

# FINANCIAL PRODUCT WEBSITE DISCLOSURE

*TRANSPARENCY OF THE  
PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
OR SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS*

Worldwide Responsible Global Equity Income Fund

**BAILLIE GIFFORD**

## Upplysning på webbplatsen för finansiella produkter

### Sammanfattning

#### Öppenhet i främjandet av miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper

Detta dokument ger investeraren detaljerad information om fonden i förhållande till förordningen om offentliggörande av information om hållbar finansiering (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation ("SFDR")). Detta är ett regleringsdokument som krävs enligt SFDR. Informationen i detta dokument ska hjälpa investeraren att förstå hållbarhetsegenskaperna och/eller målen och riskerna med denna fond. Detta dokument bör läsas tillsammans med andra relevanta regelverk så att investeraren kan fatta ett välgrundat beslut om att investera.

#### Baillie Gifford Worldwide Responsible Global Equity Income Fund

<b>SFDR-klassificering</b>	Denna finansiella produkt främjar miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper, men har inte som mål att göra hållbara investeringar. Även om den inte har som mål att göra hållbara investeringar, kommer den att ha en andel på minst 20 % hållbara investeringar.  Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.
<b>Miljömässiga/sociala egenskaper</b>	Fonden främjar följande miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ansvarsfulla affärsmetoder i enlighet med FN:s Global Compact-principer för företag.</li><li>2. Minimistandarder för miljö och samhälle som uppnås genom att utesluta affärsverksamhet som Investeringsförvaltaren har bedömt vara skadlig för miljön och samhället.</li><li>3. Aktivt beaktande av miljömässiga och sociala frågor genom fullmaktsröstning i enlighet med Baillie Giffords ESG-principer och riktlinjer.</li><li>4. Förvaltad utsläpp av växthusgaser enligt Fondens WACI ("Weighted Average Carbon Intensity") och målet är att detta ska vara lägre än indexet.</li><li>5. Förbättrade hållbarhetsegenskaper genom en framåtblickande kvalitativ bedömning.</li></ol> Även om Fonden strävar efter att ha ett WACI som är lägre än indexet, används detta index inte som ett jämförelseindex för att uppnå de miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper som eftersträvas, eftersom Fonden inte anpassar sina miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper till indexets.
<b>Investeringsstrategi</b>	Fonden förvaltas aktivt och fokuserar på att investera minst 90 % i globala aktier som är noterade, handlas eller omsätts på reglerade marknader i syfte att ge en avkastning över genomsnittet bestående av kapitaltillväxt och utdelningsinkomster på lång sikt genom att investera i företag som förvaltas och uppträder på ett ansvarsfullt sätt. Bedömningen av hållbarhet är i hög grad integrerad i Investeringsförvaltarens ramverk för aktieforskning. Fonden tillämpar positiv screening genom Investeringsförvaltarens egenutvecklade IAT-ramverk, normbaserad utvärdering, uteslutningar baserade på affärsverksamhet och aktivt ägande för att avgöra om ett företag förvaltas och betar sig ansvarsfullt och för att stödja uppnåendet av de främjade miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaperna. Investeringsförvaltaren har en policy för att tillämpa tester av god förvaltning på områden som omfattar sunda ledningsstrukturer, relationer med medarbetare, lön till medarbetare och efterlevnad av skattebestämmelser. Företag som inte klarar dessa tester kommer inte att ingå i Fonden.  Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.
<b>Andel investeringarna av</b>	Fonden förbinder sig att ha en andel hållbara investeringar på minst 20 % totalt, varav 10 % avser hållbara investeringar med ett miljömål men som inte överensstämmer med EU:s taxonomi. De återstående 10 % kommer att fördelas mellan andra miljömässigt och/eller socialt hållbara investeringar, men det finns ingen fast fördelning eftersom detta beror på tillgången till hållbara investeringsmöjligheter.  Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.
<b>Övervakning av miljömässiga/sociala egenskaper</b>	De miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaperna övervakas internt och externt på olika sätt. Fonden tillämpar positiv screening, normbaserad utvärdering, affärsverksamhetsbaserade uteslutningar och aktivt ägande för att stödja uppnåendet av de främjade miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaperna och dessa genomförs fortlöpande genom kontinuerlig efterlevnad och övervakning av de bindande åtagandena.  Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.

<b>Metoder</b>	<p>Följande hållbarhetsindikatorer används för att mäta hur de främjade miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaperna uppnås:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Procentandel av investeringarna som följer Investeringsförvaltarens policy för bedömning av överträdelse av FN:s Global Compact-principer för företag.</li> <li>2. Procentandelen av investeringar som uppfyller de affärsverksamhetsbaserade undantagen.</li> <li>3. Procentandelen av innehaven som röstade.</li> <li>4. Fondens WACI är lägre än indexet.</li> <li>5. Andelen investeringar som uppfyller den kvalitativa bedömningen enligt ramverket IAT ("Impact, Ambition and Trust").</li> </ol> <p>Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.</p>
<b>Datakällor och bearbetning</b>	<p>Investeringsförvaltaren tillämpar en kombination av intern forskning (informerad av offentligt tillgängliga källor som investerade företag har offentliggjort) och datakällor från tredje part för att uppnå var och en av de miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper som Fonden förespråkar.</p> <p>Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.</p>
<b>Begränsning metoder och data av</b>	<p>ESG-datalandskapet utvecklas snabbt, och datakvalitet och metodik står för närvarande inför branschomfattande utmaningar, t.ex. brist på företagsinformation och förändrade regelverkskrav.</p> <p>Dessa begränsningar mildras främst genom Investeringsförvaltarens egen interna forskning och aktiva engagemang i företagen, samt genom att korsreferera viktiga nyckeltal mot olika dataleverantörer. På grund av denna begränsning anser Investeringsförvaltaren att främjandet av de miljömässiga och sociala egenskaperna inte förändras märkbart.</p> <p>Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.</p>
<b>Due diligence</b>	<p>Utgångspunkten för alla Baillie Giffords strategier är grundläggande aktieforskning. Denna process är inriktad på att förstå varje företag, den sektor som det är verksam inom och deras inställning till väsentliga eller sannolikt väsentliga frågor.</p> <p>Tillgång till externa data från oberoende leverantörer bidrar till att ytterligare detaljer för att förstå varje innehav, och stort värde läggs vid att söka perspektiv och insikter från externa experter och forskare för att hjälpa till att stöda Fondens tillvägagångssätt.</p> <p>Utanför Fonden utför Investeringsförvaltaren löpande due diligence-undersökningar i hela verksamheten för att övervaka de åtaganden som görs, enligt vad som anges i avsnittet Övervakning, med tillsyn av en utsedd kommitté.</p> <p>Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.</p>
<b>Strategier för engagemang</b>	<p>Engagemang i och övervakning av de investeringar som Investeringsförvaltaren gör för kundernas räkning är en integrerad del av investeringsprocessen och en central del av hur Investeringsförvaltaren utför sitt ansvar som förvaltare. Alla investeringschefer, investeringsanalytiker och ESG-analytiker är involverade i denna process. Den träffar ledningen och andra ledande befattningshavare, avdelningschefer och icke-verkställande styrelseledamöter.</p> <p>Årligen kommer investeringar som är föremål för formella engagemangs- och övervakningsprocesser enligt Investeringsförvaltarens policy för bedömning av överträdelse av FN:s Global Compact-principer för företag att offentliggöras.</p> <p>Mer information om Investeringsförvaltarens engagemangspolicy finns i Baillie Giffords dokument ESG Principles and Guidelines, som är offentligt tillgängligt på Baillie Giffords webbplats.</p> <p>Se fullständig information för mer detaljer.</p>
<b>Utsett jämförelseindex</b>	<p>Inget index har utsetts till jämförelseindex för att uppnå de miljömässiga och/eller sociala egenskaper som produkten främjar.</p>



# FINANCIAL PRODUCT WEBSITE DISCLOSURE

## SCOPE

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 SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment. While it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments.

The Fund commits to partially invest in economic activities that contribute to either an environmental or social objective.

These economic activities may contribute to such objective due to: (a) generating a certain level of revenues, either through products and/or services, that are aligned with the broader sustainable objectives of society as currently best defined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs'), some which

can be mapped on a high-level basis against the environmental objectives outlined in the EU Taxonomy and/or (b) reducing absolute greenhouse gas emissions, either through their products and/or services or business practices, to seek to achieve the long-term global warming objectives of the Paris Agreement. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions aligns with the climate mitigation objective in the EU Taxonomy. The Fund does not commit to the specific environmental objectives in the EU Taxonomy, but may make investments that contribute to these specific environmental objectives, in which case they will be disclosed in the periodic reporting included in the annual report.

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 ESG 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.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL OR SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FINANCIAL PRODUCT**

The Fund promotes the following environmental and/or social characteristics:

- Responsible business practices in accordance with the United Nations Global Compact Principles for Business.
- Minimum environmental and social standards achieved through exclusion of business activities that the Investment Manager has deemed to be harmful to the environment and society.
- Active consideration of environmental and social issues through proxy voting applied in line with Baillie Gifford's ESG Principles and Guidelines document.
- Managed greenhouse gas emissions intensity as measured by the Fund's Weighted Average Carbon Intensity ('WACI') and an aim for this to be lower than the index.
- Enhanced sustainability characteristics through forward-looking qualitative assessment.

Whilst the Fund aims to have a WACI lower than the index, this index is not used as a reference index to attain the promoted environmental and/or social characteristics as the Fund does not align its environmental and/or social characteristics with that of the index.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The investment strategy of the Fund is to invest at least 90 per cent. in global equities which are listed, traded or dealt in on Regulated Markets with the aim of providing above average returns comprising capital growth and dividend income over the long term by investing in companies which are managed and behave responsibly. The assessment of sustainability is significantly integrated into the Investment Manager's stock research framework.

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 ESG Principles and Guidelines document and will exclude companies that derive more than 10% of their annual revenues from (i) the

production or sale of alcohol, weapons and armaments or adult entertainment; (ii) fossil fuel extraction and production; (iii) the provision of gambling services; and (iv) the sale of tobacco. The Investment Manager also excludes companies that derive more than 5% of their annual revenues from 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.

The Fund's WACI will be measured against the Index, with an overall aim to have a WACI that is lower than the Index. Details of the measurement of the Fund's WACI against that of the Index will be provided in the annual report and will include an explanation should this aim not be achieved.

To determine if a company is managed and behaves responsibly, for existing and prospective holdings, the Investment Manager undertakes an assessment, using a proprietary framework which is called the Impact, Ambition and Trust framework. The purpose of this forward-looking assessment is to consider (i) the impact of a company's products and operations on the environment and society; (ii) the company's ambition to either further or address that impact; and (iii) the level of trust that investors should have in the management team and the board of the company. Investments will be scored on each of these categories, and the scoring will then be taken into account by the Investment Manager as part of its bottom-up share selection process.

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 ESG Principles and Guidelines document, which is publicly available on its website.

## PROPORTION OF INVESTMENT

To meet the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted, the Fund generally invests at least 90% in global equities (directly although it may also invest indirectly through eligible collective investment schemes) that are aligned with these same characteristics. 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 Fund commits to having a minimum proportion of sustainable investments of 20%, 10% of which relates to sustainable investments with an environmental objective but which do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy. The remaining 10% 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 was not possible to develop criteria for all sectors where activities could conceivably make a substantial contribution.

Currently there are no investments in the portfolio that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. If at the end of the accounting period, investments are made in economic activities contributing to an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, compliance of those investments 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.

## MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

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 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 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. Furthermore, engagement and voting procedures are independently reviewed annually as part of the internal controls review completed by the Investment Manager's external auditors, regarding the UK standard ISAE 3402.
- The Fund's WACI is calculated and monitored against the index on a monthly basis.
- The Fund's team reviews and monitors the stocks in the portfolio to ensure they remain consistent with the objectives of the fund. Buy decisions are the result of our 'bottom-up' stock picking approach. This comprises three main steps: first, fundamentals-based company research, then group stock discussion and, finally, portfolio construction. Decisions to sell are taken in a very similar manner, based on a combination of fundamental analysis and team discussion. Sell discipline is based on continual monitoring and reassessment of the underlying progress of the companies in the portfolio and a deterioration in ESG factors (or the Fund team's view on the same) would be likely to provoke a review of the holding.

## METHODOLOGIES

The following sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the promoted environmental and/or social characteristics:

- 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.
- The Fund's WACI is lower than the Index.
- The % of investments that satisfactorily meet the qualitative assessment against the Impact, Ambition and Trust ('IAT') framework.

The methodologies in relation to these indicators are outlined below:

#### *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*

ESG analysts 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 ESG Principles and Guidelines document).

#### *Greenhouse Gas Intensity*

The Fund's weighted average carbon intensity is calculated and measured against the weighted average carbon intensity of the Index, allowing for the greenhouse gas intensity to be managed. Only those investments for which the Investment Manager has estimated or reported figures from its third-party data provider will be included in the calculation of the Fund's weighted average carbon intensity, covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Scope 3 emissions will be included in line with PCAF guidance which include a schedule for Scope 3 measurement and disclosure prioritising certain sectors (e.g. oil, gas and mining sectors) ahead of other sectors consistent with the approach of the Supplementing Regulation for EU Climate Transition Benchmarks and EU Paris-Aligned Benchmarks. As this metric is based on a weighted average, the relevant Fund's portfolio might include single companies

with higher intensities provided they do not breach any business activity-based exclusions particularly if these companies represent a small weight within the portfolio.

#### *ESG-focused investment research*

The proprietary Impact, Ambition, and Trust framework described in the Investment strategy section is used to assess companies at the stock level, before any new investment decision is made.

Pre-decision analysis also considers whether a business's operations are consistent with the principles embedded in the UN Global Compact. The ESG research is discussed with the investment team ahead of a purchase of any new stock for the portfolio. This ensures that any potential challenges are thoroughly understood, and engagement priorities agreed upon. That different perspective frequently helps identify areas for further research.

#### *Targeted company engagement*

First, the Fund's team engages with those companies where there is a potential question around whether their operations are exposed to elevated risks related to human rights, labour, corruption or environmental factors. The provision of better disclosure is encouraged and a rounded view of their operations is sought. Boards are also engaged with to test their climate change awareness and resilience and if these risks are fully integrated into strategic planning.

Second, investee companies are engaged with continually to ensure their approach to corporate governance and sustainability is robust and aligned with long-term investor's interests. Boards are engaged with on to ensure remuneration structures do not incentivise short-term thinking by management teams. By providing constructive input early in the process, the Fund is often able to help effect improvements over time.

Finally, and most importantly, at the start of each year an engagement plan is set. This seeks to highlight the most significant environmental, social or governance challenges across the portfolio, where constructive engagement and research can make the greatest difference. These engagements can be led by either the ESG team or the Fund team. The engagement plan is best viewed as a framework to be built on over several years and is jointly agreed by both teams.

**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.

<b>UN Global Compact policy</b>	Internal proprietary research, public disclosures, Sustainalytics, MSCI
<b>Business activity-based exclusions</b>	Internal proprietary research, public disclosures, Sustainalytics, MSCI
<b>Holdings voted in line with Baillie Gifford’s ESG Principles and Guidelines document</b>	Internal proprietary research, aided by Glass Lewis, ISS, BoardEx, Si2, ZD Proxy, IiAS, and public disclosures
<b>WACI</b>	MSCI, FactSet
<b>Investments that satisfactorily meet the qualitative assessment against the IAT framework</b>	Internal proprietary research, public 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.

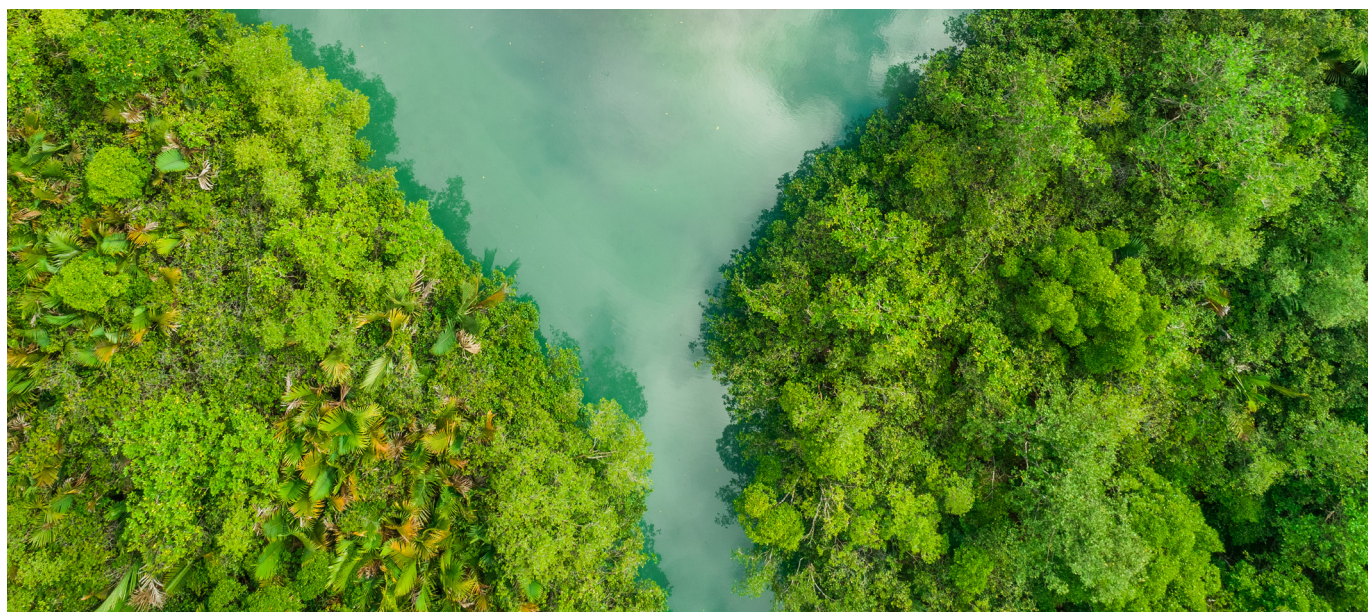
Providers of critical or important services and those that have access to sensitive data are subject to a vendor management framework.

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 and WACI commitments of the Fund. 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. Regarding WACI, a large proportion of data is estimated by third-party providers due to general lack of disclosure of Scope 3 emissions.

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 focussed 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 ESG Principles and Guidelines document, which is publicly available on its website.

## **DESIGNATED REFERENCE BENCHMARK**

No index has been designated as a reference benchmark to attain the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the product.

**Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN**  
**Telephone +44 (0)131 275 2000 [www.bailliegifford.com](http://www.bailliegifford.com)**