the sustainable investment objective

No specific index has been designated as a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the sustainable investment objective. A positive change impact report is published annually and is publicly available on the Baillie Gifford website. This report shows how each company in the portfolio is delivering positive change through its products and services. Key metrics for each individual company in relation to the contribution made by their products and services to the four impact themes and their contribution to the SDGs are included in the report.