

**Third Quarter 2022** 

# **ESG Integration in Fixed Income**

**Prepared for UN PRI & SEC Thailand** 

**September 2022** 



## Manulife Investment Management

Part of a leading global financial services group

## Manulife

**Protecting** customer assets since 1887

More than **38,000** employees serving more than **33M** customers worldwide

\$1.1T in assets under management and administration

- Global wealth and asset management
- Financial advice
- Insurance



## **Manulife** Investment Management

- Institutional asset management
- Retirement
- Retail investments

1,000+institutional accounts

**\$869B** in assets under management and administration

More than **15M** retirement plan participants and investor accounts

250.462 retirement plans served globally

Source: MFC Statistical Information Package. Manulife Investment Management is the unified global brand for Manulife's global wealth and asset management business, which serves individual investors and institutional clients in three businesses: retirement, retail and institutional asset management (public and private markets). Global Wealth and Asset Management AUMA at December 31, 2021, which includes \$194.6 billion of assets managed on behalf of other segments and \$147.9 billion of assets under administration. Assets shown in U.S. dollars.



## How does ESG actually affect companies?



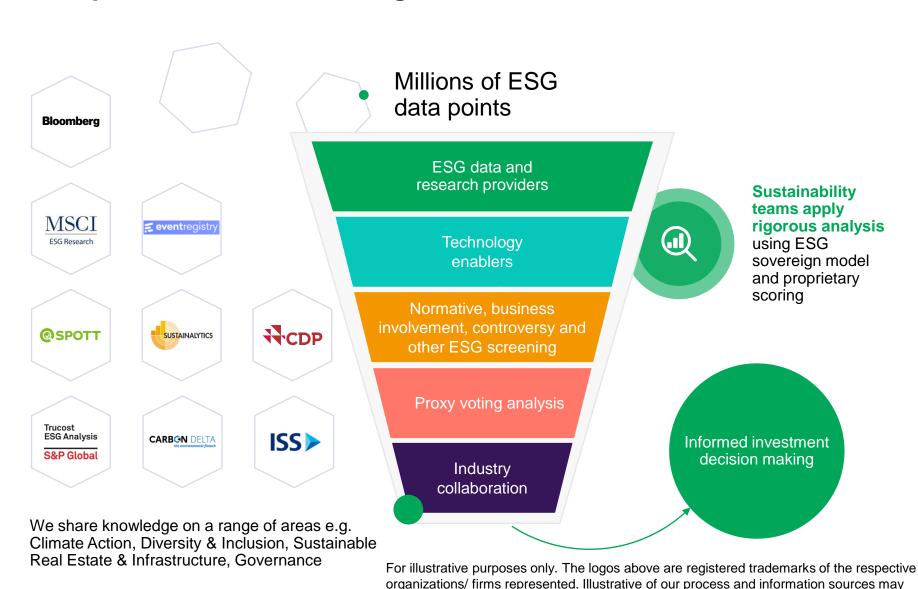
#### **COMPANY IMPACTS**

- Cost/liabilities
- Operational stoppages
- Litigation
- Regulator intervention

- Executive rotation
- Reputational loss
- · R&D, Compliance costs
- Gain/loss access to markets

For illustrative purposes only

## We combine analysis of proprietary data with external sustainability data providers to deliver insights for our investment teams





Manulife Investment Management

change over time.

## **ESG Due Diligence: Industry Handbooks**

- Manulife IM has developed an in-house view on the materiality of certain ESG issues to specific industries (based on the SASB materiality framework)
- A series of industry-specific ESG integration 'handbooks' are available on Bloomberg research management function to enable investment staff to efficiently identify the value drivers which can be impacted by material ESG issues

Manulife Industry Specific Materiality Map											
Ranking of ESG Issues	Revenue		Operating Expenses		Non-Operating Expenses		Assets		Liabilities		
	Market Share	New Markets	Pricing Power T	Cost of Reven	R&D T	СарЕх	Extraordinary   T	Tangible Assel	Intangible Ass	Contingent Lia T	Pension & Oth T
1,Materials Sourcing	Medium Risk			High Risk							
2,Water Management	Medium Risk			High Risk		Medium Risk	Medium Risk			Medium Risk	
2,Waste Management	Medium Risk			High Risk		Medium Risk	Medium Risk			Medium Risk	
3,Energy Management in Manufacturing				High Risk		Medium Risk					
4, Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Medium Risk			Medium Risk		Medium Risk					
4,Product Lifecycle Management	Medium Risk			Medium Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk			Medium Risk	
4,Employee Health & Safety							Medium Risk		Medium Risk	Medium Risk	
7 Recruiting & Managing a Global & Skilled Workforce	Medium Risk		Medium Risk	Hiah Risk							

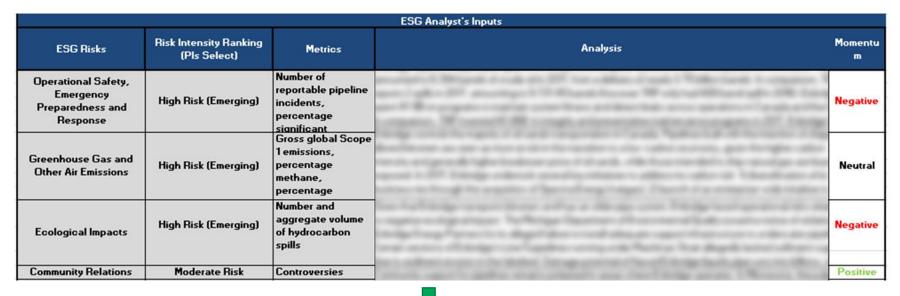
Manulife Industry Specific Due Diligence Questions				
Category	Sub-Category	▼ Questions		
Environoment	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	> What is the company's strategy to reduce its Scope 1 and perflourinated compound emissions?		
Environoment	Energy Management in Manufacturing	How is the company managing energy consumption and related price and supply risks?		
Environoment	Energy Management in Manufacturing	> What strategies are in place to increase energy efficiency and manage the company's energy mix?		
Environoment	Water Management	> What strategies does the company employ to minimize potential water supply disruptions or cost increases, particularly in water stressed regions?		
Environoment	Waste Management	> What are the company's primary sources of hazardous waste, and what strategies, including recycling, are in place to reduce these waste streams?		
Human Capital	Recruiting and Managing a Global Skilled Workforce	> What strategies does the company employ to attract, recruit, and retain qualified technical candidates?		
Human Capital	Employee Health & Safety	› How does the company assess, monitor, and reduce exposure to health and safety risks in the workplace?		
Business Model & Innovation	Product Lifecycle Management	> What strategies does the company employ to monitor, reduce, or eliminate the presence of potentially harmful chemicals in its products?		
Business Model & Innovation	Product Lifecycle Management	> How does the company design and market energy efficiency in its products and respond to increasing customer demand for sustainable products?		
Business Model & Innovation	Materials Sourcing	> What is the company's exposure to risks of potential disruptions in the supply chain arising from the use of critical materials, and how is the company managing these risks?		
Leadership & Governance	Intellectual Property Projection & Competitive Behavior	> How does the company manage the legal environment surrounding anti-competitive behavior and the protection of its intellectual property?		
CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS		Total Production		
CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS	-	Percentage of products from owned facilities		

Source: Manulife Investment Management. For illustrative purposes only.



## Corporate Credit Analysis in North American Fixed Income - Credit spread assessment

- Ensures standard regional format for incorporating ESG factors into internal credit ratings across credit analysts
- · Leverages third party ESG research to inform credit analyst's in-house view on company's ESG profile



Analysts provide views on impacts to credit spread

Credit Analyst Assessment of ESG and Valuation Impact

Realization Probability of ESG risks using 1 year time horizon

Materiality of ESG Risk? ESG Factors Likely to Effect Yield Spread

Compensation required in terms of yield spread for ESG risks?

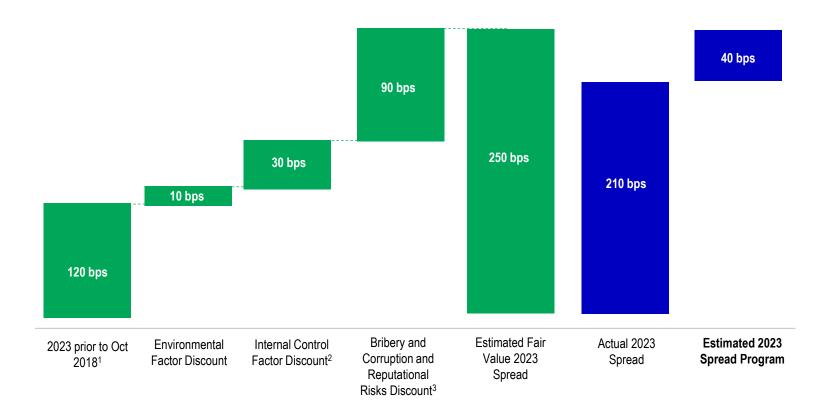
If high credit rating with poor ESG score/metrics, does this indicate potential for spreads to widen?

Issue at risk because-bond-spreads-are-too-tight-relative-to material-ESG-risks?

No

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## Applying ESG research to fixed income valuation



For illustrative purposes only.

## **ESG Credit Case Study**

## Consumer Products (China)

Issuer name	Consumer Products – Nutrition		
Country	China		
Ticker	BTSDF		
Bond Rating (S&P/Moody's/Fitch)	BB (S&P) / Ba3 (Moody's)		
MSCI ESG Rating	BBB		
Industry & Description	Manufacturer and distributor of packaged food products. A leading provider of infant milk formula in China. The company offers pediatric nutritional, baby care products, and other healthcare supplements.		

	Risk Intensity Ranking	Best-in-class
Environmental	Moderate Risk	
Social	Moderate Risk	✓
Governance	Moderate Risk	



Source: Manulife Investment Management, 30 June 2020. Chart shows bond price (cents). For illustrative purposes only.

## Manulife Asia Credit Committee (MACC) – Action → Recommend as core holding since 2016

- Core products are infant milk formulas and health supplement products, which could be vulnerable to regulatory and product safety risks.
- Social: The business has capitalized on the growing opportunities in nutrition and health products, as rising disposal income, changing lifestyles from urbanization and greater awareness of health and wellness issues have led to substantial growth in demand for its products over the last decade.
- Product quality and safety risks are well managed with a solid operating track record, premium product positioning and few product recalls relative to industry peers.
- Governance: While the company's shareholding is concentrated with substantial influence from its founder, the risk is partly mitigated by its listing status and good financial disclosures.
- The company was upgraded by S&P in 2018
  while Moody's has a "positive" outlook on its
  rating. We see potential for further upgrades in
  the medium term considering the company's
  good operating track record, prudent financial
  management, and favorable industry outlook.

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## **How Our ESG Sovereign Model Works**

## Factors included in **ESG** sovereign scoring model

#### **Environmental**

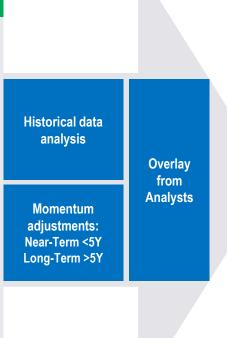
- · Water resource management
- Energy consumption & intensity
- · Air quality
- Resources conservation

#### Social

- Human capital
- Education readiness
- Effectiveness of judicial system
- Innovation
- Wealth equality
- Civil liberties

#### Governance

- Government strength & political stability
- Corruption assessment
- Fiscal transparency



combined with credit analysts' overlay				
Asia-Pacific	Е	S	G	
Country A	Weak	Moderate	Moderate	
Country B	Moderate	Moderate	Strong	
Country C	Strong	Weak	Weak	
Country D	Moderate	Strong	Strong	
Country E	Very Weak	Moderate	Weak	
Country F	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	

Output from FSG sovereign model

Ultimate sovereign rating notching impact			
ESG Sovereign Score	Sovereign Rating Impact		
Very strong	+2		
Strong	+1		
Moderate	0		
Weak	-1		
Very Weak	-2		

Our ESG and investment teams have engineered a proprietary model to assess sovereign ESG factors and subsequent impact on ratings

For illustrative purposes only.



## **How We Engage with Companies**

Engagement yields greater insight into the quality of a company's management and performance. This helps to enhance investment decisions and long-term value.

#### **How We Engage**

- Our engagement objectives can be **fact-finding** or outcome-driven.
- We may engage **directly** or in **collaboration**.
- Engagement activity is logged for progress tracking; it is available to ESG analysts and all investment teams.

#### **Examples of outcome-driven engagement**



#### Why We Engage

- **Value Creation:** On behalf of our clients, we engage companies with an outcome oriented approach to mitigate risks and support long-term returns.
- **Due Diligence:** Evaluation of ESG factors is a natural extension of our fundamental research and engagement yields greater insight into the quality of a company's management and performance overall. This supports investment decision-making in a changing world.
- **Stewardship:** We collaborate on issues of systemic importance to support the long-term interests of our client's capital. We also participate in industry and regulatory groups to support resilient capital markets.

We also engage collaboratively in industry-wide engagements for example as founder members of Climate Action 100+1

For illustrative purposes only. 1https://www.climateaction100.org/



## Manulife GF Sustainable Asia Bond Fund's Holistic Approach



### Our holistic approach to sustainable investing enables us to build a portfolio seeking to generate sustainable risk-adjusted returns

Source: Manulife Investment Management, 31 January 2022. For illustration purposes only. \*Best-in-class" ESG is industry terminology referring to an investment approach that selects companies that are leaders from an ESG perspective. We consider that the integration of sustainability risks in the decision-making process is an important element in determining long-term performance outcomes and is an effective risk mitigation technique. Our approach to sustainability provides a flexible framework that supports implementation across different asset classes and investment teams. While we believe that sustainable investing will lead to better long-term investment outcomes, there is no guarantee that sustainable investing will ensure better returns in the longer term. In particular, by limiting the range of investable assets through the exclusionary framework, positive screening and thematic investment, we may forego the opportunity to invest in an investment which we otherwise believe likely to outperform over time.



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### **Investment Considerations**

A widespread health crisis such as a global pandemic could cause substantial market volatility, exchange-trading suspensions and closures, and affect portfolio performance. For example, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has resulted in significant disruptions to global business activity. The impact of a health crisis and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could affect the global economy in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. A health crisis may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks. Any such impact could adversely affect the portfolio's performance, resulting in losses to your investment.

Any performance information shown is the investment strategy composite gross of fees, including advisory and investment management fees and other expenses an investor would incur, but net of transaction costs, unless otherwise noted; deduction of such expenses would reduce returns. Net performance results reflect the application of the highest incremental rate of the standard investment advisory or management fee schedule to gross performance results, unless otherwise indicated. Changes in exchange rates may have an adverse effect. Actual fees may vary depending on, among other things, the applicable fee schedule, portfolio size and/or investment management agreement. For example, if \$100,000 were invested and experienced a 10% annual return compounded monthly for 10 years, its ending value, without giving effect to the deduction of advisory or investment management fees, would be \$270,704 with an annualized compounded return of 10.47%. If an advisory or investment management fee of 0.95% of the average market value of the account were deducted monthly

for the 10-year period, the annualized compounded return would be 9.43% and the ending dollar value would be \$246,355. Unless otherwise noted, returns greater than 1 year are annualized; calendar year returns for each one year period end in December. Discrepancies may occur due to rounding. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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