



% DPAM
INDOSUEZ

May 2026

Sustainability ranking

Emerging countries

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I. Emerging countries universe

1. A pioneer in sustainability analysis for emerging economies

Emerging economies are generally considered to have high potential, notably due to their growing populations which tend to be younger than those of their OECD counterparts. Although most are not always seen as being sustainable or democratic, integrating sustainability criteria into the management of a portfolio investing in these countries provides real added value.

Integrating sustainability factors into the analysis of emerging market issuers is compatible with and adds value to a sovereign debt portfolio. Doing so helps to provide a holistic view by focusing on the long-term perspectives for key institutions that are vital for the functioning and development of markets. The analysis is complementary to credit ratings by mapping the risk situation in terms of sustainability and by providing valuable additional insights to sustainability-oriented investors. Increasingly credit rating agencies are integrating ESG related indicators in their country credit ratings highlighting that DPAM was ahead of the curve in systematically adopting this approach.

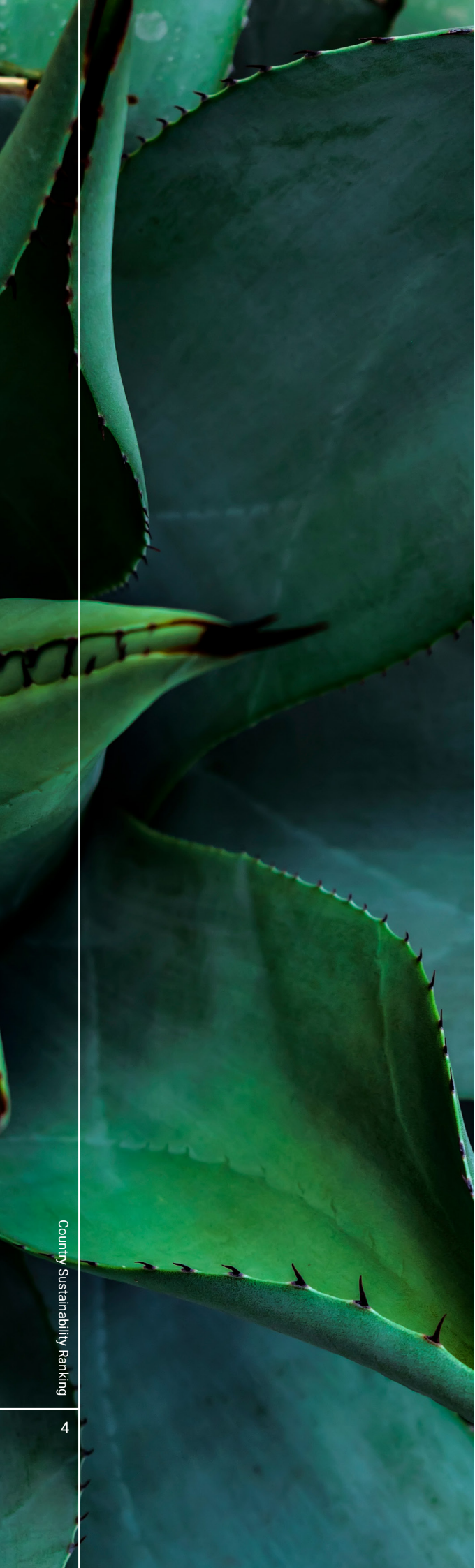
The world population currently stands just below 8.3 billion. According to United Nations statistics, this number is projected to grow to 9.5-9.7 billion by 2050. **This increase will be particularly prevalent in emerging economies**, which are currently confronted with overpopulation and a lack of natural resources. The demographic challenge is not only related to energy and environmental challenges, it entails **a challenge for the entire economy.**

The uprisings in the Middle East and large migratory movements continue to highlight the importance of the democratic process and the guarantee of civil rights and freedoms. **Inequality** within a population where high unemployment exists, in particular among youth, creates an insecure and unstable climate, which could lead to rebellion.

Therefore, analysis of the viability of an emerging economy should include the sustainability of the country in terms of transparency and democratic values, as well as the environment, demographics, health care, wealth distribution and education.



The experience DPAM has gained in the sustainability analysis of OECD states has led to a sustainability model designed for emerging countries incorporating their specific characteristics.



2. Sustainability ranking

May 2026

The starting universe is composed of 87 countries, mainly defined by **the existence of a local or hard currency sovereign debt market**. The sustainability ranking enables the identification of countries which have fully integrated global challenges into the development of their medium-term objectives.

This complements the information gathered from credit ratings, which is traditionally used to assess the short-term valuation of sovereign debt. Integrating long-term perspectives allows us to highlight those countries that are expected to outperform others and therefore to be solvent. These perspectives have no direct impact on the current valuation of an investment but will influence medium and long-term performance.



3. A wellbeing model for countries

It is generally agreed that this decade is key for accelerating the transition and that this will determine impact in coming decades.

Currently, the economy is not serving citizens and the planet and is showing its limits in terms of growth.

As Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome, mentioned during her keynote speech at the Impact Finance Day in Belgium: we need to shift **from a GDP-based economy to an economy based on values for citizens and the planet, for a wellbeing model.**

Instead of looking at growth through the lens of GDP, she suggested we look at whether the economy finances education or good quality health for all. This is exactly what our model has done since 2007.

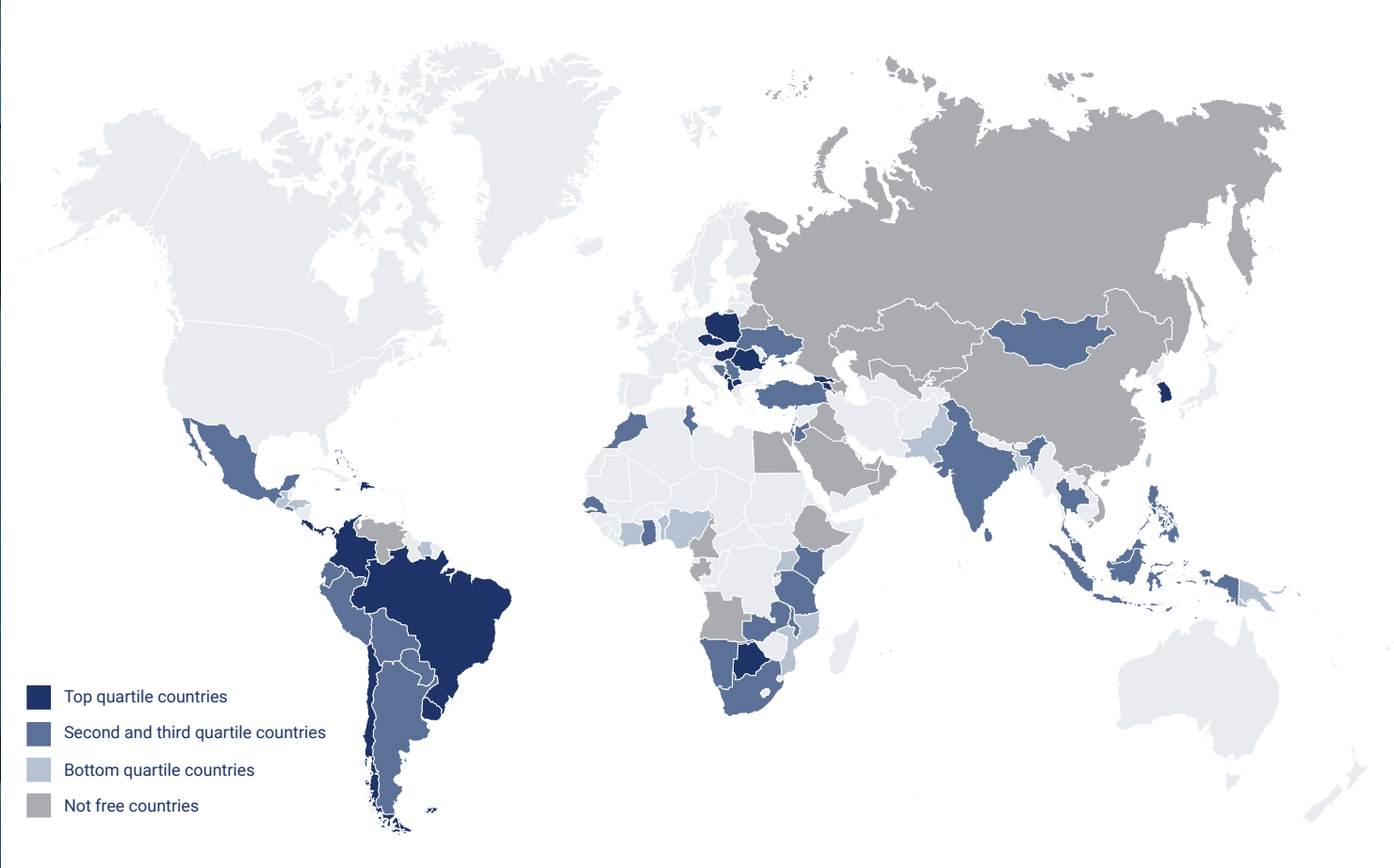
Today we face two scenarios: either business as usual or the acceleration of the transition.

Scientific evidence is clear on the first option: the slower the action, the worse the impact, the higher the cost and the more challenging the transition will be with severe consequences including in terms of poverty and inequality.

We can currently see in Western countries how our economic system is increasing social tensions and inequality and decreasing wellbeing. Therefore, at DPAM, we are convinced about how **meaningful** our model, articulated around challenges such as the environment, governance and democratic requirements, wellbeing/health, and education/innovation, is.

Quantitative metrics and the complex challenges of modelling, both present boundaries. As a result, we constantly review our model, to ensure that it **captures the most relevant challenges accurately.**

Figure 1. Emerging countries



Source: DPAM, May 2026

Figure 2. Sustainable country ranking of emerging countries

| Top quartile countries | | | |
|------------------------|----|-------|-------|
| | # | H1 25 | H1 24 |
| Poland | 1 | 76 | 73 |
| Chile | 2 | 75 | 75 |
| Czech Republic | 3 | 75 | 75 |
| Albania | 4 | 73 | 69 |
| Uruguay | 5 | 73 | 73 |
| South Korea | 6 | 72 | 72 |
| Costa Rica | 7 | 72 | 72 |
| Hungary | 8 | 71 | 71 |
| Singapore | 9 | 70 | 71 |
| Montenegro | 10 | 68 | 67 |
| Armenia | 11 | 68 | 65 |
| Romania | 12 | 68 | 68 |
| Brazil | 13 | 67 | 66 |
| Macedonia | 14 | 66 | 63 |
| Botswana | 15 | 66 | 63 |
| Panama | 16 | 65 | 66 |
| Colombia | 17 | 65 | 62 |
| Dominican Republic | 18 | 65 | 64 |
| Georgia | 19 | 65 | 65 |

| Second and third quartile countries | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------|------------|
| | # | H1 25 | H1 24 |
| Argentina | 20 | 64 | 64 |
| Jordan | 21 | 63 | 62 |
| Paraguay | 22 | 62 | 62 |
| Mexico | 23 | 62 | 62 |
| Namibia | 24 | 62 | 67 |
| Israel | 25 | 62 | 65 |
| Bahamas | 26 | 62 | 65 |
| Malaysia | 27 | 62 | 63 |
| Serbia | 28 | 61 | 61 |
| Thailand | 29 | 61 | 64 |
| Ghana | 30 | 61 | 61 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 31 | 61 | Not liquid |
| Ecuador | 32 | 61 | 61 |
| South Africa | 33 | 60 | 57 |
| Sri Lanka | 34 | 60 | 59 |
| Peru | 35 | 59 | 61 |

| Second and third quartile countries | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------|-------|
| | # | H1 25 | H1 24 |
| Zambia | 36 | 59 | 60 |
| Jamaica | 37 | 59 | 62 |
| Philippines | 38 | 59 | 61 |
| Morocco | 39 | 59 | 57 |
| Bolivia | 40 | 59 | 59 |
| India | 41 | 59 | 55 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 42 | 58 | 58 |
| Indonesia | 43 | 58 | 58 |
| Ukraine | 44 | 58 | 59 |
| Mongolia | 45 | 58 | 60 |
| Turkey | 46 | 57 | 58 |
| El Salvador | 47 | 57 | 58 |
| Senegal | 48 | 56 | 58 |
| Tunisia | 49 | 56 | 57 |

| Bottom quartile countries | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------|-------|
| | # | H1 25 | H1 24 |
| Suriname | 50 | 55 | 58 |
| Guatemala | 51 | 55 | 55 |
| Kenya | 52 | 54 | 55 |
| Tanzania | 53 | 54 | 58 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 54 | 54 | 56 |
| Honduras | 55 | 54 | 54 |
| Bangladesh | 56 | 53 | 55 |
| Benin | 57 | 53 | 55 |
| Malawi | 58 | 53 | 58 |
| Mozambique | 59 | 49 | 49 |
| Papua New Guinea | 60 | 49 | 43 |
| Nigeria | 61 | 48 | 47 |
| Lebanon | 62 | 48 | 48 |
| Uganda | 63 | 45 | 47 |
| Pakistan | 64 | 45 | 44 |
| Taiwan | 65 | -100 | -100 |

| Excluded | | H1 25 |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| United Arab Emirate | | 63 |
| Oman | | 59 |
| Qatar | | 59 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 59 |
| Kuwait | | 57 |
| Kazakhstan | | 55 |
| Venezuela | | 55 |
| Bahrain | | 55 |
| Azerbaijan | | 55 |
| Vietnam | | 53 |
| Belarus | | 53 |
| Rwanda | | 52 |
| Egypt | | 52 |
| Kyrgyzstan | | 51 |
| Uzbekistan | | 51 |
| Gabon | | 49 |
| China | | 49 |
| Cameroon | | 48 |
| Russia | | 48 |
| Angola | | 45 |
| Ethiopia | | 44 |
| Iraq | | 43 |

Top quartile countries
 Second and third quartile countries
 Bottom quartile countries
 Not free countries

* Total outstanding amount of bonds below EUR 2 billion

Source: DPAM, May 2026



II. Principles to analyse emerging countries

1. Democracy as starting point

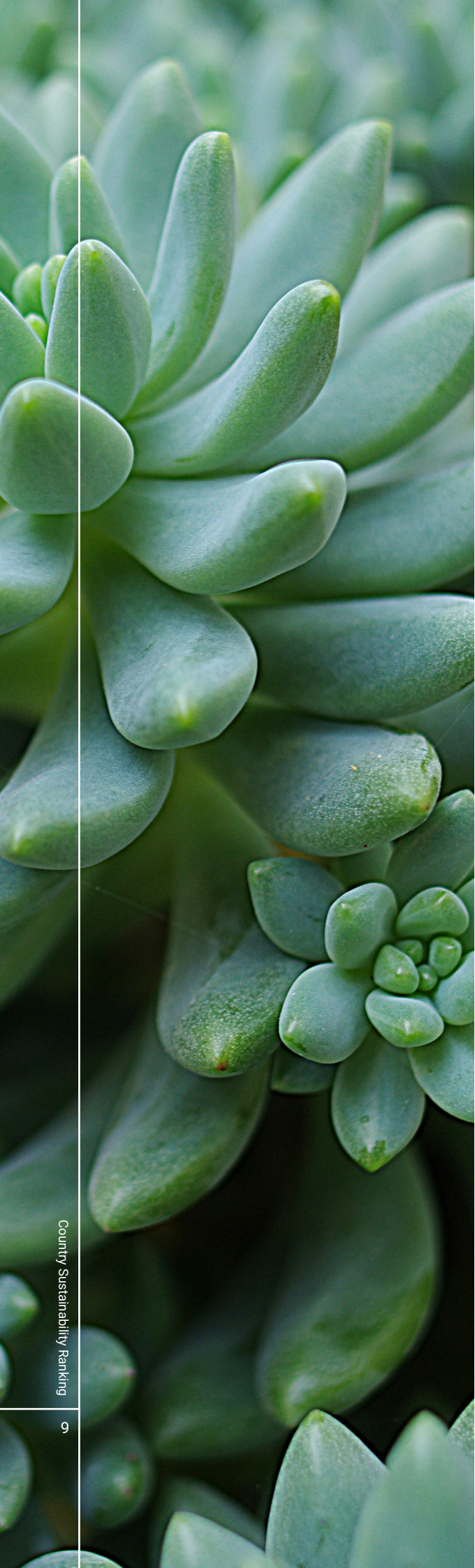
The core of the model is democratic values. Upholding these is a moral obligation for DPAM, a convinced sustainable investor. Academic research has demonstrated the correlation between the quality of the institutional framework of a country and its default risk.



DPAM uses the research of the international NGO Freedom House to assess the democratic development of a country. Based on an annual survey containing 25 questions on political rights and civil liberties, a country is attributed the status of 'free', 'partially free' or 'not free'. This information is complemented by the Democracy Index published by The Economist Intelligence Unit, which is based on approximately twenty questions and assesses the democratic level of a country. Countries are attributed the status of 'democracy', 'flawed democracy', 'hybrid regime' or 'authoritarian regime.'

Several countries within the emerging universe do not fulfil the minimum requirements in terms of democracy and investment leeway. Our investment strategy linked to this sustainability ranking means that DPAM does not invest in countries which have been categorised by reputable international sources as 'not free' and confirmed as "authoritarian regimes". These include the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Oman, China, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, Vietnam, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Egypt, Bahrain, Gabon, Venezuela, Cameroon, and Ethiopia.

Studies indicate a clear link between the democratic level of a country and its sustainability. It is therefore no surprise that the majority of those countries deemed 'not free' are at the bottom of the sustainability ranking.



2. Sustainability: real added value

Our analysis provides important information regarding the sustainability levels of the countries that have been studied. It enables comparison between countries which have a similar level of economic development, but which differ with regard to social, ecological and corporate governance development. Making a clear and thorough analysis of a country's sustainability adds real value as part of the construction of an investment portfolio, in addition to the ideological values that may be presented. In essence, the model puts the opportunities and risks linked to a country in context.

The objective is not to exclude countries which have low sustainability scores, as several countries in the universe have just started to improve their democratic process. Many years of dictatorship weigh on the sustainable development of a country. The transition to fully respecting civil liberties and political rights, the freedom of the press and gender equality is a long-term process, particularly if these rights have been violated for many years. Therefore, the progress made by countries should be closely monitored.

3. Global coverage

The extra-financial research performed by DPAM covers countries in which investors may want to invest (38 OECD countries and 87 emerging countries). This forms an integral part of DPAM's conviction management, which is based on seeking risk-adjusted performance. Investors having a clear and thorough view of the risks and opportunities of a specific country have a comprehensive source of information to assess whether the companies active in that particular country may be successful. The quality of a financial investment is judged, among other things, by the characteristics of the markets the company operates in and of the specific circumstances of those countries.



III. Country sustainability

1. What is sustainability?

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability at country level differs from sustainability at company level. **A sustainable country is committed to fully ensuring the freedom of its citizens and invests in their personal development and welfare. It respects the environment and is reliable in terms of international responsibilities and commitments. It ensures its future and invests in future generations (education and innovation).**

2. How to measure the sustainability of a country?

Three main approaches are used to measure the sustainability of a country:

- 1. The legal approach**, with the emphasis on treaties and offences related to government actions. It should be noted however that agreement on treaties is not always fully binding and there is often no penalty where violations occur.
- 2. The extreme stakeholder approach**, the problem with this approach is the importance of the number of stakeholders and parameters to be considered, giving rise to the possible dilution and irrelevance of indicators.
- 3. The exclusion approach**, this consists of exclusions based on controversial activities, examples being whale hunting and deforestation.

These approaches raise the issue of the moral threshold level; this is complicated as it is a subjective question.



IV. DPAM's country sustainability model

1. Key principles

Lack of information and an associated model encouraged DPAM to develop **an in-house research model in 2007**. Given the subjectivity of the issues, key principles were defined from the beginning:

01

Existence of an advisory board: including external specialists, providing input to the model.

02

Assessment of the commitment of the country to its sustainable development: variables on which the country can have influence through decisions.

03

Comparability and objectivity: we use numeric data, from reliable sources that is comparable for all countries

2. CSAB (Country Sustainability Advisory Board)

The role of the CSAB is:

- 01** To select the sustainable criteria which fulfil the key principles and are the most relevant in the framework of the sustainability assessment of the OECD universe.
- 02** To determine the weights attributed to each indicator.
- 03** To critically and accurately review the model and the ranking to ensure continuous improvement.
- 04** To validate the ranking of the developed economies.

The CSAB consists of seven voting members, four external experts. The complementary background of the members provides a high level of expertise and knowledge of the issues in constructing the most relevant model. The objective of the board is to raise awareness on ESG issues among the portfolio management teams.

External members

Aleksandar Rankovic
Researcher at IDDRI
(Institute for Sustainable Development
and International Relations)

François Gemenne
Professor at Sciences Po
(Paris) & ULB (Brussels)

Jan Schaerlaekens
Deputy at
Brussels Parliament

Tom Vandenboch
Global Director of
Programmes at VVOB



Ophélie Mortier
Chief Sustainable
Investment Officer

Julie Gossen
Responsible Investment
Specialist,

Lina Arrifi
Responsible Investment
Specialist,

Filipe Gropelli Carvalho
Sovereign Emerging
Markets analyst

Félicie Jonckheere
Sovereign Developed
Markets analyst

DPAM Internal members

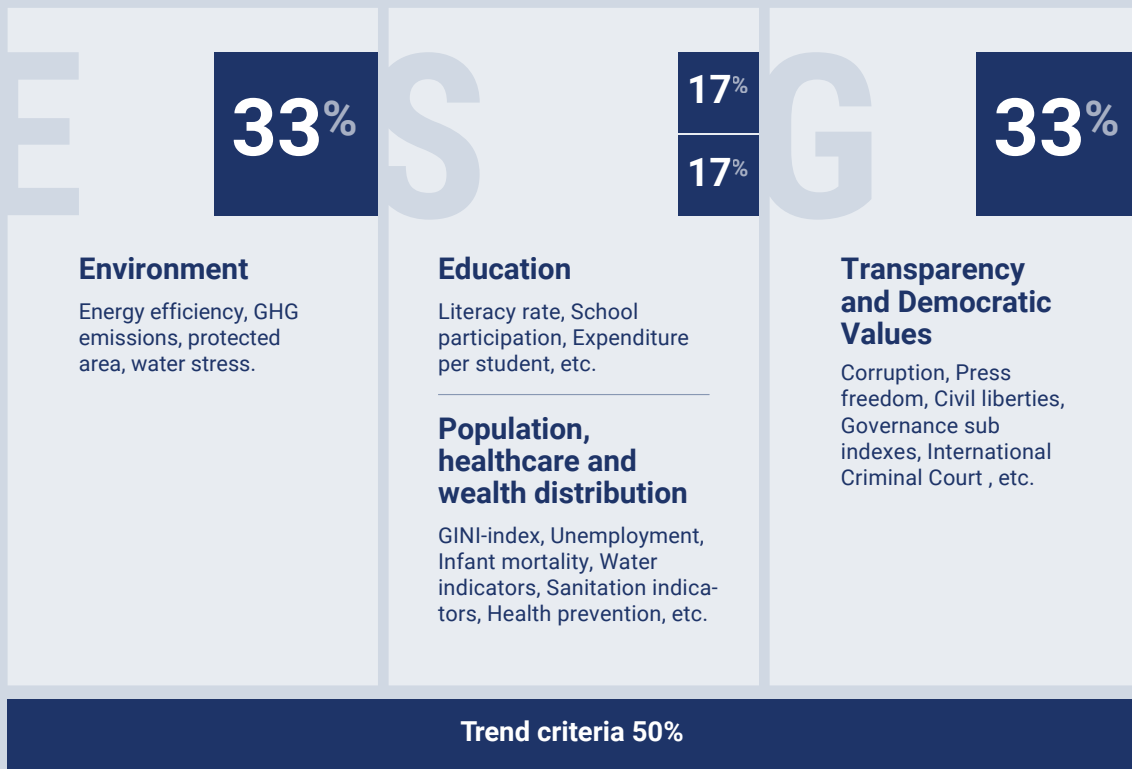


3. Selective and objective criteria

The framework of the sustainability model includes the capabilities governments can use to influence policy (authorities, law). It avoids data linked to the geography or population density of the country. The model is quantitative and tracks the current performance of a country, with comparable data. Only a limited number of treaties are considered as they do not guarantee genuine commitment.

4. Best-in-class combined with best approach

Our sustainability analysis focuses on four key ESG drivers which are all assigned a weight in the model:



Source: DPAM

Each key driver considers a variety of different criteria.

Transparency and democratic values takes into account: emigration, gender equality, institutions, international treaties, rights and liberties and security.

The environment considers: air quality and emissions, biodiversity, climate change and energy efficiency.

Education and innovation takes into account: equal opportunities, innovation, participation and quality.

Population, health and wealth distribution considers: basic human needs, demography, health and wellness, inequality and labour rights.

Different indicators are chosen to reflect the criteria of each key driver. The model has over 50 indicators.

Each country receives a score ranging from 0 (worst) to 100 (best) based on its relative position compared to other countries (the comparison to the difference between the maximum and the minimum).

For binary criterion such as the signing of the Ottawa Convention a score of either 0 or 100 will apply.

The final score of a country is equal to the weighted average of the scores on each criterion, using the weights which are decided by the Country Sustainability Advisory Board. The final scoring is rounded up.

Progress and improvement are taken into consideration through a trend component with a 50% weight which enables us to reward countries that have just started their sustainability journey but are rapidly improving. Conversely, sustainable countries which rank well can not rely on past performance but should remain ambitious and improve over time.

The approach is dynamic as the criteria are reviewed twice annually, with the intention of selecting the most appropriate criteria for each domain. An indicator may be replaced, adapted or omitted. New indicators can enter the model and the allocation of the weightings may also vary.



V. Holistic view and engagement

The indicators used in the model take into account the **three key dimensions of sustainability (environment, social and governance)**. Each dimension is equally important, but the three are interconnected.

In recent years, we have witnessed several disruptions and even contradictions regarding governance, social concerns and environmental issues. Therefore sustainability analysis at country level has been essential in creating an integrated model.

Governance

In terms of governance, the strength of governing institutions is a key indicator to ensure the reliability and stability of the policies and programs a country has adopted. These enable countries to face internal and/or external challenges and obstacles.

Social

As a lack of credible and meaningful policies can impact the social stability of a country sound corporate governance is essential. At the same time, social instability weighs on the long-term growth potential and economic development of a country.

Environment

In terms of the environment the model considers GHG intensity, air quality and biodiversity, among other criteria. The example of citizens, through NGOs, suing States for a lack of responsibility in their environmental ambition and emissions targets – is testament to the strong relationship between governance and the environment.

1. The model predates the Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which followed on from the Millennium Development Goals, were launched by the United Nations between 2000 and 2015 and advocate for sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental domains. These goals reaffirm human rights and the intention to eradicate poverty, hunger and inequality by the end of 2030.

The 17 SDGs have been adopted by nearly 200 countries. They present a unique opportunity

to channel more investment towards major environmental and social challenges.

DPAM is proud of its pioneering sustainability model that predates the SDGs. The SDGs are much more than a different framework for communicating our ESG and sustainable investment philosophy. We review the country model, taking into account the SDGs, to increase its relevance and to better integrate these objectives in our investment decisions.



Source: DPAM



VI. International and engagement

1. Sources are internationally recognised

The model aims for the highest possible level of **objectivity**. Accordingly, statistical data to support the analysis of the country's sustainability are mainly collected from government databases and international governmental agencies such as the International Energy Agency, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the US Central Intelligence Agency. Data are complemented by information drawn from leading non-governmental organisations such as Freedom House, Transparency International and the World Economic Forum.

2. Engaging with countries as sovereign bond holders

Dialogue with the stakeholders is at the heart of our fundamental research and investment process. Engaging in dialogue is a means to fine-tune fundamental research-driven investment decisions and to spread best practice and innovative solutions to ESG challenges.



DPAM uses engagement as a due diligence process, integrated in our commitment to be active, sustainable and research driven.

Engaging with sovereigns allows us to actively contribute to the promotion of responsible governance and sustainable development and DPAM is convinced of the important role **sovereign bonds** play as a means of financing the transition to a low carbon economy.

An engagement is meaningful as soon as it has an impact, for example, when it leads to change and progress. However, we use a different approach when engaging with countries than when engaging with companies. **Engagement with sovereign bond issuers is based on dialogue** for mutual learning and it therefore aims to provide an exchange of information and best practice.

The dialogue is structured according to a multi-step process that progresses from awareness raising to focusing on the Paris Agreement's strategy and commitments. Our primary objective is to raise awareness among governments about the importance of ESG integration, including in sovereign bond investments.



ESG factors provide a robust view on a country's risk profile, shedding light on how countries are managing environmental challenges, social inequalities and governance structures.

1. In the first phase of an engagement our role is to **emphasise that investors consider ESG criteria** in their investment decisions to indirectly encourage the adoption of policies that foster sustainable development.
2. In the second phase, **we introduce DPAM's proprietary country model**. We explain how it works, what DPAM learns from it and in particular we discuss the scorecards DPAM produces for each of the countries eligible for investment. In this way, we highlight countries strengths and areas for attention, while gathering their feedback for a mutual exchange of information.
3. The third phase of engagement focuses on **the importance of green finance** and the country's potential in financing the transition. We highlight DPAM's expectations regarding the use of the proceeds from bonds and share our expectations on the qualities of or improvements possible to green finance frameworks.

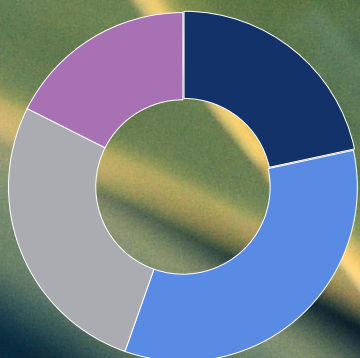
Finally, we have an exchange about **a country's alignment with the Paris Agreement** and its ambition to reach Net Zero by 2050. Almost all countries have committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, however it is important to assess the credibility of their claims and their pathway to reach this target.

The discussion about credible paths to alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement is key for DPAM as a signatory of the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative. Although sovereign bonds are typically out of the scope of such initiatives, we remain convinced of the importance of this asset class and therefore seek its alignment with our commitments.

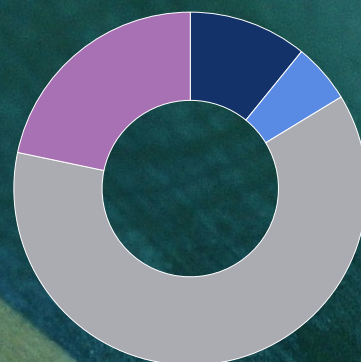
For more information about how we engage with countries and examples, please see our [Engagement Policy](#) and [Engagement Activity Report](#).

VII. Thematic content

Environment



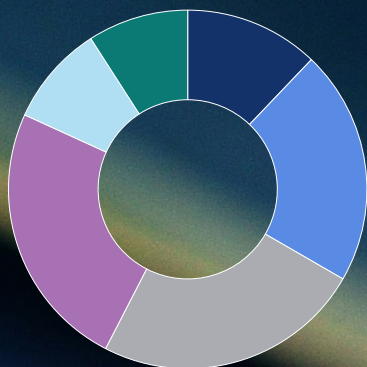
Education



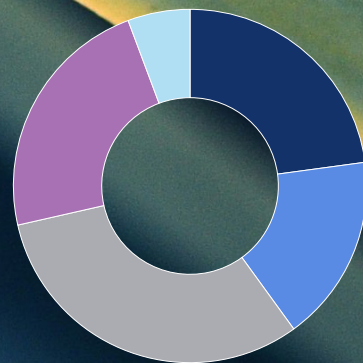
□ Air quality & emissions □ Biodiversity □ Climate change □ Energy efficiency

□ Equal opportunities □ Innovation □ Participation □ Quality

Transparency & democratic values



Population, healthcare and wealth distribution



□ Emigration □ Equality □ International treaties □ Rights & liberties

□ Institutions □ Security □ Basic Human Needs □ Demography □ Health & wellness
□ Inequality □ Labour rights

VIII. Sovereign sustainability after a decade of the SDGs



A milestone under strain

The tenth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offers a timely lens through which to assess the trajectory of sovereign sustainability. Initially conceived as a universal framework to align economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection, the SDGs have become deeply embedded in both policy agendas and investor frameworks. Yet progress remains materially off track. According to the United Nations, fewer than 20% of SDG targets are currently on track to be achieved by 2030, pointing not to marginal implementation gaps but rather to deeper structural constraints.

This shortfall is not only a development concern for sovereigns, it is increasingly a question of long-term economic resilience and risk. The SDGs implicitly assume that countries can mobilise resources, build institutions and coordinate policy across complex domains. The past decade suggests that these assumptions hold unevenly across countries. As a result, sovereign sustainability is appearing less as a story of gradual convergence and more as one of fragmentation, institutional constraints and differentiated pathways.



SDG progress: ambition meets structural reality

The limited advancement across SDGs highlights persistent structural bottlenecks. Data from the SDG Transformation Center shows that while some progress has been achieved in areas such as basic infrastructure and access to services, in several dimensions, including biodiversity, inequality and institutional quality, progress has either plateaued or even deteriorated.

Financing remains a central constraint. Estimates from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank point to a substantial and widening SDG financing gap, particularly for emerging and developing economies. Rising debt servicing costs and tighter global liquidity conditions have further constrained fiscal space, limiting governments' ability to invest in long-term sustainability priorities.

From an investor perspective, the SDGs remain highly relevant. The Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) has consistently argued that SDG outcomes are directly linked to macro-financial stability. The PRI's SDG Investment case emphasises that failure to achieve the SDGs can translate into systemic risks such as lower long-term growth, increased inequality, and heightened geopolitical instability. These risks ultimately affect asset valuations and sovereign creditworthiness. Conversely, aligning capital allocation with SDG objectives can support more resilient and inclusive growth trajectories, reinforcing the link between sustainability and long-term returns.

DPAM's proprietary sustainability country model was established in 2007, well before the SDG agenda gained global traction. It was built around core structural sustainability drivers such as governance quality, social cohesion and climate efforts, which today form the backbone of the SDGs themselves. Our pioneering framework has naturally evolved alongside the SDG agenda, reflecting a long-standing integration of sustainability considerations into our investment philosophy. This continuity reinforces our conviction that sustainability is not a thematic overlay, but a fundamental component of sovereign risk assessment.



Sustainability performance after a decade: convergence or fragmentation?

A central question after ten years of SDG measurement is whether countries have improved their sustainability performance and whether these are converging or diverging. Evidence from the SDG Transformation Center suggests that the global picture is increasingly characterised by fragmentation and multi-speed progress.

Advanced economies continue to perform relatively strongly across many SDG dimensions, particularly those related to basic services, infrastructure, and institutional capacity. However, progress has not been uniform as some high-income economies show signs of stagnation in certain key sustainability areas. Examples include the United Kingdom and the United States, with weak productivity growth and persistent social inequality. Similarly, in France and Germany, progress has plateaued in areas such as economic inequality reduction and political cohesion, suggesting that even advanced economies face structural constraints that limit further improvement.

Emerging and developing economies present an even more heterogeneous landscape. Some countries have made meaningful advances in infrastructure development, digitalisation, and energy access. Others have experienced stagnation or deterioration, particularly where fiscal constraints and institutional weaknesses limit policy effectiveness. This evolution over time is particularly revealing.

Catch-up dynamics appear to be weakening. While early SDG years showed signs of convergence between emerging and developed economies in certain indicators, more recent data indicates that structural constraints are reasserting themselves. Countries with stronger fiscal positions and institutional capacity have been better able to sustain progress, while others have fallen behind.

The SDG framework itself has contributed to greater transparency by highlighting disparities across countries. However, it has not fundamentally altered the structural conditions that drive divergence, which are more present in emerging economies. Unequal fiscal space plays a central role, with high debt burdens constraining investment capacity in many economies. Demographic pressures further complicate the picture, particularly in countries facing rapid population growth or ageing dynamics. Climate vulnerability introduces additional asymmetry, as countries exposed to physical risks face recurring shocks that undermine development gains. Institutional strength remains a key differentiator, shaping the ability to implement policy effectively.



Governance as a binding constraint

Governance remains the central pillar underpinning sovereign sustainability. Indicators such as rule of law, corruption control, government effectiveness, and political stability are not isolated variables. They determine the capacity of states to design and implement policy across all sustainability dimensions.

Evidence from the World Bank shows strong correlations between governance quality and development outcomes. Countries with weak governance frameworks often face inefficiencies in public spending, reduced investor confidence, and heightened exposure to shocks. These constraints limit progress across multiple SDGs simultaneously.

Conversely, strong governance frameworks enable more effective policy execution, better allocation of resources, and greater resilience to external pressures. This is particularly important in areas such as climate adaptation and social policy, where long-term planning and institutional coordination are essential. This is why DPAM's proprietary country model includes many governance indicators. and when depicting a country's SDG performance based on the model's underlying indicators, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is strongly represented, as per the image below.

In this sense, governance acts as a multiplier. It amplifies positive dynamics when strong and constrains progress when weak, making it a defining factor in sovereign sustainability trajectories.



Recent developments: reinforcing structural trends

Recent geopolitical and political developments provide concrete illustrations of these structural dynamics. They show how external shocks interact with underlying governance quality and fiscal resilience, reinforcing the fragmented and multi-speed sustainability landscape described above. Tensions involving Iran and the United States have underscored how geopolitical instability can translate into economic uncertainty, affecting energy markets, fiscal balances, and regional stability. This is particularly relevant for countries with limited fiscal buffers or weaker institutional capacity, where such shocks are more likely to translate quickly into macroeconomic instability and weaker sustainability outcomes, highlighting the importance of fiscal space and governance discussed earlier.

In Europe, recent elections in Hungary have been interpreted as a relatively stabilising development in the regional political landscape. While debates around institutional independence and governance standards persist, the electoral process itself demonstrated a degree of continuity and predictability, which can support short-term policy stability. This illustrates a broader point: governance is not binary but multi-dimensional. Even in countries where institutional quality is debated, factors such as political stability and policy continuity can support short-term resilience, while longer-term sustainability outcomes still depend on deeper elements such as rule of law and accountability.

At the same time, sovereign debt pressures remain elevated across multiple regions. Higher interest rates and tighter financial conditions have forced several governments to prioritise fiscal consolidation, often at the expense of long-term sustainability investment. This reflects the structural constraint of unequal fiscal space discussed above, where more indebted countries face difficult trade-offs between short-term macroeconomic stability and long-term SDG-related investment, contributing to increasingly divergent sustainability trajectories.

Lastly, climate-related events over the past year have further reinforced the importance of resilience. Extreme weather events have imposed significant economic costs, particularly in countries with limited adaptation capacity, highlighting the growing fiscal impact of environmental risks. These developments illustrate the asymmetric nature of climate vulnerability discussed earlier, where more exposed countries face recurring shocks that erode both development gains and fiscal stability. At the same time, climate dynamics are increasingly dual in nature, combining both risk and opportunity. While physical risks are intensifying vulnerabilities, the global transition towards low-carbon systems is also reshaping investment flows, competitiveness, and industrial policy. Countries that are able to position themselves within emerging green value chains or leverage natural resource advantages in the energy transition may see stronger medium-term growth. This reinforces the need to distinguish between climate vulnerability and transition positioning, as both are becoming key drivers of divergence in sovereign sustainability performance.



Conclusion: a multi-speed sustainability landscape

The gap between SDG ambition and implementation underscores the need to distinguish between policy commitments and execution capacity when assessing sovereign sustainability. This is why DPAM's proprietary sustainability country model focuses on sustainability outcomes that result from policy implementation rather than input measures such as spending levels or policy announcements and commitments.

A decade after the launch of the SDGs, sovereign sustainability is characterised by increasing heterogeneity rather than convergence. While some countries have achieved meaningful progress, others remain constrained by structural limitations.

Governance stands at the centre of this divergence, shaping both the trajectory and resilience of sustainability outcomes. Political systems introduce additional trade-offs, influencing how effectively policies are implemented and sustained over time.



How DPAM integrates the SDGs in its proprietary country sustainability model.

While DPAM's sustainability model predates the SDGs, the framework has since been aligned with the SDG architecture to ensure that all relevant sustainability dimensions are captured and no major trends are overlooked. Integrating the SDGs into the model did not require a fundamental redesign, but rather a mapping exercise, whereby each underlying indicator is linked to one or more SDGs.

Linking all indicators of our country sustainability model to the 17 SDGs allows us to translate countries' sustainability performances into an SDG-based framework. In practical terms, this means that the overall country score can be broken down into contributions from each SDG, providing a transparent view of how different sustainability dimensions drive the final results. Each SDG's contribution thus depends both on the number of underlying indicators and their respective weights within the model, meaning that SDGs with broader or more heavily weighted indicator coverage will automatically account for a larger share of the total score.

The graph below presents the aggregated contribution of all indicators mapped to each SDG, highlighting their relative importance within the overall model structure. The decomposition shows that SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) accounts for a particularly large share of the model, reflecting the strong role of governance-related indicators in driving sustainability performance, as discussed in the sections above.

When interpreting this graph, it is important to note that it reflects the structure of the model rather than countries' actual performance levels. A higher share for a given SDG does not necessarily mean that countries perform better in that dimension, but rather that this SDG has a greater influence on the overall score due to the number and weight of its underlying indicators.

DPAM's Emerging markets country model mapped to the SDG's



Source: DPAM

Reference sources

Amnesty International
Center for Global Development
Energy Institute
Freedom House
Global Forest Watch
Global Safety Net
Internal Macro team
International Criminal Court
Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative
OECD
OECD Stats
Plasteax
Reporters Without Borders
S&P Global
Transparency International
United Nations Climate Change
United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Reports
United Nations Digital Library
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Aquastat
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Stat
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations Peacekeeping
United Nations SDG Indicators Platform
United Nations Treaty Collection
World Bank
World Economic Forum
World Prison Brief

IX. Commitment to Sustainability

DPAM is committed to being a sustainable actor, investor and partner. We seek to advance to thrive, ensuring growth that benefits clients, stakeholders and society as a whole. We believe that being a responsible investor goes beyond offering sustainable and responsible products; it is a global commitment at company level translated into a coherent approach.

DPAM is committed to act as a sustainable and responsible market participant. Our engagement is threefold:



Defend basic and fundamental rights

Human rights, labour rights, fight corruption and protect the environment



Express an opinion on controversial activities

- No financing of the usual suspects
- Clear controversial activity policy and engagement on controversial issues
- Avoid controversies that may affect reputation, long term growth and investments



Be a responsible stakeholder and promote transparency

- Find sustainable solutions to ESG challenges
- Engage with issuers, promote best practice and improvements

We are convinced of the risk/return optimisation that comes with the **integration of Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) criteria**. We see sustainability challenges as risks and opportunities and we use ESG criteria to assess them in our investment decisions. As a result we define the ESG factors priorities and targets that are material for us. We are committed to the European Commission's 2030-2050 program for sustainable and inclusive growth.

1. Member & signatory

To affirm our commitment to long-term sustainable financial management, we are a signatory to various organisations. These all advocate responsible investment and offer insights into ESG challenges and opportunities.



We are part of two key initiatives on shareholder responsibility and the fight against climate change: the PRI (since 2011) and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative (since 2022).

We have been supporters of **the TCFD recommendations** since 2018. In addition, we joined **Climate Action 100+** in 2019. That same year, we also became a signatory of **FAIRR**, a collaborative engagement initiative which seeks to decrease the environmental impact of the food value chain by encouraging the use of sustainable proteins within food products.

As the environment and biodiversity are such urgent global concerns, we have been supporters of **the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge** since December 2020. This Pledge calls on global leaders to protect and restore biodiversity through their financial activities and investments decisions. In 2020 we also joined the **Investor Alliance for Human Rights** to support sustainable investing that respects fundamental human rights

DPAM became a member of the Emerging Markets Investor Alliance in 2023. This is a not-for-profit organisation that enables institutional emerging market investors to support good governance, promote sustainable development, and improve investment performance in the governments and companies in which they invest. The Alliance seeks to raise awareness and advocate for these issues through collaboration among investors, companies or governments, and public policy experts.

In 2023, we engaged in two collaborative initiatives: **Advance** (a stewardship initiative for human rights and social issues launched by the UN-PRI); and **IIGCC** (The Institutional Investors Group on Climate change). The Advance initiative primarily seeks change through investors' use of influence with portfolio companies. DPAM's involvement is primarily on access to research, acting as the lead investor for EDP and Acciona, and in endorsing the initiative with public policy makers. IIGCC is the European membership body for investor collaboration on climate change. Their main objective is shaping sustainable finance and climate policy, supporting market development, and guiding investors in managing climate risks and opportunities in aligning portfolios with climate goals, among others. DPAM's involvement is linked to its commitment to the **Net Zero Asset Management initiative**.

In 2023 we also joined **Spring**, the UN PRI's stewardship initiative for nature and **Nature Action 100**, a PRI led collaborative initiative to tackle nature loss and biodiversity decline.

In 2024 DPAM became an early adopter of the **Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** which aims to enable investors to integrate nature related risks in investment decisions.

We joined the World Benchmarking Alliance in 2023, this enables us to engage with companies on salient human rights issues and a passive member of the **Investor Initiative on Hazardous Chemicals** which encourages manufacturers to increase transparency and to stop producing harmful chemicals.

For more information about our memberships and affiliations please see our **[Sustainable and Responsible Investment Policy](#)**.

2. Conviction & commitment

Recent decades have brought many challenges and we firmly believe that **sound corporate governance, a clear understanding of current and future environmental challenges and respect for social norms** are drivers for long-term sustainable performance. This vision is integrated in our mission and value statement.

Our goal is to offer first-rate expertise and to uphold our shared values and beliefs. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations are integrated into our value proposition, **our fundamental research and our investment processes**.

3. Facts & Figures



A growing focus on sustainable investing for over 20 years



Pioneer in sustainable sovereign debt over EUR 4.3 bn invested

(as of end of December 2025)



Signatory of UN-PRI since 2011
Strong performance scores for the eighth consecutive year



EUR 22.64 Bn is compliant with SFDR 8+ & 9 funds across various asset classes

(as of end of December 2025)



Exercise our voting rights across 1257 companies globally



DPAM Corporate AuM with SBT (Science Based Targets) or 1.5°C Alignment stands at 66%

(as of end of December 2025)



Active via collaborative engagements




257 engagement letters sent to 220 companies in 2025

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