

## **THE NT EMERGING MARKETS GREEN TRANSITION INDEX FUND**

# Supplement dated 22 February 2024 to the Prospectus dated 14 August 2023 for Northern Trust Investment Funds plc

## The NT Emerging Markets Green Transition Index Fund

*This Supplement contains specific information in relation to The NT Emerging Markets Green Transition Index Fund (the "Fund"), a Fund of Northern Trust Investment Funds plc (the "Company") an open-ended investment company with variable capital established as an umbrella fund with segregated liability between Funds governed by the laws of Ireland and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland (the "Central Bank").*

***The Fund may invest in financial derivative instruments ("FDI") for hedging and efficient portfolio management ("EPM") purposes (as detailed below). See section below titled "Borrowing and Leverage" for details of the leverage effect of investing in FDI.***

**This Supplement forms part of and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus.**

*The Directors of the Company, whose names appear in the **Management and Administration** section of the Prospectus, accept responsibility for the information contained in the Prospectus, this Supplement and the Annex. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) such information is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors accept responsibility accordingly.*

*Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus shall, unless the context otherwise requires, or as otherwise provided herein, have the same meaning when used in this Supplement.*

*The Fund meets the criteria pursuant to Article 8 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (Regulation EU/2019/2088) as amended ("SFDR") to qualify as a financial product which promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics and provided that the companies that the Fund invests in follow good governance practices. Please refer to the Annex appended hereto which has been prepared for the purpose of meeting the specific financial product level disclosure requirements contained in SFDR applicable to an Article 8 Fund.*

***An investment in the Fund should not constitute a substantial proportion of an investment portfolio and may not be appropriate for all investors.***

***A typical investor is prepared to accept a degree of medium to high volatility. A typical investor will be seeking to achieve exposure to large and mid-cap representation across emerging market equities and will be seeking to achieve a return on investment in the medium to long term.***

***Investment in the Fund may be appropriate for professional or retail investors who have knowledge of, and investment experience in, this particular financial product and understand and can evaluate the strategy, characteristics and risks in order to make an informed investment decision. This Fund is passively managed.***

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## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

### Investment Objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to closely match the risk and return characteristics of the MSCI Emerging Markets Custom ESG Climate Series A Index (the "**Index**") with net dividends reinvested.

Any change of Index shall only be made with the prior approval of the Shareholders.

### Investment Policies

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives through investment primarily in a diversified portfolio of freely transferable Equity and Equity Related Securities (where considered by the Investment Manager to be necessary or appropriate, and as outlined below) issued by companies or linked to companies within the Index.

Such Equity and Equity Related Securities shall be listed on stock exchanges or regulated markets in countries (within the list of Markets set out in Appendix 1 of the Prospectus) comprised within the Index, details of which are set out under the heading "**Index Description**" below. Where direct access to the equity markets in those countries is not practicable, indirect exposure may be achieved through investment in Equities and/or Equity Related Securities listed on markets elsewhere. The prime criterion for selecting such Equities and/or Equity Related Securities is their suitability in terms of achieving the investment objective of the Fund in closely matching the risk and return characteristics of the Index. In order to access Equity and Equity Related Securities issued by companies or linked to companies located in China or listed/traded on stock exchanges in China, the Fund may trade through the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Connect programmes. The Fund may from time to time hold securities which are not included in the Index constituents including companies not considered to meet environmental, social and governance ("**ESG**") criteria as a result of corporate actions and other such activities. In such event, the Fund will sell such securities in a reasonable amount of time taking into account the best interests of the Shareholders. In addition, certain Equity and Equity Related Securities which the Fund may hold may experience more market price volatility than other securities and could, in certain circumstances, result in high volatility levels. The Net Asset Value of the Fund will reflect this volatility.

The Fund's investments will, at the time of purchase, comply with the Fund's ESG policy, as described below under "**Index Description**". As the Fund is an index tracking product, it may continue to hold securities which no longer comply with these ESG requirements until such time as the relevant securities cease to form part of the Index or if the Investment Manager exercises its discretion to dispose of a security before the next rebalance in limited instances and it is possible and practicable (in the Investment Manager's view) to liquidate the position, having regard to the best interests of the Shareholders.

The Fund operates an index tracking/replication strategy, as further set out in the section "**Index Tracking Strategy**" below. The Fund will measure its performance against the Index.

The Fund may invest in FDI for EPM purposes as set out in the **Efficient Portfolio Management, Financial Derivative Instruments and Securities Financing**

**Transactions** section of the Prospectus and as set out in the section titled "**Use of Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques and Financial Derivative Instruments**" below.

The Fund may also invest (up to 10% of its Net Asset Value) indirectly in Equities and Equity Related Securities comprised within the Index through holdings in open-ended collective investment schemes ("**CIS**") (including UCITS exchange traded funds ("**ETFs**")). Any such CIS shall be listed / traded on Regulated Markets and will have investment objectives which are materially similar to the Fund.

It is not anticipated that investments that are listed or traded in Russia will normally constitute a substantial element of the Fund and shall not in any event exceed 30% of the Net Asset Value of the Fund. Any investment in securities in Russia will only be made in securities that are listed or traded on the Moscow exchange.

### Index Tracking Strategy

The Fund operates an index tracking/replication strategy through investing directly in the Index constituents to replicate, to the extent possible, the composition of the Index by physically holding all the Index constituents in similar proportion to their weighting in the Index. Where direct investment is not achievable, direct substitutes for Index constituents, may be used.

It may not always be possible or practicable to purchase each and every constituent of the Index in accordance with the weightings of the Index, or doing so may be detrimental to Shareholders (for example, where there are considerable costs or practical difficulties involved in compiling a portfolio of securities in order to replicate the Index, or in circumstances where a security in the Index becomes temporarily unavailable or less liquid, or as a result of legal restrictions that apply to the Fund but not to the Index). In these circumstances, the Investment Manager may use a number of techniques, including purchasing securities which are not constituents of the Index, whose returns, individually or collectively, are considered by the Investment Manager to be well-correlated to the constituents of the Index.

The Fund typically holds securities at, or very close to, Index weight and an ex-post Tracking Error of 0.25% - 0.50% should be anticipated. This tracking error can be attributed to transaction costs, potential taxation of market returns in some markets and the liquidity impact of the Fund's index tracking/replication strategy.

As outlined in the Investment Policies, the Fund may obtain exposure through FDI, other CIS (including ETFs) where it is more efficient to do so, and/or may underweight illiquid stocks in order to achieve representative exposure in the more liquid and accessible securities within the Index. The Fund may therefore not hold all the securities in the Index at a given point in time where direct investment is not achievable or practicable taking into account factors such as liquidity or weighting e.g. a where a security has a low weighting within the Index.

As the Fund does not pursue a synthetic index replication strategy, there is no counterparty risk related to the index replication strategy.

As outlined above the Fund seeks to track certain characteristics of the Index. The Fund may therefore avail of the increased diversification limits as outlined in

Regulation 71(1)(a) of the Regulations and may therefore invest up to 20% of its Net Asset Value in Equity and Equity Related Securities issued by the same body. This increased limit may only be utilised where the Fund is investing directly in constituents of the Index.

### Index Description

The starting universe for the Index is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "**Parent Index**"). The Parent Index is designed to measure the equity market performance of emerging markets and captures large and mid-cap issuers across emerging market countries, as determined by MSCI, covering approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalisation in each country.

The Index is a custom index calculated and screened by MSCI based on predetermined and objective ESG criteria chosen by the Investment Manager which (i) excludes certain companies from the Parent Index which are not considered to meet sustainability principles considering business involvement, and ESG controversy, screening criteria as further detailed in the Annex, (ii) excludes companies with exposure to carbon emissions and reserves, fossil fuels, and nuclear power above thresholds specified within the Annex, and all companies that belong to the GICS Energy Sector; and, (iii) tilt towards, i.e. increases exposure when compared to the Parent Index, to companies outside of the GICS Energy sector with revenues derived from alternative energy, energy efficiency and green building, and which have a clear climate strategy, including carbon emission reduction targets and progress, product related carbon emissions and climate related disclosure, strategy, research and development. Further information about the ESG criteria applied to the Index, including exclusions, specified thresholds, and tilting rules, is provided in the Annex.

The valuation function within MSCI is functionally independent of the design of the Index. The Index is reviewed quarterly for any necessary rebalancing – typically in February, May, August and November with the objective of reflecting change in the underlying equity markets in a timely manner, while limiting undue index turnover. The rebalancing frequency will have minimal impact on the strategy of the Fund or on transaction costs associated with the Fund as any rebalancing is not expected to require any higher frequency of position turnover in the Fund than would otherwise be the case.

Further details of the Index constituents, weightings and methodology can be navigated to from the following links:

[www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CustESGClima](http://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CustESGClima) and [www.msci.com/constituents](http://www.msci.com/constituents).

### INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The general investment restrictions set out under the heading **Investment Restrictions** in the Prospectus shall apply.

It is noted in particular that the Fund will not invest more than 10% of Net Asset Value in other CIS in aggregate.

### USE OF EFFICIENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

The Fund may use forwards and exchange traded futures for EPM and hedging purposes.

The Fund may also enter into certain currency related transactions in order to hedge exchange rate fluctuation risks between the denominated currencies of the Fund's assets and the designated currency of the relevant Share Class.

As a result of currency hedging, hedged Share Classes may be exposed to counterparty risk as further detailed in the section of the Prospectus entitled **Credit Risk and Counterparty Risk**.

Further details of the techniques and instruments that the Fund may employ for EPM purposes are set out in the **Efficient Portfolio Management, Financial Derivative Instruments and Securities Financing Transactions** section of the Prospectus.

Collateral or margin may be passed by the Fund to a counterparty or broker in respect of EPM techniques. Please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled **Collateral Policy** for further details.

The use of FDI for the purposes outlined above may expose the Fund to the risks disclosed under the section of the Prospectus titled **Risk Factors**.

### BORROWING AND LEVERAGE

The Fund may borrow up to 10% of its Net Asset Value on a temporary basis.

Global exposure and leverage as a result of its investment in FDI as described above shall not exceed 100% of the Net Asset Value of the Fund. Global exposure will be measured using the commitment approach.

### RISK FACTORS

#### Index Provider Liability

The Investment Manager and the Manager cannot guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of the Index or any data included therein and, subject to the terms of the management agreement and the investment management agreement respectively, shall have no liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions therein. Neither the Manager nor the Investment Manager makes any warranty, express or implied, to Shareholders as to results to be obtained by the Fund from the use of the Index or any data included therein. Without limiting any of the foregoing, in no event shall the Investment Manager or the Manager have any liability for any special, punitive, direct, indirect or consequential damages regarding the Index or its data, even if notified of the possibility of such damages.

The coverage and quality of ESG-related data on issuers and issuances may vary based on asset class, market exposure or instrument types. Therefore gains, losses or costs associated with index provider errors will be borne by the Fund and its investors. For example, during a period where the Index contains incorrect constituents, the Fund would have market exposure to such constituents and would be correspondingly underexposed to the constituents that should have been included in the Index.

#### Index Tracking Risks

The Fund is not actively managed and may be affected by a general decline in the market segments related to the Index.

While the Fund, in accordance with its investment objective, seeks to track the performance of the Index, through a replication strategy, there is no guarantee that it will achieve

perfect tracking and the Fund will be subject to tracking error risk, which is the risk that its returns may not track those of the Index exactly, from time to time.

In addition, the Fund may experience a deviation from the ESG performance or risk of the Index. For liquidity purposes, the Fund may hold a portion of its net assets in cash or derivatives and such holdings will not rise and fall in line with movements in the Index.

### Exclusionary Screens

While exclusionary screens are used within the Index construction, investors should note that they may not always operate to entirely exclude all constituents in a particular category (e.g. because an exclusionary screen has certain revenue thresholds and/or other criteria that must be met before a constituent is excluded from the Index or because of error on the part of the Index provider). Where this occurs, the Index and hence the Fund may still have exposure to constituents who do not satisfy those criteria.

### Sustainability Risks – General

A sustainability risk is an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or a potential material negative impact on the value of investments. Sustainability risks that could negatively affect the value of a particular investment might include the following:

Environmental: extreme weather events such as flooding or earthquakes; pollution incidents; damage to biodiversity;  
Social: labour strikes; health and safety incidents; product safety issues; and/or

Governance: audit finding; discrimination within a workforce; inappropriate remuneration practices; failure to protect personal data.

The relevance, severity, materiality and time horizon of sustainability risk factors and other risks can differ significantly.

Sustainability risk can occur through different existing risk types (for example through market, liquidity, credit or counterparty risk). An example of this could be if Fund invests in an issuer that could face potentially reduced revenues or increased expenditures from physical climate risk or transition risk through a decreased demand for carbon-intensive products and services or increased production costs due to regulatory changes.

As a result, sustainability risk factors may have a material impact on an investment, may increase the volatility, affect liquidity and may result in a loss to the value of the Fund. The impact of those risks may be higher where the Fund has particular investment concentrations e.g. instrument type, sector or country concentrations exposed to either physical or transitional risks. Under normal market conditions such events could have a material impact on the value of the Fund.

The impacts of sustainability risk are likely to develop over time and new sustainability risks may be identified as further data and information regarding sustainability factors and impacts becomes available.

### SFDR - Legal Risk

The series of legal measures (including SFDR) requiring firms that manage investment funds to provide transparency on how they integrate sustainability considerations into the investment process with respect to

the investment funds they manage (the EU sustainable finance action plan) is being introduced in the European Union on a phased basis and some elements (for example supporting regulatory technical standards) have been subject to implementation delays.

The Manager seeks to comply with all legal obligations applicable to it but notes there may be challenges in meeting all the requirements of these legal measures as they are introduced. The Manager may be required to incur costs on behalf of the Fund in order to comply with these new requirements as part of the initial implementation phase and to incur further costs as the requirements change and further elements are introduced. This could be the case in particular if there are adverse political developments or changes in government policies as the implementation phase progresses. These elements could impact on the viability of the Fund and its returns.

### ESG Data Reliance

The scope of SFDR is extremely broad, covering a very wide range of financial products and financial market participants. It seeks to achieve more transparency regarding how financial market participants integrate sustainability risks into their investment decisions and consideration of adverse sustainability impacts in the investment process. Data constraint is one of the biggest challenges when it comes to sustainability related information to end investors, especially in the case of principal adverse impacts of investment decisions, and there are limitations on sustainability and ESG-related data provided by market participants in relation to comparability. Disclosures in the Prospectus and this Supplement may develop and be subject to change due to ongoing improvements in the data provided to, and obtained from, financial market participants and financial advisers to achieve the objectives of SFDR in order to make sustainability-related information available.

### Relative Performance

An Article 8 Fund, such as the Fund, may underperform or perform differently relative to other comparable funds that do not promote environmental and/or social characteristics or which promote different environmental and/or social characteristics.

The general risk factors as set out in the Prospectus under the heading "Risk Factors" also apply to the Fund, as well as the following additional factors, which apply specifically to the Fund:

**Russian Markets;**  
**Stock Connect Risks;** and  
**Economic Factors.**

### DIVIDEND POLICY

#### Accumulating Shares

No dividends will be declared in respect of the Accumulating Shares.

#### Distributing Shares

In respect of the Distributing Shares, the Directors intend to declare and pay all net income of the Fund attributable to each class annually as a dividend to the Shareholders of each relevant class of Shares on the register of members as at the close of business on the relevant Dealing Day.

Further details on the distribution policy are set out in Prospectus under the heading **Dividend Policy**.

### KEY INFORMATION FOR BUYING AND SELLING



### Share Classes

Shares may be issued as Accumulating Shares or (where specifically identified as such) Distributing Shares.

### Base Currency

USD

### Business Day

Any day (except Saturday or Sunday) on which the banks in Ireland are open generally for business, or such other day as the Directors may determine and notify to Shareholders.

### Dealing Day

The Dealing Day for the Fund will be every Business Day or such other day or days as the Directors may determine and notify in advance to Shareholders, provided that there shall be at least one Dealing Day per fortnight. In determining whether a day should be treated as a Dealing Day, the Directors may take into account whether there are sufficient market exchanges open as determined by the Investment Manager to allow the normal liquidity trading of the portfolio. The Investment Manager maintains a list of any non-Dealing Days on the Website.

### Dealing Deadline

In respect of a Dealing Day, the Dealing Deadline is 2 p.m. (Irish time) on the Business Day immediately preceding each Dealing Day. Any applications received after the Dealing Deadline for a Dealing Day will be processed on the next Dealing Day unless the Directors in their absolute discretion in exceptional circumstances, otherwise determine to accept one or more applications received after the Dealing Deadline for processing on that Dealing Day provided that such request(s) have been received prior to the Valuation Point for the particular Dealing Day.

### Initial Offer Period

The Initial Offer Period in respect of Class B USD, Class A EUR, Class C GBP Distributing, Class D GBP Distributing and Class F USD Distributing has closed.

The Initial Offer Period in respect of all other Share Classes shall continue until 22 August 2024 (or such shorter or longer period as the Manager may determine and notify to the Central Bank).

After the Initial Offer Period, the Fund will be continuously open for subscriptions on each Dealing Day.

### Settlement Date

In the case of applications, proceeds must be received no later than two Business Days after the relevant Dealing Day or as otherwise determined by the Manager.

In the case of repurchases, proceeds must be remitted to investors no later than two Business Days after the relevant Dealing Day (assuming the receipt of the relevant duly signed repurchase documentation) or as otherwise determined by the Manager provided that in all cases proceeds are paid within ten Business Days.

### Preliminary Charge

There will be no Preliminary Charge for this Fund.

### Redemption Charge

There is no Redemption Charge for this Fund.

### Anti-Dilution Levy

The Directors or the Manager (or their duly appointed delegate) may impose a swing pricing adjustment as

further detailed in the Prospectus in the section entitled **Anti-Dilution Levy**.

### Valuation Point

With respect to: (i) currencies and currency-related transactions only, 4pm (London time); and (ii) all other assets, the close of business of the relevant market that closes last on each Dealing Day, which in all cases shall be after the Dealing Deadline.

### Initial Issue Price

For Euro denominated share classes €100 per Share, for US Dollar denominated share classes \$100 per Share, for Sterling denominated share classes, £100 per Share, for Danish Krone denominated share classes DKK100 per Share and for Swedish Krone denominated share classes, SEK100 per Share.

### Classes of Shares Available

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H,

Each of the above referenced Share Classes are available as Accumulating Shares and Distributing Shares.

### Currencies Available

Each of the Share Classes are available in Euro, Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Danish Krone (DKK) and Swedish Krone (SEK).

### Currency Hedged Share Class

Each Share Class is available as either a hedged or an unhedged Share Class.

### Minimum Shareholding

USD 100,000 (or its equivalent in the relevant Share Class currency) subject to the discretion of the Directors to allow lesser amounts.

### Minimum Initial Investment Amount

USD 100,000 (or its equivalent in the relevant Share Class currency) subject to the discretion of the Directors to allow lesser amounts.

### German Taxation

The Fund will invest and be managed such that it qualifies as an Equity Fund as defined in the Prospectus.

## FEES AND EXPENSES

The Investment Manager will be entitled to receive out of the assets of the Fund an annual fee of up to 0.50% (plus VAT thereon, if any).

Such fee shall accrue and be calculated on each Dealing Day and be payable monthly in arrears. The Investment Manager shall be entitled to be reimbursed out of the assets of the Fund for the reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of its duties.

The Manager shall not receive a fee but shall be entitled to be reimbursed out of the assets of the Fund for the reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of its duties.

The Administrator shall be entitled to receive out of the Net Asset Value of the Fund an annual fee, accrued and calculated on each Dealing Day and payable monthly in arrears at an annual rate which will not exceed 0.08% of the Net Asset Value of the Fund (plus VAT, if any). The Administrator is entitled to be repaid out of the assets of the Fund all of its reasonable agreed upon transaction and other charges (which will be at normal commercial rates)

and other out-of-pocket expenses (plus VAT thereon, if any).

The Depositary shall be entitled to receive out of the Net Asset Value of the Fund an annual fee, accrued and calculated on each Dealing Day and payable monthly in arrears, at an annual rate which will not exceed 0.2% of the Net Asset Value of the Fund (plus VAT thereon, if any).

The Depositary is also entitled to be repaid out of the assets of the Fund sub-custodian's fees (which will be charged at normal commercial rates) as well as agreed upon transaction charges (which will be at normal commercial rates) and other out-of-pocket expenses (plus VAT thereon, if any).

In addition to the fees outlined above, the Fund will also be responsible for the fees of Hermes EOS (for its services in respect of the Fund, as described in the Prospectus), up to 0.02% of the Net Asset Value of the Fund per annum. Such fee shall accrue and be calculated on each Dealing Day and be payable quarterly in arrears.

This section should be read in conjunction with the section entitled **Fees and Expenses of the Funds** in the Prospectus.

#### **Establishment costs**

The organisational and establishment costs relating to the creation of the Fund have been fully amortised by the Fund.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Reporting**

Some Shareholders may receive additional information and/or reports in relation to the Fund on a frequent basis. Any such information will be available to all investors in the Fund on request. Any such information will only be provided on a historical basis and after the relevant Dealing Day to which the information relates. Please contact your relationship manager to discuss any reporting needs.

#### **Other Funds**

The other Funds of the Company are listed in the Global Supplement to the Prospectus.

New Funds may be created from time to time by the Directors with the prior approval of the Central Bank in which case further Supplements incorporating provisions relating to those Funds will be issued by the Company.

**Template pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product name:** The NT Emerging Markets Green Transition Index Fund (the "Fund")

**Legal entity identifier:** 635400CGDLRFIDJD2225

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

#### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?



☐ Yes



☒ No

☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective**: \_\_\_\_%

- ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
- ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective**: \_\_\_\_%

☒ **It promotes Environmental/ Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

- ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
- ☒ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
- ☐ with a social objective

☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments**

#### What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics through tracking the risk and return characteristics of the Index which has been designated as a reference benchmark.

The Fund promotes the following environmental characteristics related to climate change:

- i. reduction of carbon reserves and emissions versus the Parent Index;
- ii. avoiding investments in the GICS Energy sector and in fossil fuel reserves most likely used for energy application;
- iii. avoiding investments in thermal coal power and thermal coal mining;
- i. avoiding investment in unconventional oil and gas exploration.
- iv. increased exposure to companies outside of the GICS Energy sector with revenues derived from products or services with 'green' sources, including alternative energy, energy efficiency and green building; and
- v. support of companies with a clear climate strategy.

The Fund promotes the following other environmental characteristics:

- ii. avoiding investments in nuclear power; uranium mining, enrichment and processing.

The Fund promotes the following social characteristics related to social norms and conventions:



- i. avoiding specific investment in business activities with adverse health and social impacts including tobacco, nuclear weapons, civilian firearms, controversial weapons, conventional weapons, and for profit prisons; and
- ii. human rights, labour rights, supply chain and anti-bribery and corruption as set out in the principles of the UN Global Compact.

Further information on the methodology and specific parameters of the Index that the Fund tracks can be found [here](#).



#### Sustainability indicators

measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

#### ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

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

- Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions intensity (t/USD million sales);
- MSCI Red Flag ESG Controversies, defined as very severe, ongoing controversies that a company is directly involved in;
- Specific revenue thresholds regarding tobacco, nuclear weapons, civilian firearms, for profit prisons, unconventional oil and gas, arctic oil, thermal coal mining (not including metallurgical coal), thermal coal based power generation, nuclear power suppliers; and
- Any tie to controversial weapons (cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, non-detectable fragments and incendiary weapons).

Please also refer to the response below on binding elements of the investment strategy that form part of the Index design and are coded by MSCI as part of the Index methodology construction.

Further information on the methodology and specific thresholds of the Index can be found [here](#).

#### ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The intended objectives of the sustainable investments of the Fund are to positively contribute towards environmental and social objectives such as reducing carbon emissions and avoiding adverse business activities or human rights violations. An investee company must promote good governance practices without causing significant adverse impact through its product and services.

An investee company is assessed as a sustainable investment using the following methodology found [here](#).

#### ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

In order to deem an investment a sustainable investment, the investee company must 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) to the environment or society through its product and services.

The assessment of harm involves a set of diverse environmental and social indicators to assess whether a company with potentially positive environmental or social contributions, has other adverse environmental and/or social impacts.

The Investment Manager considers each of the Principal Adverse Impacts (PAI) indicators within Table 1, Annex 1 of the Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS) of SFDR and applies a proprietary threshold to each indicator. In circumstances where the Investment Manager feels that the data integrity behind an indicator is lacking, a relevant proxy is applied.

These thresholds represent a value or metric at which Investment Manager believes there is a risk of significant harm. In practice, this means that an investee company can only be deemed a sustainable investment whereby: (i) it does not breach the PAI threshold as set

by the Investment Manager; (ii) meets the minimum positive contribution test (please see response to "what are the objective of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives" for further details on the positive contribution test); and (iii) follows good governance practices and are aligned with minimum safeguards such as the [United Nations Global Compact](#) and [Organisation for Economic and Cooperation and Development \(OECD\) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct](#).

- ***How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?***

In addition to the DNSH test detailed in the previous response, the Fund considers certain adverse impacts as part of the investment strategy through:

- excluding companies found to be directly involved in violation of international norms;
- excluding certain companies from the Parent Index not considered to meet ESG characteristics;
- excluding certain companies with exposure to carbon;
- increasing exposure, when compared to the Parent Index, to companies outside of the GICS Energy sector deriving revenue from 'green' sources including alternative energy, energy efficiency and green building;
- increasing exposure, compared to the Parent Index, to companies with a favourable MSCI Low Carbon Transition Risk Management Score, which includes consideration of carbon emission reduction targets and progress, product related carbon emissions and climate related disclosure, strategy, research and development;
- excluding companies in emerging markets which do not conform with all four of the following criteria: i.the individual shareholders of the relevant company must not hold 30% or more of the voting rights, and; ii.at least half of the relevant company's board of directors must be independent, and; iii.at least half of members of the company's audit committee must be independent; and; iv.at least half of members of the company's remuneration committee must be independent; and
- excluding companies that do not have a clean (non-qualified) auditor opinion, or are domiciled within countries with a poor human rights track record if they also meet criteria for super majority state ownership or face a recent, very severe human rights controversy.

These criteria may be updated over time as new ESG data providers and datasets arise to help us to carry out this assessment and ongoing monitoring.

For sustainable investments specifically, and as described above, our assessment of harm involves the use of a set of diverse environmental and social indicators with thresholds that represent a value or metric at which the Investment Manager believes there is a risk of significant harm. Examples include avoidance of controversial weapons and human rights violations, reducing carbon footprint and exposure to fossil fuels.

- ***How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:***

The Fund applies ESG controversy screening criteria to identify and exclude companies that do not adhere to international norms and conventions such as:

- the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; and
- the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

The implementation of these exclusions is quarterly and is based on any investee company being directly involved in very severe and ongoing controversies in relation to its operations, products and services.

In practice, this means that all investee companies that form part of the Index are aligned with these minimum safeguards, not only the sustainable investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



### Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

☒ Yes,

☐ No

The Fund considers as part of the investment strategy, the following principal adverse impact (PAI) indicators in Annex 1, Table 1 of the RTS:

- GHG emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2);
- Carbon footprint;
- GHG intensity;
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuels sector;
- Violations of UNGC principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; and
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons).

In addition, through the Investment Manager's direct engagement and voting, as well as engagement activities performed by the Investment Manager's outside engagement partner, Hermes EOS, the Fund aims to encourage investee companies to improve their ESG practices and disclosures.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

### What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The Fund has an index tracking strategy whereby it seeks to track the risk and return characteristics of the Index by investing directly in assets that are Index constituents

#### ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The following are the binding elements of the investment strategy that are used to promote the environmental and social characteristics. These elements form part of the Index design and are coded by MSCI as part of the Index methodology construction. The application of the following exclusions seeks to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund:

- i. companies that are directly involved in ongoing controversies classified as “very severe” in the areas of Environment, Human Rights and Community, Labour Rights and Supply Chain, Customers or Governance;
- ii. companies that derive any revenue from the production of tobacco, or 5% or more revenue from the distribution of, supply of key products for, or retail of, tobacco and tobacco alternatives;
- iii. companies that manufacture controversial weapons, such as cluster bombs, landmines, nuclear weapons, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical



**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

- weapons (or their strategic components), blinding laser, non-detectable components, or incendiary weapons;
- iv. companies that manufacture or retail civilian firearms and derive 5% or more revenue from this sector;
- v. companies that manufacture conventional weapons or provide support services to and derive 5% or more revenue from this sector;
- vi. companies that derive 5% or more revenue from unconventional oil and gas such as oil sands and shale gas or 1% or more revenue from arctic oil;
- vii. companies that derive 5% or more of their total annual revenues (either reported or estimated) from activities related to for profit prisons.

In addition, the application of the following climate-related exclusions seeks to reduce exposure to companies with carbon emissions intensity exposure, when compared to the Parent Index:

- i. all companies which derive 30% or more of their total annual revenues from thermal coal based power generation;
- ii. companies within the top 10% of the highest carbon-intensive companies;
- iii. companies with any ownership of fossil fuel reserves used for energy application;
- iv. companies that derive 5% or more of their total annual revenues from thermal coal mining or extraction; and
- v. nuclear power generating companies producing 30% or more of energy from nuclear sources, all companies involved in uranium mining or fuel enrichment and any other companies receiving 30% or more of their revenue from nuclear power producers

The Index seeks to tilt towards, i.e. increase exposure, when compared to the Parent Index, to companies, outside of the GICS Energy sector, whose revenue is derived from products or services with green sources such as alternative energy, energy efficiency and green building and companies which have a clear climate strategy in place. This is assessed using the MSCI Low Carbon Transition Risk Management Score which includes carbon emission reduction targets and progress, product related carbon emissions and climate related disclosure, strategy, research and development.

These binding elements are non-exhaustive and subject to change.

Further information on the methodology and specific thresholds of the Index can be found [here](#).

Any investments made by the Fund are in accordance with rules regarding cluster munitions laid down in the relevant national legislation adopting the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

While the investment universe of the Parent Index is reduced as a result of the application of ESG exclusions and tilting rules, the Fund does not commit to a minimum reduction rate. As such, the reduction of the universe may be subject to change.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

An assessment of good governance of investee companies forms a foundational part of the ESG screening criteria applied to the Parent Index.

The ESG Controversy screen is a proxy framework designed to address governance topics consistent with international norms represented by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the OECD Guidelines and the UN Global Compact.

A very severe, ongoing controversy that directly implicates a company through its operations, products and services and will result in that company's exclusion from the Index. The following indicators are used:

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- **Bribery and fraud:** issues such as bribery, tax evasion, insider trading, money laundering, tax evasion or avoidance, violations of government sanctions and accounting irregularities;
- **Corporate governance structures:** issues such as shareholder- or board-level objections to pay practices and governance structures, shareholder resolutions seeking change to governance practices, and conflicts of interest or unethical behaviour by, or misrepresentation of, or lack of qualifications on the part of, directors or senior executives.
- **Controversial investments:** issues such as financing projects that are controversial because of their actual or anticipated environmental or social impact, as well as criticism of mining companies, real estate investment trusts and similar companies that receive royalties or own shares in a particular project that they neither own nor operate.

Additionally, a governance screen is applied to companies in emerging markets. The screen excludes companies that do not conform with all four of the following criteria: i. the individual shareholders of the relevant company must not hold 30% or more of the voting rights, and; ii. at least half of the relevant company's board of directors must be independent, and; iii. at least half of members of the company's audit committee must be independent; and; iv. at least half of members of the company's remuneration committee must be independent.

Also excluded are companies that do not have a clean (non-qualified) auditor opinion, or are domiciled within countries with a poor human rights track record if they also meet criteria for super majority state ownership or face a recent, very severe human rights controversy.



**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

#### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

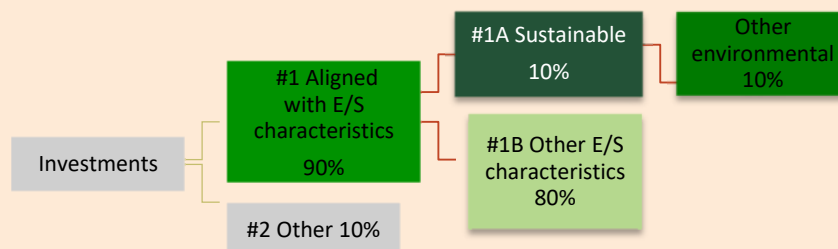
The Fund intends to invest at least 90% of its Net Asset Value in companies that are aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

Of this, a minimum of 10% of Net Asset Value will be invested in sustainable investments with an environmental objective.

The "other" assets are expected to be cash and derivatives for hedging and other ancillary purposes.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

#### How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

Derivatives are not used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.



To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



## To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Fund invests at least 10% of its Net Asset Value in sustainable investments but commits 0% of its Net Asset Value to sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

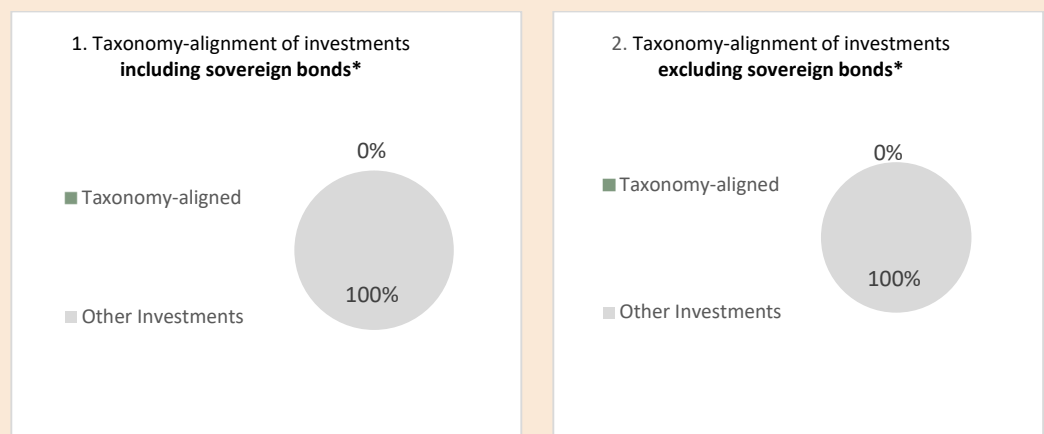
### Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>1</sup>?

☐ **Yes:**

☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

☒ **No**

*The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.*



**\* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures**

### What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

Not applicable. The Fund does not have a specific minimum share of transitioning and enabling activities.



### What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Fund invests at least 10% of its Net Asset Value in sustainable investments with environmental objectives which are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



### What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

Not applicable. The Fund does not commit to sustainable investments with a social objective.



### What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

<sup>1</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective – see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2022/1214.

Derivatives and cash are the only two investment types categorised as 'other' and no minimum environmental or social safeguards are applied.

Investments categorised as 'other' will be used for the following reasons:

- Cash and cash equivalents or money market instruments: The Fund may invest in cash and cash equivalents or money market instruments to take advantage of market opportunities as they arise.
- Derivatives: The Fund may use derivatives only for managing broad market exposure.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Yes, the Index has been designated as a reference benchmark.

● ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Index is aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics of the Fund as it is screened by MSCI research based on the binding elements detailed earlier, which are applied to the Index constituents at the quarterly rebalance.

The Investment Manager evaluates the application of the binding elements through regular reviews to ensure that the Index continues to be aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

● ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the Index is achieved on a continuous basis through the Fund tracking the Index, which incorporates the various binding elements, within the set tracking error tolerance and outlined in the Index Tracking Strategy section of this Supplement. In addition, investment guidelines and restrictions are coded in the Investment Manager's order management system to enable pre and post-trade monitoring.

● ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

The Index differs from the Parent Index due to the application of the ESG screening and tilts described in earlier responses.

● ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

The methodology used for the Index can be found [here](#).

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

More product specific information regarding the Fund can be found [here](#).

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.