

Product information on the website for financial products that promote environmental or social characteristics

# a) Summary

DPS: the 'beleggingsmandaat Pensioenfonds PDN (Pensioenfonds PDN investment mandate) is classified as an article 8 product according to the SFDR, which means that it promotes environmental and social sustainability characteristics.

DPS actively identifies and mitigates sustainability risks. We do this in various ways. First of all, we exclude certain investments. DPS also utilises impact bonds within the investment portfolio to further integrate sustainability into the investment process.

DPS uses various data sources and methodologies to promote environmental and social sustainability characteristics and implement the above-mentioned activities. These data sources and methodologies enable us to implement, monitor and report on our activities. Data sources used by DPS include Sustainalytics, Bloomberg, AFM/Pension Federation, national and international sanctions lists, Columbia Threadneedle Investments (CTI), and the Freedom House and Transparency International rankings.

Information from data sources is used to assess companies and countries when selecting investments (integration) and to exclude companies or countries (exclusion). This information is also used to monitor the existing portfolio. The data sources used are based on quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies or a combination of the two.

Inevitably, the data and methodology used also have limitations. For example, a patented scoring methodology may have limited comparability with other scoring methodologies. In addition, some underlying data regularly materialises via company self-assessment and has not always been validated by an independent party.

Integration and exclusion methods form an integral part of the investment and selection process.

#### b) No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics but does not have a sustainable investment objective as defined in the SFDR.

# c) The financial product's environmental or social characteristics

Sustainability is a major aspect of DPS's investment philosophy and an integral component of its investment principles. DPS aims to use its investments for long-term social and other value creation. To achieve this, DPS promotes the following environmental and social characteristics:

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### 1. Integrating ESG factors into management:

ESG factors are used in managing and evaluating investments.

#### 2. Climate change mitigation and carbon reduction:

By measuring the carbon intensity of the shares, including listed property, and corporate bonds in the investment portfolio and by integrating a carbon reduction target of 55% by 2030 compared with the 2016 benchmark and carbon data for the shares, investment grade credits, and high yield US investment categories, as well as a net zero reduction target (100% reduction) by 2050. For the listed property investment category, a reduction target of 40% by 2030 has been set compared with the 2020 benchmark and carbon data, as well as a net zero reduction target (100% reduction) by 2050.

# 3. Exclusion based on the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact:

Companies that operate in a manner not compatible with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles are excluded from investment.

#### 4. Exclusion of socially controversial activities:

Companies involved in the production of tobacco, companies that derive 5% or more of their turnover from coal or tar sands mining, companies involved in the production of controversial weapons such as cluster munitions, land mines, chemical and biological weapons, depleted uranium munitions, white phosphorus munitions, and nuclear weapons. DPS also does not invest in suppliers of products that are vital to the production of the aforementioned controversial weapons (key suppliers). The PDN mandate applies specific ESG criteria to countries, with investments only being made in sovereign loans of countries that have a positive score on these selected indicators. Countries that do not adhere to international treaties or that are under UN, EU or Dutch government sanctions are also excluded.

# d) Investment strategy

DPS's sustainability policy aims for long-term social and other value creation. In adopting long-term value creation as a leading principle, sustainability and sustainability risks are integrated in all investment categories using several tools:

- ESG integration
- Impact bonds
- Exclusion
- Transparency

These tools, as well as a carbon reduction target for the shares, listed property and investment grade credits investment categories based on WACI scope 1 and scope 2 data, demonstrate DPS's commitment to using its investment portfolio to minimise negative climate impact.

# **ESG** integration

Where possible, DPS integrates ESG factors into the management and assessment of investments. The way in which social issues in the form of ESG aspects are embedded in the investment decisions differs for each investment category and mandate.

In its asset management mandates, DPS aims to achieve a better sustainability profile than the appropriate benchmark on the basis of the ESG Controversies. DPS developed a scoring methodology for this purpose. ESG Controversies provide a good indication of a company's sustainability risk profile, as they refer to incidents at companies or their suppliers that have a

negative impact on stakeholders, the environment, or business operations. Data on this is provided by Sustainalytics. DPS does not invest in companies that are classified in the worst ESG controversy score category ('severe' impact/category 5), based on information from Sustainalytics.

DPS invests in companies that follow good governance practices. This includes good management structures, relations with their employees, remuneration of staff, and compliance with tax legislation. DPS assesses companies on governance issues based on data sources such as the ESG risk score and controversy score assigned by Sustainalytics. DPS also measures the carbon footprint of the shares, listed property and investment grade credits investment categories. This measurement method is based on WACI scope 1 and scope 2 data.

# **Impact Bonds**

DPS invests in impact bonds in the investment categories, sovereign and corporate bonds (Nominal Sovereign, Inflation Linked Bonds, High Yield Europe and Investment Grade Credits Europe). Impact bonds are bonds issued by companies and governmental or semi-governmental bodies to finance social and sustainability projects. These bonds can focus on projects that reduce the negative consequences of climate change, for example. Investment in impact bonds is a way to make a positive contribution to climate-related projects and offers an option to make a positive contribution to the climate theme. DPS allocates at least 2.5% above the mandate benchmarks (aggregate) to impact bonds.

#### **Exclusion**

DPS also monitors its clients' exclusion policy. On behalf of Pensioenfonds PDN, DPS excludes companies and countries based on the risk of negative impact and a conflict with Pensioenfonds PDN's norms and values. DPS's exclusion policy applies to DPS's mandates within the investment categories of shares, listed property, corporate bonds, and sovereign bonds.

DPS excludes the following companies on behalf of Pensioenfonds PDN:

- Tobacco producers;
- Companies that derive at least 5% of their turnover from coal or tar sands mining;
- Companies involved in the production of controversial weapons such as cluster munitions, land mines, chemical and biological weapons, depleted uranium munitions, white phosphorus munitions, and nuclear weapons;
- Suppliers of products that are vital to the production of the aforementioned controversial weapons (key suppliers);
- Companies that do not make enough progress with an engagement programme with respect to focus SDG 3, 7, 12 or 13 and there are no special circumstances that justify continuing investing in the company.

Additionally, companies that operate in a manner not compatible with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles are excluded from investment.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact are derived from the following four international treaties and declarations:

- 1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- 2. The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
- 3. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;
- 4. The United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Ten Principles are subdivided into four main themes. These main themes are human rights, labour law, environment and anti-corruption measures.

The PDN mandate applies specific ESG criteria to countries, with investments only being made in sovereign loans of countries that have a positive score on these selected indicators. Countries that do not adhere to international treaties or that are under UN, EU or Dutch government sanctions are also excluded.

DPS uses the screening and research capabilities of Sustainalytics. Sustainalytics engages in worldwide research into social issues and analyses investment portfolios for their sustainability. DPS uses CTI's services to assess the progress of engagement programmes. Prior to any investment, this is checked against Pensioenfonds PDN's exclusion list. The investment portfolio is also reviewed each quarter to determine whether all the preceding quarter's investments complied with Pensioenfonds PDN's exclusion criteria.

### **Transparency**

In line with the PRI reporting cycle, DPS produces reports to ensure transparency about the sustainability policy and its implementation. DPS also submits a monthly report to Pensioenfonds PDN about sustainability each quarter.

#### e) Share of investments

DPS promotes environmental and social characteristics without pursuing a sustainable investment objective as defined in the SFDR. DPS has no minimum allocation to sustainable investments as defined in the SFDR or investments in environmentally sustainable activities as defined in the Taxonomy Regulation.

Most of DPS's investments are geared to environmental and/or social characteristics. These investments cover shares, listed property, corporate bonds and sovereign bonds. The other investments are not geared to these characteristics and relate to derivatives and liquid assets. These are not subject to environmental or social minimum safeguards.

#### f) Monitoring environmental or social characteristics

DPS uses the following sustainability indicators to monitor how environmental and social characteristics are met:

Integrating ESG factors into management:

1. The number of companies that, based on Sustainalytics information, fall in the worst ESG controversy score category ('severe' impact/category 5) or if a company receives an ESG controversy score 'high' impact/category 4.

Achieving positive impact on its environment:

2. A target percentage of investments in impact bonds for the sovereign and corporate bond investment categories. The KPI is an aggregate target allocation to impact bonds of 2.5% above the benchmark for the sovereign and corporate bond investment categories.

Climate change mitigation and carbon reduction:

3. A reduction objective relating to carbon intensity for the shares and investment grade credit investment categories: 55% by 2030 and 100% (net zero) by 2050

compared with the 2016 benchmark. For the listed property investment category: 40% by 2030 and 100% (net zero) by 2050 compared with the 2020 benchmark. This reduction target is based on scope 1 and scope 2 data.

# Exclusion of companies

4. Assets invested in excluded individual companies at year-end, excluding fund investments.

# DPS excludes companies that:

- a. Operate in a way that is incompatible with the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles;
- b. Are active in tobacco production;
- c. Derive at least 5% of their turnover from coal or tar sands mining;
- d. Are involved in the production of controversial weapons such as cluster munitions, land mines, chemical and biological weapons, depleted uranium munitions, white phosphorus munitions and nuclear weapons;
- e. Are suppliers of products that are vital to the production of the aforementioned controversial weapons (key suppliers);
- f. Do not make enough progress with an engagement programme with respect to focus SDG 3, 7, 12 or 13 and there are no special circumstances that justify continuing investing in the company;
- g. Are under UN, EU or Dutch sanctions.

#### **Exclusion of countries**

5. Assets invested in excluded countries at year-end, excluding fund investments.

#### DPS excludes countries that:

- a. Do not achieve a positive score with respect to various ESG indicators selected by PDN:
- b. Do not adhere to international treaties or that are under UN, EU or Dutch government sanctions.

#### g) Methodologies

The previous sections introduced the promoted characteristics and associated sustainability indicators. This section further discusses the methodologies used to monitor progress of the promoted characteristics.

#### Integrating ESG factors into management:

 Based on information from Sustainalytics, companies classified in the worst ESG controversy score category ('severe' impact/category 5) are excluded. If a company receives a 'high' impact/category 4 ESG controversy score, a formal procedure is instigated.

# Climate change mitigation and carbon reduction:

The Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) scope 1 and 2 emissions are used as a carbon intensity measure as an amount of emissions (in tonnes) per million of turnover within the shares, listed property, investment grade credits and high yield US investment

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categories. DPS calculates the carbon intensity in accordance with TCFD recommendations.

# Exclusion of companies:

3. DPS monitors the companies that fall under UN, EU or Dutch sanctions, companies that produce tobacco, companies that obtain over 5% of their turnover from mining coal or oil from tar sands, and companies that produce/supply controversial weapons or that act in violation of the UN Global Compact. Finally, DPS monitors companies' ESG controversy scores for the purposes of exclusion. This monitoring is carried out based on information and analyses from Sustainalytics. DPS also monitors the companies with an engagement programme with respect to focus SDG 3, 7, 12 or 13. This monitoring is carried out based on information and analysis originating from CTI.

#### Exclusion of countries:

4. DPS monitors the countries that do not adhere to international treaties or that are under UN, EU or Dutch government sanctions. This monitoring is carried out based on information and analyses from Sustainalytics. In addition, DPS also monitors countries based on the ESG indicators selected by PDN.

# h) Data sources and processing

DPS uses external data as input for the investment process, preferring standardised data where possible. We receive data from the following and other sources:

### Bloomberg

 Bloomberg supplies information on the percentage of impact bonds in the corporate and sovereign bond portfolio.

# **Sustainalytics**

- Sustainalytics supplies information on the exclusion of companies, State Owned Entities and countries.
- Sustainalytics supplies information on scope 1 and scope 2 carbon emissions of companies in the portfolio.
- Sustainalytics supplies information on companies' ESG controversy score.

### AFM/Pension Federation

AFM/Pension Federation's cluster munitions list.

#### National and international sanctions lists

 The publicly available EU, Dutch government and UN sanctions lists inform exclusions of countries and companies under sanctions.

# <u>CTI</u>

• Under the engagement policy, CTI supplies data on the implemented engagement policy, total engagements and successful engagement on milestones.

### Freedom House/Transparency International

 With respect to the EMD country policy, we consult the publicly available rankings from Freedom House (Freedom in the World index) and Transparency International (Corruption Perception Index).

# i) Methodologies and data limitations

DPS uses information that is supplied by ESG data providers. Although various sources are used to ensure that environmental and social characteristics are applied within the mandates, there are limitations to the methodologies and data sources.

The scoring methodology of ESG data providers such as Sustainalytics is based on a patented methodology. A difference in methodology between the various ESG providers can lead to different outcomes. For instance, the ESG qualification issued by ESG data providers on companies and countries may differ among the various ESG data providers. The ESG ratings issued by ESG data providers are therefore of limited comparability. The engagement programme focus can also be different depending on the engagement provider.

Data from companies and countries on which ESG data providers rely for their ESG rating may also be based on public sources. Due to transparency requirements for larger companies, there is generally more public information available about larger companies than about smaller companies.

Information can also be based on input from companies themselves. The qualification of this information is therefore subjective in certain respects. In other cases, the information is not validated by an independent party. Bloomberg's indicators for Green Bonds, Social Bonds, Sustainability Bonds, Sustainability Linked Bonds and Transition Bonds have not undergone an obligatory audit by an external auditor.

# j) Due diligence

Sustainability criteria form part of the selection criteria for our investments. This means that DPS considers sustainability as well as financial aspects when assessing investments or investment service providers. The above-mentioned methods of ESG integration, impact investment, and exclusion methods form an integral part of DPS's investment and selection process.

# k) Engagement policy

DPS itself does not implement an engagement and voting policy with respect to Pensioenfonds PDN's investment portfolio. Pensioenfonds PDN implements its own engagement and voting policy with respect to the investments in this Pensioenfonds PDN portfolio with the help of its engagement provider CTI.

For Pensioenfonds PDN's engagement policy, please visit the Pensioenfonds PDN website. Click **here** for more information.

# I) Designated reference benchmark

There is no all-inclusive reference benchmark to determine whether this is geared to the environmental and/or social characteristics it promotes. This means that this category does not apply.