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# Future proofing long-term credit portfolios

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# **Fixed Income Responsible Investment Process**



#### **ESG integration into investment decisions:**

- Within credit research
- Within portfolio construction complementary tool to our relative value analysis, along side fundamental and spread factors
- Beyond the E, S and G framework

#### **Development of new solutions:**

- Bespoke investment strategies depending on each client's needs and objectives
- Broader capacities on climate risk
   measurement



Target positive and measurable impact addressing societal challenges:

- Invest in bonds with dedicated use of proceeds towards Environmental and Social themes
- Identify impact in the broad fixed income universe
- Engage with all stakeholders, foster new initiatives



Screen out key identified ESG risks while investing in best practices – identify leaders and laggards:

- Exclusions (AXA IM ESG standards and custom client exclusion lists)
- Positive screening and Best in Class approach



# **ESG diagnostics – The basics**

| ESG performance                     | Fund | Universe |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------|
| ESG Score                           | 6.4  | 6.2      |
| Carbon footprint                    | 243  | 280      |
| ESG tail risks                      |      |          |
| Climate Risk                        | -    | 0.6%     |
| Tobacco                             | -    | 1.3%     |
| Defense                             | -    | 0.1%     |
| ESG Low Quality                     | -    | 2.9%     |
| Controversies                       | -    | 1.3%     |
|                                     |      |          |
| ESG KPIs                            |      |          |
| % Green Bonds                       | 5    | 1        |
| % of Independent directors on board | 69   | 62       |



E 6.8 7.0\*

s 5.7

6.0\*

G

**5.2** 5.3\*



2 Source: AXA IM. For illustrative purpose only.

# **ESG diagnostics – Measuring positive impact**



#### **Focus on Green Bond investments**

#### Direct and indirect exposure to SDGs through use of proceeds bonds





# **Beyond the ESG framework**





# Mainstreaming impact investing

How to characterise impact investing?

#### **Five key pillars**



## The example of climate change

#### ✓ Key areas of focus

- Low carbon transition
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable agriculture

#### ✓ SDGs targeted



#### ✓ Impact KPIs

- Measure and track KPIs such as renewable energy generation or investment in energy efficiency
- Compare to industry acknowledged catalogues

#### Impact leaders:

Highest rated companies in terms of the extent of net positive societal impact

#### **Transitioning companies:**

Operating within the limits of today's business realities while exhibiting some ambition for significant transformation



# Engage with all stakeholders through a forward-looking approach

# Active stewardship At the company level Key engagement themes tackled through individual and collective initiatives Climate change Biodiversity Public health Gender diversity

#### New initiatives in the market

**Transition bonds** 

#### ✓ Why?

A significant gap between companies able to issue Green Bonds and traditional bond issuers

#### ✓ Who?

Brown companies that have the ambition to transition to green in the future

#### ✓ How?

Encourage the issuance of transition bonds on a specific projects' taxonomy

- Energy: carbon capture storage
- Transportation: gas powered ships
- Industry: cements, metals or glass efficiency investments
- Establish clear expectations on issuers' environmental strategy and commitments

#### **Collaboration on a daily basis**

A common journey

- Ongoing dialogue with external ESG providers
  - To understand their latest developments and share knowledge
  - To be able to identify potential biases, strengths and weaknesses of each methodology
- ✓ Ongoing dialogue with **bond issuers** 
  - Encourage transparency and disclosure
  - Integrate ESG considerations as a part of our regular discussions with companies
- ✓ Ongoing dialogue with our clients



# **Climate strategy**



