

UBS (Lux) Equity SICAV - Asian Smaller Companies (USD)

No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The following characteristic(s) is/are promoted by the financial product:

- 1) A lower Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) than the reference benchmark or a low absolute carbon profile.
- 2) A sustainability profile that is higher than its benchmark's sustainability profile or a minimum of 51 % of assets invested in companies with a sustainability profile in the top half of the benchmark.

The benchmark is a broad market index which does not assess or include constituents according to environmental and/or social characteristics and therefore is not intended to be consistent with the characteristics promoted by the financial product. No ESG reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the characteristics promoted by the financial product.

The characteristic(s) is/are measured using the following indicator(s) respectively:

For characteristic 1):

Scope 1 and 2 Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI):

- Scope 1 refers to direct carbon emissions and therefore includes all direct greenhouse gas emissions from owned or controlled sources of the relevant entity or issuer.

- Scope 2 refers to indirect carbon emissions and therefore includes greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity, thermal energy and/or steam that is consumed by the relevant entity or issuer.

Low absolute carbon profile is defined as below 100 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per million US dollars of revenues.

For characteristic 2):

The UBS ESG consensus score is used to identify issuers/companies for the investment universe with strong environmental and social performance characteristics, or a strong sustainability profile. This UBS ESG consensus score is a normalized weighted average of ESG score data from internal and recognized external providers. Rather than relying on an ESG score from a single provider, the consensus score approach increases conviction in the validity of the sustainability profile.

The UBS ESG consensus score assesses sustainability factors, such as the performance of the relevant issuers/companies with reference to environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects. These ESG aspects relate to the main areas in which the issuers/companies operate and their effectiveness in managing ESG risks. Environmental and social factors can include (amongst others) the following: environmental footprint and operational efficiency, environmental risk management, climate change, natural resource usage, pollution and waste management, employment standards and supply chain monitoring, human capital, diversity within the board of directors, occupational health and safety, product safety, as well as anti-fraud and anti-corruption guidelines.

The individual investments in the sub-fund have a UBS ESG consensus score (on a scale of 0-10, with 10 having the best sustainability profile).

Investment strategy

The following binding element(s) of the investment strategy are used to select the investments to attain the characteristic(s) promoted by this financial product:

Characteristic 1):

A lower Scope 1 and 2 Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) than its benchmark or a low absolute carbon profile.

Characteristic 2):

A sustainability profile that is higher than its benchmark's sustainability profile or a minimum of 51% of assets invested in companies with a sustainability profile in the top half of the benchmark.

The calculations do not take account of cash, derivatives and unrated investment instruments.

The binding element(s) are calculated at quarter end using the average of all business days' values in the quarter.

Good corporate governance is a key driver of sustainable performance and is therefore embedded in the Portfolio Manager's investment strategy. The Portfolio Manager employs a proprietary ESG Risk Dashboard that combines multiple ESG data sources from internal and recognized external providers in order to identify companies with material ESG risks. An actionable risk signal highlights ESG risks to the Portfolio Manager for incorporation in their investment decision making process. The assessment of good governance includes consideration of board structure and independence, remuneration alignment, transparency of ownership and control, and financial reporting.

Proportion of investments

The minimum proportion of the investments used to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the financial product is 51%.

Derivatives are not used for the attainment of the characteristics promoted by this financial product. Derivatives are primarily used for hedging and liquidity management purposes.

Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The portfolio manager has data indicators and a systemic pre-trade guideline control in place to monitor the stated environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product, specifically the binding targets stated in the investment strategy, there is a monitoring oversight control. There are also independent controls & audit by our delegated fund administrators.

Methodologies

The performance of the indicators used to measure the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are measured daily, assessed quarterly and reported annually.

Data sources and processing

The data sources used to attain the stated environmental or social characteristics are as follows:

1. Weighted Average Carbon Intensity and carbon profile, carbon metrics are supplied from a leading industry vendor
2. The UBS ESG consensus score, which is a score that is a normalised weighted average of ESG score data from internal and recognised external providers. Rather than exclusively relying on an ESG score from a single provider, the Consensus Score approach enhances the plausibility of the sustainability profile quality. The UBS ESG consensus score assesses sustainability factors, such as the performance of the relevant companies with reference to environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects.

Data is consumed from leading providers, processed in accordance with defined guidelines and supplemented with analyst recommendation.

Limitations to methodologies and data

We apply a minimum coverage threshold for the data sources used to attain the stated environmental or social characteristics of the financial product, these thresholds ensure that the binding targets can be monitored and measured. Accuracy of data is dependent on 3rd party providers, coverage of data sources can be < 100% due to uncovered asset types, incomplete or inconsistent data and gaps in the coverage of these 3rd party providers.

Due diligence

UBS Group and UBS AM invest significant resources in ESG data. Within UBS AM, the data selection and onboarding process is jointly handled by our Sustainable Investment team and QED (data science). This ensures that datasets provide meaningful insights and that they are robust from a data quality point of view. Also, the data selection and onboarding is just one part, extracting insights and actually using it in investment decisions is what really matters.

Engagement policies

Through our research process we will also seek to identify companies where material ESG and sustainability factors may present a future negative risk. We will prioritize such companies for engagement and additionally utilize proxy voting as part of our stewardship activities to minimize adverse impacts where appropriate. Where UBS-AM has direct ownership of a physical asset, it aligns its partners to prescribed standards and KPIs which are monitored so that remedy actions can be taken if performance and standards fall short.

Designated reference benchmark

Not applicable.