

# 2024 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OPERATING PRINCIPLES FOR IMPACT MANAGEMENT



**BNP PARIBAS**  
**ASSET MANAGEMENT**

The sustainable  
investor for a  
changing world



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BNP Paribas Asset Management



“BNP Paribas Asset Management (BNPP AM) hereby affirms its status as a founding signatory to the Operating Principles for Impact Management<sup>1</sup> (the Impact Principles). The Impact Principles provide a reference point against which the impact management systems of funds and institutions may be assessed. They seek to bring greater transparency, credibility, and discipline to the impact investing market and draw on emerging best practices from a range of asset managers, asset owners, asset allocators, development banks and finance institutions. This statement reasserts BNPP AM’s intent to use the Impact Principles as a framework to help inform our approach to impact investment.

This Disclosure Statement applies to the following assets (Covered Assets):

- BNP Paribas Green Bond Fund (Green Bonds), a fund investing in global green bonds supporting environmental projects, assets and/or activities that contribute positively towards environmental objectives. These green bonds are issued by supnationals, sovereigns, agencies, corporates.
- BNP Paribas Social Bond Fund (Social Bonds), a fund investing in social and sustainability bonds issued by entities supporting projects, assets and activities that have positive social and sustainability outcomes. These bonds are issued by corporates, supnationals, central governments, agencies, local entities and local governments.
- BNP Paribas Social Business Impact Fund (Social Business), a fund investing in French non-profit organisations and unlisted companies operating in France and abroad to solve specific social and/or environmental problems.
- BNP Paribas European Social Impact Bonds and BNP Paribas European Impact Bonds Fund II (Impact Bonds), funds investing through Impact Bonds in European non-profit organizations or social enterprises operating in the European Union to solve specific social and/or environmental problems. These Impact Bonds are repaid based on the success of impact indicators.
- BNP Paribas Towards Impact Fund I (Towards Impact), a private equity fund of funds with an impact investment approach focusing on sustainable growth trends. It targets both impact investing funds and thematic funds that have an impact potential and the willingness to increase their impact. The fund of funds supports the latter in their adoption of impact investing practices with the aim to optimize their impact through its engagement and learning platform.
- BNP Paribas Climate impact private debt fund, an infrastructure debt fund investing in assets which contribute to mitigating climate change.

The total Assets under Management in alignment with the Impact Principles is EUR 1917 million (roughly 2 117USD million) as of 31 December 2023.

In addition, EUR 70 million (roughly USD 77 million) were committed to Climate Impact Private Debt as of 31 December 2023.

\* Includes all Covered Assets with the exception of Climate Impact Private Debt

1 The Operating Principles for Impact Management were launched on April 12, 2019; more information about the Impact Principles can be found here: <https://www.impactprinciples.org/>

## PRINCIPLE 1

# DEFINE STRATEGIC IMPACT OBJECTIVE(S), CONSISTENT WITH THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Manager shall define strategic impact objectives for the portfolio or fund to achieve positive and measurable social or environmental effects, which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or other widely accepted goals. The impact intent does not need to be shared by the investee. The Manager shall seek to ensure that the impact objectives and investment strategy are consistent; that there is a credible basis for achieving the impact objectives through the investment strategy; and that the scale and/or intensity of the intended portfolio impact is proportionate to the size of the investment portfolio.

- With the launch of our Global Sustainability Strategy<sup>2</sup> in 2019, we announced our goal to increase the positive impact of our AUM, and to track and measure that impact in three areas: the energy transition, environmental sustainability and equality and inclusive growth (the “3Es”). These issues are critical pre-conditions for a more sustainable and inclusive economic system, which in turn will enable us to safeguard long-term returns for our clients. However, we believe there is a difference between aspiring for our firm wide AUM to have a positive impact and the smaller set of our assets which fall under the ‘impact investments’ category.
- Impact investments are investments that intend to contribute to positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside financial returns<sup>3</sup>. At BNPP AM, our impact investment framework is built on three main building blocks – intentionality, additionality and impact measurement and reporting.



### INTENTIONALITY (CLEAR IMPACT OBJECTIVES)

The formalised intention of the investor to contribute to positive social and/or environmental impact and do no significant harm



### ADDITIONALITY (INVESTMENT CONTRIBUTION)

The channels through which the investor claim to contribute to the stated impact are clearly documented (e.g. theory of change document).



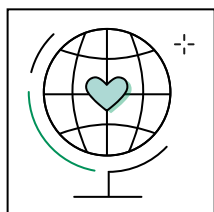
### IMPACT MANAGEMENT

The impact is managed and monitored at all stages of the investment process, and is the subject of transparent and frequent reporting.

<sup>2</sup> Our Global Sustainability Strategy is available at this link: <https://docfinder.bnpparibas-am.com/api/files/2818EAAE-D3CF-4482-A3BA-A2EA898AFD0D>  
<sup>3</sup> This definition is based on the GIIN's: <https://thegiin.org/impact-investing/need-to-know/#what-is-impact-investing>

Our Covered Assets have an explicit intention of having a positive and measurable impact and contribute to the following impact themes (which are themselves further aligned with the following SDGs), as explained in each fund's theory of change in the Appendix.

- The **Green bonds** fund has a sustainable investment objective in accordance with Article 9 of Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. The fund is invested in bonds issued by entities supporting projects, assets and activities that have positive environmental outcomes.

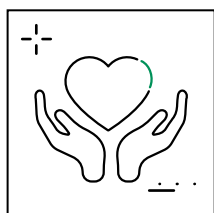


GREEN BONDS

**THEMES:** energy transition; energy efficiency; sustainable water management; sustainable agriculture and transportation; environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use; green buildings; circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes; terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation; climate change adaptation.



- The **Social bonds** fund has a sustainable investment objective in accordance with Article 9 of Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. The fund is invested in bonds issued by entities supporting projects, assets and activities that have positive social and sustainability outcomes.



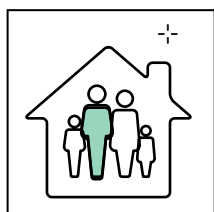
SOCIAL BONDS

**THEMES:** access to affordable basic infrastructure (e.g. clean drinking water, sewers, sanitation, transport, energy); access to essential services; affordable housing; employment generation, and programs designed to prevent and/or alleviate unemployment stemming from socioeconomic crises; food security and sustainable food systems; renewable energy; energy efficiency; clean transportation; climate change adaptation; green buildings.



The Social Bonds fund invests both in social bonds and sustainability bonds

- European Social Impact Bonds fund and European Impact Bonds fund 2** aim to support the development of the positive impact economy through exclusive investments in impact bonds favoring social or environmental innovations in the European Union. Thematics are very diverse. Repayment and returns of these impact bonds are directly linked to the achievement of specific measurable and verified impact results.

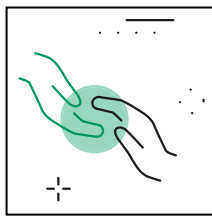


IMPACT BONDS

**THEMES:** access to housing, programs designed to prevent and/or alleviate unemployment, environmental protection, responsible consumption, access to education, access to healthcare, climate change adaptation.



- BNP Paribas **Social Business** Impact Fund’s mission is to contribute to solutions for people in situation of vulnerability by bridging the financing gap for non-profit organizations and social businesses in France and in Europe. The fund finances non-profit organizations and social businesses that aim at answering the needs of vulnerable people, by offering them directly products and services with a positive social and/or environmental impact. For **Social Business**, the intention to have a positive measurable impact intent is shared with the investees, which are pure impact players.

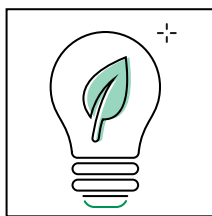


SOCIAL BUSINESS

**THEMES:** access to essential needs and goods for vulnerable people (long-term unemployment, low-income, social exclusion, old-age, disabilities, ...); and more specifically: access to work; financial inclusion; access to quality and affordable social services; access to housing; fair trade; and humanitarian intervention.

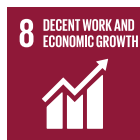


- The **Towards Impact** fund's objective is to contribute to bridging the gap between thematic investing and impact investing in private equity, by investing in funds that have the potential to generate positive E&S impacts and support them in demonstrating these impact, and to demonstrate that a fund of fund is a way to promote best practices in the private equity market.

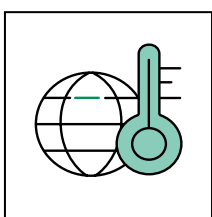


BNPP TOWARDS IMPACT FUND I

**THEMES:** challenges emerging from the demographic and social transitions, as well as from climate change and resource scarcity in alignment with several UN SDGs.



- **Climate Impact infra debt:** the fund’s objective is to contribute to climate change mitigation by targeting EU Taxonomy aligned or SDG aligned projects applying BNPP Matters SDG methodology. All the deals also also need to meet minimum Net Environmental Contribution (NEC) thresholds; this constraint’s goal is to finance only projects with positive environmental impacts.



CLIMATE IMPACT INFRA DEBT

**THEMES:** climate change mitigation. The fund will use the EU Taxonomy as a framework to identify assets aligned with the strategy of the fund as well as several SDGs such as:



## PRINCIPLE 2

# MANAGE STRATEGIC IMPACT ON A PORTFOLIO BASIS

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The Manager shall have a process to manage impact achievement on a portfolio basis. The objective of the process is to establish and monitor impact performance for the whole portfolio, while recognizing that impact may vary across individual investments in the portfolio. As part of the process, the Manager shall consider aligning staff incentive systems with the achievement of impact, as well as with financial performance.

- For our Covered Assets, impact is managed during the lifecycle of the investment, following established strategy-specific processes to track and measure impact performance at portfolio level.
- Pre-investment, we set impact indicators, taking into account impact characteristics of the investee or projects financed.
  - **Green Bonds:** the environmental impact of green bonds is assessed on an ex-ante basis during primary issuance. Only green bonds with a high level of positive environmental impact – as per our in-house green bonds framework – are eligible for our portfolio investible universe. Our green bonds framework includes an assessment of the alignment of the green bonds' use of proceeds against the EU Taxonomy where applicable, and our internal taxonomy of eligible and ineligible activities which are based on market best practices (e.g. Climate bonds initiative, ICMA Green Bond Principles). In addition, our green bonds framework pays special attention to the ESG characteristics of the issuer and their impact methodology. More specifically, as part of our assessment of issuer's ESG credentials, we exclude those bonds whose issuer's ESG decile is 10 (i.e. bottom 10% of peer group in terms of ESG score). We exclude them as we believe that the issuer has low credibility in successfully carrying out the green projects/activities financed.
  - **Social Bonds:** the social impact of social and/or sustainability bonds, and the environmental impact of sustainability bonds are assessed on an ex-ante basis during primary issuance. Only social and sustainability bonds with a high level of positive social impact of both instruments, and the environmental impact of sustainability bonds – as per our in-house social and green bond frameworks – are eligible for our portfolio investible universe. Our social bonds framework includes an assessment of the alignment of the social bonds' use of proceeds against the Capital Markets Association Social Bond Principles. Similarly to the Green bonds framework, our social bonds framework pays special attention to the ESG characteristics of the issuer and their impact methodology. More specifically, as part of our assessment of issuer's ESG credentials, we exclude those bonds whose issuer's ESG decile is 10 (i.e. bottom 10% of peer group in terms of ESG score). We exclude them as we believe that the issuer has low credibility in successfully carrying out the social/sustainability projects/activities financed.
  - **Social Business:** we have a formal governance process to analyse and validate the impact framework analysis for each investee entity, focusing on ensuring impact relevance and fit with BNPP AM's strategy. We developed an internal methodology for impact analysis, used for each new investee at the beginning of the due diligence (intentionality, remuneration criteria, governance, safeguards of a sustainable social intentionality, main impact KPIs). A synthesis is prepared and presented to a dedicated committee that will validate the adequacy of the prospect to BNPP AM's impact strategy for Social Business investments.
  - **Impact Bonds:** for each project, impact objectives are set depending on the track record of the investee and forecasted based on potential impact improvements linked to the deployment of the impact bond contract. Impact objectives result from negotiations between public authorities, which aim at setting impact objectives as ambitious as possible, and investors (in the Impact Bonds fund), who make sure that those objectives are achievable. In case of achieving the described impact objectives, the public authority is responsible for repaying investors with a potential premium in case of overachievement. The result of these negotiations are presented to a BNPP AM investment committee which validates the adequacy of the project to BNPP AM's strategy for Impact Bonds. The valuation of the impact bonds is dependent on the achievement of impact, and therefore that impact management and portfolio management are interlinked.
  - **Towards Impact Fund I:** the management team screens investment funds through its impact potential framework. The framework assesses the impact fundamentals of the investment strategy of the funds under review, as well as their capacity to deliver on their impact thesis. It also ensures they adhere to the fund of funds' minimum sustainability criteria. Finally, it evaluates the potential that exists for engagement between

the fund of funds and the fund to improve their impact and ESG practices over the life of its commitment. In terms of governance, the Fund's impact committee validates the fund of funds' impact strategy and processes. It also approves every transaction of the fund of funds into underlying funds or co-investments and secondaries, focusing on ensuring their impact relevance with the fund of funds' strategy and their impact potential

- **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** investment opportunities are analyzed pre-investment in order to evaluate the sustainability of their practices and potential for impact. These ESG and impact analyses are done at different levels: by verifying that sponsors are not in violation of our Responsible Conduct Policy, by assessing the investment opportunity's contribution to climate change mitigation using the EU Taxonomy framework, by assessing overall ESG risks and opportunities and by asking an external expert to analyze the opportunity and to produce a series of ESG and impact metrics.
- During the investment period, we continuously track the impact performance of our funds, which is formally assessed and communicated to investors on an annual basis.
  - **Green Bonds:** portfolio impact is mainly calculated in the form of avoided emissions via investing in green bonds. Data is provided by a third party where they assist in standardizing some of the reported avoided emissions by issuers of green bonds. We publish our portfolio impact annually on our website.
  - **Social and Sustainability Bonds:** in contrast to green bonds where the benefits may be measured primarily in terms of avoided emissions, the benefits of social bonds can vary depending on how the proceeds are used. For example, a social bond financing affordable housing may measure its benefits using number of units built and number of households benefiting from the affordable housing. We publish our portfolio impact annually on our website.
  - **Social Business:** the process takes into account the impact of each investment annually through an impact measurement grid that was developed in 2015. Sector-level indicators allow us to aggregate and report numerous categories of impacts at the portfolio level, while individual indicators allow us to follow and monitor company-specific impact at the investee level.
  - **Impact Bonds:** the impact of each project is assessed through a pre-defined set of indicators measured by an independent third party on a yearly basis. The indicators are assessed in-depth during dedicated steering committee.
  - **Towards Impact Fund I:** a three-tiered impact measurement framework – at the company level, fund level and fund of funds level - has been established and an annual impact measurement report is being produced for investors. Specific indicators are being tracked at each level and aggregated. Finally, a portion of the management team's financial compensation is aligned with the delivery of impact across these three levels.
  - **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** the Fund's impact objectives is to make Investments in Infra Debt which aim to contribute substantially to the objective "climate change mitigation" as referred to in Article 9 of the EU Taxonomy. Accordingly, all Investments in Infra Debt by the Fund will, at the time of the Investment is made, either be:
    - (a) aligned with the EU Taxonomy, it being provided that the Fund does not commit to a minimum percentage of Investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy; or
    - (b) eligible to the EU Taxonomy, it being provided that, in such a case, the relevant Infra Debt shall be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with a minimum NEC of twenty per cent (20%), as determined pursuant to an internal proprietary methodology developed by the Manager.
- For the Covered strategies, defining and achieving impact targets forms a core part of role description and performance measurement for related teams. Beyond this, CIOs and 'ESG Champions' across BNPP AM investment and commercial teams have specific sustainability KPIs included in their formal objectives, thus linking their performance review remuneration to the successful incorporation of sustainability investment approaches in their strategies.
  - **Towards Impact:** impact performance is included in the compensation structure of the fund. More concretely, 20% of the carry fee that compensates the investment team is subject to the achievement of a set of impact objectives. These objectives are cover both impact management and performance over the life of the fund of funds.

4 As part of our efforts to implement a true firm-wide approach to ESG integration, each investment team is assigned one or more ESG Champions. ESG Champions have specific sustainability-related objectives, including undertaking an external ESG certification, joining monthly calls with in-house and external experts on sustainability and accessing dedicated sustainability resources. They act as sustainability integration lead within their team, ensuring processes to integrate sustainability are well-embedded in their investment strategies and overseeing the articulation of said sustainability integration in teams' materials. They are sustainability experts within their team, first in line to help their colleagues with issues around sustainability, encouraging sustainability allocation of capital and engagement efforts. They are also the primary point of contact of the Sustainability Centre within investment teams, BNPP AM's centre of expertise on sustainability.



## PRINCIPLE 3

# ESTABLISH THE MANAGER'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPACT

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The Manager shall seek to establish and document a credible narrative on its contribution to the achievement of impact for each investment. Contributions can be made through one or more financial and/or non-financial channels. The narrative should be stated in clear terms and supported, as much as possible, by evidence.

- BNPP AM contributes to the development of the broader impact market, being involved in numerous industry initiatives
  - [BNPP AM sits at the board of FAIR](#)
  - [BNPP AM is a member of the Global Steering Group for Impact Investments' French NAB](#)
  - [BNPP AM is a member of the GIIN Listed Equities Working Group](#)
  - [BNPP AM is a member of the IMP Impact Frontiers](#)
  - [BNPP AM is a member of numerous Finance for Tomorrow Working Group on Impact Investing](#)
  - [BNPP AM co-piloted the 'Forum Investissement Responsable' \(FIR\) - France Invest' Impact Working Group.](#)

Through our participation in these organizations and working groups, we aim to promote greater transparency in what constitutes impact investing for a mainstream asset manager, to share best practices between investors and to contribute to the growth of the market

- For our Covered Assets, a dedicated process to enable us to contribute as an "impact investor" is achieved at every step of the investment process, where the specific approach will differ between asset classes and strategies.

**Green Bonds:** engagement with green bonds issuers is key to contribute to the achievement and improvement of green bonds' impact but also protect our clients' investments from the potential risk of reputational 'impact washing'.

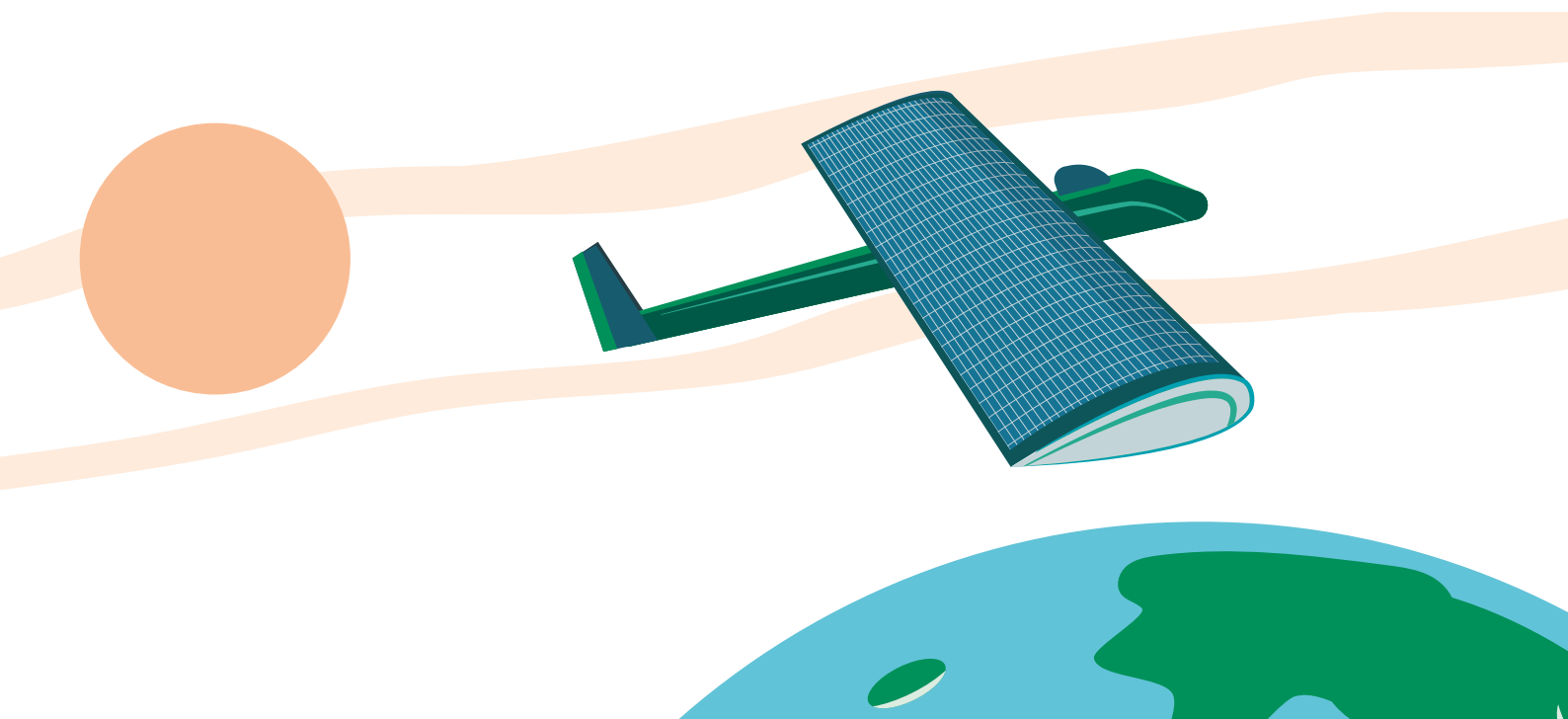
- **At-issuance engagement:** we focus on three main areas: an issuer's sustainability credentials and integrity, alignment with BNPP AM's taxonomy, and the green bond's proposed project ambition, expected allocation and implementation. A project's non-alignment with BNPP AM's taxonomy, a weak issuer ESG rating or unsatisfactory engagement feedback all may trigger an exclusion of the issuance from our investment universe.
- **Engagement after green bond investment:** we focus our engagement on three key areas: output and impact indicators and actual project allocation. If the issuer fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for not providing impact indicators, the green bond will be excluded from the investment universe and sold if the bond is already in the portfolio.
- **Social Bonds:** Engagement with social and/or sustainability bonds issuers is key to contribute to the achievement and improvement of social bonds' impact but also protect our clients' investments from the potential risk of reputational 'impact social washing'.
  - **At-issuance engagement:** we focus on three main areas: an issuer's sustainability credentials and integrity, alignment with BNPP AM's taxonomy, and the social and/or sustainability bond's proposed project ambition, expected allocation and implementation. A project's non-alignment with BNPP AM's taxonomy, a weak issuer ESG rating or unsatisfactory engagement feedback all may trigger an exclusion of the issuance from our investment universe
  - **Engagement after social and/or sustainability bond investment:** we focus our engagement on three key areas: output and impact indicators and actual project allocation. If the issuer fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for not providing impact indicators, the social and sustainability bond will be excluded from the investment universe and sold if the bond is already in the portfolio.



- **Social Business:** contribution to impact is achieved through the deployment of more favourable terms (e.g. lower interest rates, accommodating liquidity or profitability requirement, no guarantee of return on investment) compared to market. In addition, we have developed a wide range of financial instruments to address the various financial needs of Social Businesses, with a focus on identifying and remedying financial gaps.

Beyond financing, we provide investees with support and advices on various aspects of their business (such as management, governance, strategy...). (e.g. lower interest rates, accommodating liquidity or profitability requirement, no guarantee of return on investment) compared to market. When it is relevant, analysts are actively involved in the Board of investees, on the behalf of the fund's manager. The fund's manager makes the final decision on critical topics.

- **Impact Bonds:** we have launched the first fund dedicated to impact bonds in Europe. This category of asset is designed to allow field experimentation of social and environmental innovations. It supports non-profit organizations or social enterprises, which often would not have access to other kinds of mid-term financing, in structuring their project and developing impact measurement. It creates a unique coalition with private investors and a public authority that actively monitors the results of the experimentation through steering committees which favor the continuity of the projects beyond impact bond maturity if they prove impactful.
- **Towards Impact Fund I:** contribution to impact will be achieved through an engagement providing technical advice and capacity building to selected funds on their management of impact and ESG factors. We aim to build long term partnerships with management teams, supporting them in meeting higher operational standards in these areas. We also aim to be a long-term provider of capital by providing additional capital as a co-investment resource for our funds. The fund of funds' contribution to impact is being assessed by tracking the engagement with each fund in the portfolio, collecting their feedback on the fund's support, and evaluating fund's progress over time through the fund of funds scoring system.
- **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** engagement is done pre-investment during the due diligence phase and can happen post investment in the form of questions or advice on a case by case when we lack specific information to demonstrate the alignment of the project with our ESG process. However as the investment strategy is private debt, we do not have a direct relationship with the sponsor and have limited ability to influence the project owner. The main source of additionality is therefore financial and predicated on the fact that we provide liquidity to those sponsors which allow them to allocate more capital towards green projects.



## PRINCIPLE 4

# ASSESS THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF EACH INVESTMENT, BASED ON A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

For each investment the Manager shall assess, in advance and, where possible, quantify the concrete, positive impact potential deriving from the investment. The assessment should use a suitable results measurement framework that aims to answer these fundamental questions: (1) What is the intended impact? (2) Who experiences the intended impact? (3) How significant is the intended impact? The Manager shall also seek to assess the likelihood of achieving the investment's expected impact. In assessing the likelihood, the Manager shall identify the significant risk factors that could result in the impact varying from ex-ante expectations.

In assessing the impact potential, the Manager shall seek evidence to assess the relative size of the challenge addressed within the targeted geographical context. The Manager shall also consider opportunities to increase the impact of the investment. Where possible and relevant for the Manager's strategic intent, the Manager may also consider indirect and systemic impacts. Indicators shall, to the extent possible, be aligned with industry standards and follow best practice.

- For our Covered Assets we have put in place specific impact measurement frameworks:
  - **Green Bonds:** we have set up our green bond methodology to assess the contribution to environmental objectives (such as climate mitigation) by green bonds. We analyze how each green bond performs in terms of green-ness of the projects, the alignment of the projects with the issuer's sustainability strategy, and the integrity of the issuer in implementing the green bond projects and reporting. After the bond is issued, we follow up with the bond in 12 to 24 months to analyze the report published by the issuer in disclosing how they allocated the proceeds and the positive environmental benefits from the projects. At the fund level, we aggregate and estimate the fund's aggregate contribution to the environmental objectives. We express the fund's contribution via a number of metrics that quantify the physical impacts of different projects financed by the Green bonds included in the Green Bond Fund. These include green energy produced, area covered for green buildings, passenger km travelled on green transport, and energy saved through green products. This is made available to investor in the fund's annual impact report<sup>5</sup>.
  - **Social Bonds:** we have set up our social bond methodology to assess the contribution to social objectives (such as affordable housing) by social bonds. We analyze how each social bond performs in terms of social benefits of the projects, the specificity of the target populations and social gaps, and the integrity of the issuer in implementing the social bond projects and reporting. After the bond is issued, we follow up with the bond in 12 to 24 months to analyze the report published by the issuer in disclosing how they allocated the proceeds and the positive social benefits from the projects. At the fund level, we aggregate and estimate the fund's aggregate contribution to the social objectives. We express the fund's contribution via a number of metrics that quantify the impacts of different projects financed by the social and/or sustainability bonds included in the Social Bond Fund such as contribution to unemployment benefits, supporting Small and Medium Enterprises through financing and contributing towards access to healthcare, supporting social inclusion and education purposes. This is made available to investors in the fund's annual impact report.<sup>6</sup>
  - **Social Business:** we have a systematic approach to impact measurement, with a framework that focuses on answering three questions: i) WHO are the beneficiaries; ii) WHAT are the products and/or services developed to answer social needs; iii) what are the expected and effective impact on the beneficiaries (cf. HOW MUCH dimension of impact from the IMP). The due diligence relies on robust screening solidarity criteria (social utility, remuneration, governance) and strong understanding of the strategy of each investee to achieve a sustainable social/environmental impact. Although qualitative, this screening process is set up to ensure that each investee will not deviate from its intended impact objective. Once an investment is validated, we define with the investee impact indicators that must be followed, included "mandatory" indicators according to the sector, and "specific" indicators adapted to each investee. Indicators are then aggregated in an annual impact report.

<sup>5</sup> Our latest Green Impact Report can be found here: [4e5b2060-33c8-41fc-893e-faed3548b5d0 \(bnpparibas-am.com\)](https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/4e5b2060-33c8-41fc-893e-faed3548b5d0)

<sup>6</sup> Our latest Social Impact Report can be found here: [9ab279c1-7eae-422d-91d0-4c3391509084 \(bnpparibas-am.com\)](https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/9ab279c1-7eae-422d-91d0-4c3391509084)

- **Impact Bonds:** impact is at the very heart of the impact bond mechanism since remuneration of investors depends on the achievement of pre-defined impact objectives. The contract sets the social/environmental impact intent (1), the target beneficiary (2) and the magnitude of expected impact (3) at the beginning of the projects. During the due diligence phase, we analyze the capacity of the non-profit organization/ social enterprise to achieve the impact objectives considering its track record or all other available data (including data from public database if available). The objective is to set up ambitious yet realistic targets on the impact to be achieved. We systematically identify and present to the investment committee the risks associated to the project.
- **Towards Impact Fund I:** first, the fund of funds tracks that underlying portfolio companies have a positive impact. Each fund is asked to select key impact and ESG objectives and indicators each time they add a company to their portfolio. To define these, we encourage funds to use the best practice of assessing their companies against the IMP's 5 dimensions of impact. Secondly, it monitors that selected funds promote strong impact and ESG practices while deploying capital in portfolio companies and that they progressively adhere to better standards on these aspects when room for improvement exists. All the above will enable the fund of funds to assess if these funds' strategy can effectively be deemed to be generating a positive impact. Finally, the fund of funds will report on its own engagement activities with funds to promote best practices in impact and ESG management. The adequacy and efficacy of these engagement activities will also be assessed and reported on.
- **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** impact metrics will be assessed on a regular basis by a third party expert and published in a yearly report. Extra financial data can also be shared by borrowers or sponsors. We will track induced emissions, avoided emissions, 2° Alignment, Net Environmental contribution as well as renewable electricity produced and other impact metrics relevant to the nature of the project financed.

## PRINCIPLE 5

# ASSESS, ADDRESS, MONITOR, AND MANAGE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EACH INVESTMENT

For each investment the Manager shall seek, as part of a systematic and documented process, to identify and avoid, and if avoidance is not possible, mitigate and manage Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks. Where appropriate, the Manager shall engage with the investee to seek its commitment to take action to address potential gaps in current investee systems, processes, and standards, using an approach aligned with good international industry practice. As part of portfolio management, the Manager shall monitor investees' ESG risk and performance, and where appropriate, engage with the investee to address gaps and unexpected events.

- All BNPP AM funds are committed to implement our Global Sustainability Strategy and relevant and applicable sustainable finance regulations. This includes respecting BNPP AM's policies on ESG integration, Responsible Business Conduct<sup>7</sup>, as well as requirements linked to Principal Adverse Sustainability Impacts defined in the REGULATION (EU) 2019/2088 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures (SFDR) in the financial services sector, as outlined below. Together, these policies act as a "do no significant harm" safety net, helping us to screen out investments that are at risk of creating significant negative impact.

In particular, Covered Assets meet the following requirements:

### BNP Paribas requirements

- **ESG integration:** thoughtful ESG assessment and monitoring is an integral part of our investment processes and we have a firm-wide commitment to integrate ESG into all our AUM.
  - At BNPP AM (**Green Bond** and **Social Bond** Funds), the process to integrate and embed ESG factors is guided by formal ESG Integration Guidelines<sup>8</sup>, which include strong commitments, including not to invest in an entity without first establishing an ESG point of view (i.e. without an ESG score, or – if no ESG score is available – without undertaking a qualitative ESG analysis). This process enables us to make sure that we are mindful of potential ESG risks and opportunities before investing. We also consider the following - The issuer must also meet several conditions: not be on BNPP AM Responsible Business Conduct Watchlist or Exclusion list, have controversies worse or equal to level 4 nor 5 severities, not in the Oil & Gas sector (as defined by BICS), Governance pillar score must be better than -10 points, and must not be in the bottom 10% (decile 10) of its peer group, according to our internal ESG scoring model. These issuer conditions provide a baseline expectation of the issuer at the broader ESG level, such that there is some credibility on the issuer's part to successfully carry out the green & social projects/activities per commitment. We also check that the issuer has formalized or implemented management systems to mitigate potential negative risks to the financed projects, where certifications such as ISO 14001 or standards such as Equator Principles are referenced to reflect the issuer's management systems.
  - For **Towards Impact Fund I** a dedicated ESG integration policy and due diligence framework ensures that underlying funds meet minimum requirements in integrating ESG throughout their investment lifecycle, from origination to investment and reporting. This ESG integration is monitored over time. On an annual basis, funds are asked how they mitigate the negative impact of their investments.
  - For the **Climate Impact Infra Debt** strategy, Investment opportunities are analyzed pre-investment in order to evaluate the sustainability of their practices and potential for impact. These ESG and impact analyses are done at different levels: by verifying that sponsors are not in violation of our Responsible Conduct Policy, by assessing the investment opportunity's contribution to climate change mitigation using the EU Taxonomy framework, by assessing overall ESG risks and opportunities and by asking an external expert to analyze the opportunity and to produce a series of ESG and impact metrics.

<sup>7</sup> Our Responsible Business Conduct Policy: <https://docfinder.bnpparibas-am.com/api/files/D8E2B165-C94F-413E-BE2E-154B83BD4E9B>

<sup>8</sup> BNPP AM's ESG Integration guidelines can be found at this link: <https://docfinder.bnpparibas-am.com/api/files/517E383E-5094-4908-A7CB-A0C0795C0288>

- For **Social Business Impact**, a dedicated ESG integration policy ensures that investees meet minimum requirements in integrating ESG before investment (ESG risks analysis through a proprietary method + qualitative assessment of investments' SFDR Principal Adverse Sustainability Impacts). This ESG integration is monitored over time with an annual update of ESG analysis.
- For **European Social Impact Bonds** and **European Impact Bonds fund 2**, the projects invested in (delivered by pure impact players pursuing defined social/ environmental missions, mainly consisting in social support to vulnerable people) present by nature limited ESG risks. However, since 2023, a systematic ESG analysis is formalized before each investment, to ensure that they meet minimum ESG requirements and that no ESG risk is overlooked.
- **Responsible Business Conduct**: we expect companies to meet their fundamental obligations in the areas of human and labour rights, protecting the environment and ensuring anti-corruption safeguards, wherever they operate, in line with the UN Global Compact Principles, OECD MNE Guidelines and UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights. We aim to engage with companies when they fall short, and exclude the worst offenders. We also have a series of policies that set out the conditions for investing in particular sectors, and guide our screening requirements and engagement. We do this because if not conducted properly the activities in question could cause serious social or environmental damage (such as palm oil). We have another set of policies that commit us to exclude particular sectors or activities (tobacco, coal, controversial weapons or asbestos), as we deem them to be in violation of international norms, or to present unacceptable harm to society or the environment, without counterbalancing benefits. These are generally sectors where engagement makes little sense.

In the case of our **Green Bond** and **Social Bond Fund**, we take a proactive approach to managing environmental and social risk, with the goal to manage and mitigate potential negative externalities arising from green and social bond projects/activities (e.g. hazardous waste, water run-off, health & safety hazards). In order to do so, as part of our green and social bond framework we assess whether the issuer has adequate management systems and standards to safeguard against negative externalities. For example, we will expect the issuer to follow national standards at a minimum, or use international standards such as ISO14001 to manage overall environmental risks, or as best practice implement the Equator Principles.

### Regulatory requirements

To comply with the "Do No Significant Harm" principle, as defined by the SFDR, the financial product takes into account the indicators for adverse impacts in Table 1 of Annex I and any relevant indicators in Tables 2 and 3 of Annex I ([Register of Commission Documents - C\(2022\)1931 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1931/oj)) and aligns with international norms and conventions detailed in the SFDR. Note BNPP AM's Principle Adverse Sustainability Impact Statements can be accessed at this link: <https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/sustainability-documents/>

## PRINCIPLE 6

# MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF EACH INVESTMENT IN ACHIEVING IMPACT AGAINST EXPECTATIONS AND RESPOND APPROPRIATELY

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The Manager shall use the results framework (referenced in Principle 4) to monitor progress toward the achievement of positive impacts in comparison to the expected impact for each investment. Progress shall be monitored using a predefined process for sharing performance data with the investee. To the best extent possible, this shall outline how often data will be collected; the method for data collection; data sources; responsibilities for data collection; and how, and to whom, data will be reported. When monitoring indicates that the investment is no longer expected to achieve its intended impacts, the Manager shall seek to pursue appropriate action. The Manager shall also seek to use the results framework to capture investment outcomes.

For all portfolios, impact KPI data is collected and managed throughout the investment lifecycle. At each point of the investment process (and no later than annually), we review the impact against expectations and conduct appropriate follow-ups whenever necessary (e.g. potential engagement and escalation, wherever appropriate).

- **Green Bonds:** we assess progress on achieving impact and there is the opportunity to demote our green bond assessment should there be concerns. Our first assessment occurs when the issuer comes to the primary market. Data is collected through our internal scorecard based on the issuers' disclosures, focusing on the issuer's green finance framework and engagement with green bonds issuers. In addition to primary data, our analysts use secondary data sources such as "second party opinions" provided by the ESG rating agencies that evaluate the level of "greenness" and the alignment of Green Bonds with the Green Bonds Principles and the EU Green Taxonomy. The second catalyst for assessment is when the issuer publishes its impact report 12-24 months after the issuance. Our analysts use an internal scorecard template to collect key impact information, focusing on i) actual project allocation; ii) output indicators (for example clean energy installed capacity); and iii) impact indicators (GHG avoided). If the issuer doesn't publish an appropriate impact report, we demote the issuer i.e. recommendation becomes to not invest or sell if the bond is already in a portfolio. If engagement is satisfactory and the green bond issuer publishes an appropriate impact report, then we retain our initial recommendation to keep the bond as eligible for investment.
- **Social Bonds:** we assess progress on achieving impact and there is the opportunity to demote our social and sustainability bonds assessment should there be concerns. Our first assessment occurs when the issuer comes to the primary market. Data is collected through our internal scorecard based on the issuers' disclosures, focusing on the issuer's social or sustainability finance framework and engagement with social or sustainability bonds issuers. In addition to primary data, our analysts use secondary data sources such as "second party opinions" provided by the ESG rating agencies that evaluate the level of "socialness" and the alignment of Social Bonds with the Social Bond and Sustainability Bond ICMA Standards. The second catalyst for assessment is when the issuer publishes its impact report 12-24 months after the issuance. Our analysts use an internal scorecard template to collect key impact information, focusing on i) actual project allocation; ii) output indicators (for example unemployment benefits, access to affordable housing or healthcare related projects); and iii) impact indicators (i.e. number of beneficiaries who received support or number of affordable housing units constructed, renovated or acquired). If the issuer doesn't publish an appropriate impact report, we demote the issuer i.e. recommendation becomes to not invest or sell if the bond is already in a portfolio. If engagement is satisfactory and the social or sustainability bond issuer publishes an appropriate impact report, then we retain our initial recommendation to keep the bond as eligible for investment.

- **Social Business:** evolution of the impact is assessed annually, through impact KPIs and qualitative interviews with the investees. Once an investment is validated, we may define with the investee impact indicators that must be followed, including “mandatory” indicators according to its sector and “specific” indicators adapted to each investee (data collection may not be standardized, as it often depends on the size and nature of the investee company). The objective is to analyse how impact considerations are integrated in the investees’ strategic plan. The annual assessment enables us to compare impact expectations to the effective impact achievements: are the targeted beneficiaries the effective ones? Do the products and services deployed enable the changes expected for the beneficiaries? How is the impact strategy evolving taking into account the effective results? There is an opportunity to engage with investees and potentially exit investments if the impact is deemed insufficient (which never occurred so far). We also assess the risks of negative externalities through ESG questionnaires designed prior to investment and allowing to engage with investees all along the investment lifecycle on ESG risks encompassed by impact achievement.
- **Impact Bonds:** along the life of impact bonds, impact results are shared by the investees to the investors at least once a year. Impact indicators are certified by an independent third party. Data collection process and data source are contractually defined for each impact bond. All stakeholders of impact bonds (investors, outcome funder and investee) have at heart to maximize the impact of the project. If impact indicators occur to be below expectations, adaptation to improve impact performance of the project may be proposed and validated during the steering committees to which all stakeholders actively participate. If a project obviously fails to generate the expected impact, exit is discussed in steering committee and contractual provisions allow to stop financing the project.
- **Towards Impact fund I:** Evolution of the impact is assessed annually and disclosed in an annual report. We contractually agree upon - to the extent feasible - through side letter with each investee fund on the following elements: impact and ESG data collection process and data source at both investee funds and portfolio companies levels, recognition of our impact mandate and hence need for regular exchanges with funds for the purpose of defining action points to improve their impact and ESG practices. When funds fall short of answering our data requests, of making themselves available for regular engagement interviews, or of considering our recommendations for improvement, we notify them that it is not on par with our expectations, in formal or informal ways. To date all funds held in the portfolio for more than a year have improved their practices. At portfolio company level, it is too early to fully document the impact nature of companies’ activities, their impact achievements and their ESG progresses or lack thereof for all the companies in the portfolio.
- **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** impact metrics will be assessed on a regular basis by a third party expert and published in a yearly report. Extra financial data can also be shared by borrowers or sponsors.





## PRINCIPLE 7

# CONDUCT EXITS CONSIDERING THE EFFECT ON SUSTAINED IMPACT

When conducting an exit, the Manager shall, in good faith and consistent with its fiduciary concerns, consider the effect which the timing, structure, and process of its exit will have on the sustainability of the impact.

- As a global asset manager, we manage a comprehensive range of active, passive and quantitative investment solutions covering a broad spectrum of asset classes and regions. Exit considerations and our influence on those considerations are dependent on the type of investments, whether public or private, direct or indirect, the relative size of our positions, and fiduciary duty.
- **Green Bonds:** several events can prompt a change in the team's recommendation for inclusion in the investment universe ex ante or ex post:
  - lack of ex-post reporting or sufficient detail and quality in ex-post reporting with no plan to improve despite attempted engagements with the issuer.
  - allocation of proceeds toward activities that are excluded by BNPP AM as part of its Responsible Business Conduct policy.
  - downgrade of the issuer's ESG score to decile 10 (which is the bottom 10% within its peer group, according to our internal ESG scoring model), which is considered a criteria for exclusion in the green bonds proprietary framework as stated above
  - significant issuer controversy which incurs high negative environmental, social and/or reputation risks, a history of negative practices in managing environmental and social impacts in its activities and a failure to meet the DNSH requirements.
- **Social Bonds:** several events can prompt a change in the team's recommendation for inclusion in the investment universe ex ante or ex post:
  - lack of ex-post reporting or sufficient detail and quality in ex-post reporting with no plan to improve despite attempted engagements with the issuer.
  - allocation of proceeds toward activities that are excluded by BNPP AM as part of its Responsible Business Conduct policy.
  - downgrade of the issuer's ESG score to decile 10 (which is the bottom 10% within its peer group, according to our internal ESG scoring model), which is considered a criteria for exclusion in the green bonds proprietary framework as stated above
  - significant issuer controversy which incurs high negative environmental, social and/or reputation risks, a history of negative practices in managing social and environmental impacts in its activities and a failure to meet the DNSH requirements.
- **Social Business:** in the event that a decision to exit must be made, we would take into consideration the impact of the decision for all stakeholders involved, including, but not limited to, the impact on sustainability of the investee's business model and fiduciary duty to our clients. Nevertheless, such an event does not often occur because of asset class dealt with by the fund. Equity is invested for a long period of time and the fund has low liquidity requirements. Moreover, there are no "exit" in the case of debt investments but we do not hesitate to ease our repayment conditions or postpone them should the situation require it. As a concrete example, we decided to offer the possibility to delay – free of interest – the repayment terms initially due for Q2 2020, taking into account the cash and economic issues encountered by our investees because of the COVID-19 crisis..
- **Impact Bonds:** impact bonds are designed so that at the maturity of the investment, projects have made the proof of their efficiency and can be offered a permanent financing by public authority or private investors depending on the nature of the project. For projects eligible to private financing, we liaise with and promote the project toward BNP Paribas's teams which would likely be interested by such an investment. When the efficiency is not fully demonstrated at the end of the impact bond we have the possibility to extend the maturity of the financing so that the project can be fully deployed. If a project obviously fails to generate the expected impact, exit is discussed in steering committee and contractual provisions allow to stop financing the project.

- **Towards Impact Fund 1:** due to its nature as a fund of funds in private equity, the fund cannot conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact. However, it can favour investment funds that do and promote this practice.
- **Climate Impact Infra Debt:** due to its Buy & Hold nature, the fund cannot conduct exits considering the effect on sustained impact (there is usually no early exit in a Buy & Hold fund).

## PRINCIPLE 8

# REVIEW, DOCUMENT, AND IMPROVE DECISIONS AND PROCESSES BASED ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED

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**The Manager shall review and document the impact performance of each investment, compare the expected and actual impact, and other positive and negative impacts, and use these findings to improve operational and strategic investment decisions, as well as management processes.**

- We learn from each of our impact investments. The impact market is evolving rapidly and there is constant innovation. We continually innovate and strive to improve our impact management practices and processes, including our impact investment analysis and measurement methodologies. We firmly believe there is a “feedback loop” between us as an investor, the companies we engage with and our peers to share best practices and push for improvements on impact and assessment methodologies and reporting. For example, we often consider evolutions to our internal taxonomy of eligible green projects/activities for green bonds based on new available information (e.g. adding large hydropower projects to our exclusion list, due to large negative social externalities).
- Our Covered Assets’ impact frameworks are reviewed at least annually. From a governance perspective, BNPP AM’s Investment and Executive Committees oversees the firm’s approach, policies, targets and reporting as they relate to sustainability and impact.
- Operationally, BNPP AM’s impact approach is piloted by an internal Impact Taskforce. The Taskforce is in charge of the development and evolution of the firm’s impact framework, as well as related guidelines, checklists and policies. Strategies that desire to fall under the impact category are followed and vetted by members of the Impact Taskforce to ensure impact considerations are wedded via a cohesive theory of change throughout the investment process, before validation of strategies’ classification at the Global Product Committee.



## PRINCIPLE 9

# PUBLICLY DISCLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH THE IMPACT PRINCIPLES AND PROVIDE REGULAR INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF THE ALIGNMENT

The Manager shall publicly disclose, on an annual basis, the alignment of its impact management systems with the Impact Principles and, at regular intervals, arrange for independent verification of this alignment. The conclusions of this verification report shall also be publicly disclosed. These disclosures are subject to fiduciary and regulatory concerns.

- This Disclosure Statement reaffirms the alignment of the Covered Assets' impact management systems with the Impact Principles and will be updated annually.
- The latest independent assurance report on the alignment of BNPP AM's Covered Assets with the Impact Principles is posted at <https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/sustainability-documents/>.
- Independent verification of the Covered Assets' impact management systems will be conducted on a regular basis (and no later than at 3-year intervals, or earlier if there is a significant change to our impact management systems).
- Information on the current independent verifier is as follows:

### Name and Address

EY & Associés  
Tour First 1 place des Saisons TSA 14444  
92037 Paris La Défense Cedex France

### Qualifications

"EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities. EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). For more information about our organization, [please visit ey.com](https://ey.com)."

### Most Recent Review

July 26 2024



# ABOUT BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT



BNP Paribas Asset Management (BNPP AM) is BNP Paribas Group's dedicated asset management business that employs 3,207 people in 34 countries, including a large commercial presence in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Through the BNP Paribas Group integrated model, BNPP AM has access to a broad international client base and has close relationships with BNP Paribas' distribution networks.

Ranked the 10th largest asset manager in Europe\*, BNPP AM manages €540 billion of assets and benefits from the expertise of more than 500 investment professionals and around 400 client-servicing specialists, serving individual, corporate and institutional clients in 67 countries.

We offer investment solutions for individual investors (through internal distributors within BNP Paribas Group and external distributors), and corporate and institutional investors including insurance companies, pension funds and official institutions.

We offer portfolio investment expertise in line with clients' long-term sustainable performance expectations, including active, conviction-based strategies, liquidity solutions, emerging markets, multi-assets, systematic, quantitative & index and private assets.

BNP Paribas Asset Management, 31 December 2023. Joint ventures included in the figures.

\*Source: IPE Top 500 Asset Managers 2023.



# APPENDIX – FUNDS' THEORY OF CHANGE

## TOWARDS IMPACT FUND I



### CONTEXT

A 'theory of change' describes the change that an initiative wishes to see and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change. BNP Paribas Towards Impact Fund I has been designed based on the following reasoning:

#### 1

##### THE PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

As described in the GIIN 2019's Core Characteristics of Impact Investing' report by their CEO: "To tackle issues on the scale of the Sustainable Development Goals and global climate targets, we must think much bigger and engage a much broader set of investors. Scale is essential. But it must be scale with integrity, to ensure we are achieving impact at scale, not just capital at scale."

McKinsey' Global Private Markets Review 2022 estimates the private equity market at USD 6.3 trillion. The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN)'s 2020 Annual Impact Investor Survey estimated the global impact investing market at USD 715 billion, 16% of which is in private equity. As a matter of a fact, self-labeled impact funds still represent a marginal subset of the private equity market but the impact investment opportunity in the asset class is growing.

Across the private equity universe we distinguish thematic investors from impact investors. While the former focus on seizing the commercial opportunities that megatrends embedded in sustainability challenges offer, the others intentionally focus on solving sustainability issues in the first place.

We look at both because our conviction is that both have the potential to create measurable societal impact and attractive risk-adjusted financial returns. We do observe that private equity managers integrate sustainability factors in their investment strategies to varying degrees. The same goes for their investment process. There is a wide gap among established players and emerging ones in terms of track records, expertise and knowledge on both impact and financial aspects that must be addressed across the investment chain to scale the creation of a net positive impact in the asset class.

#### 2

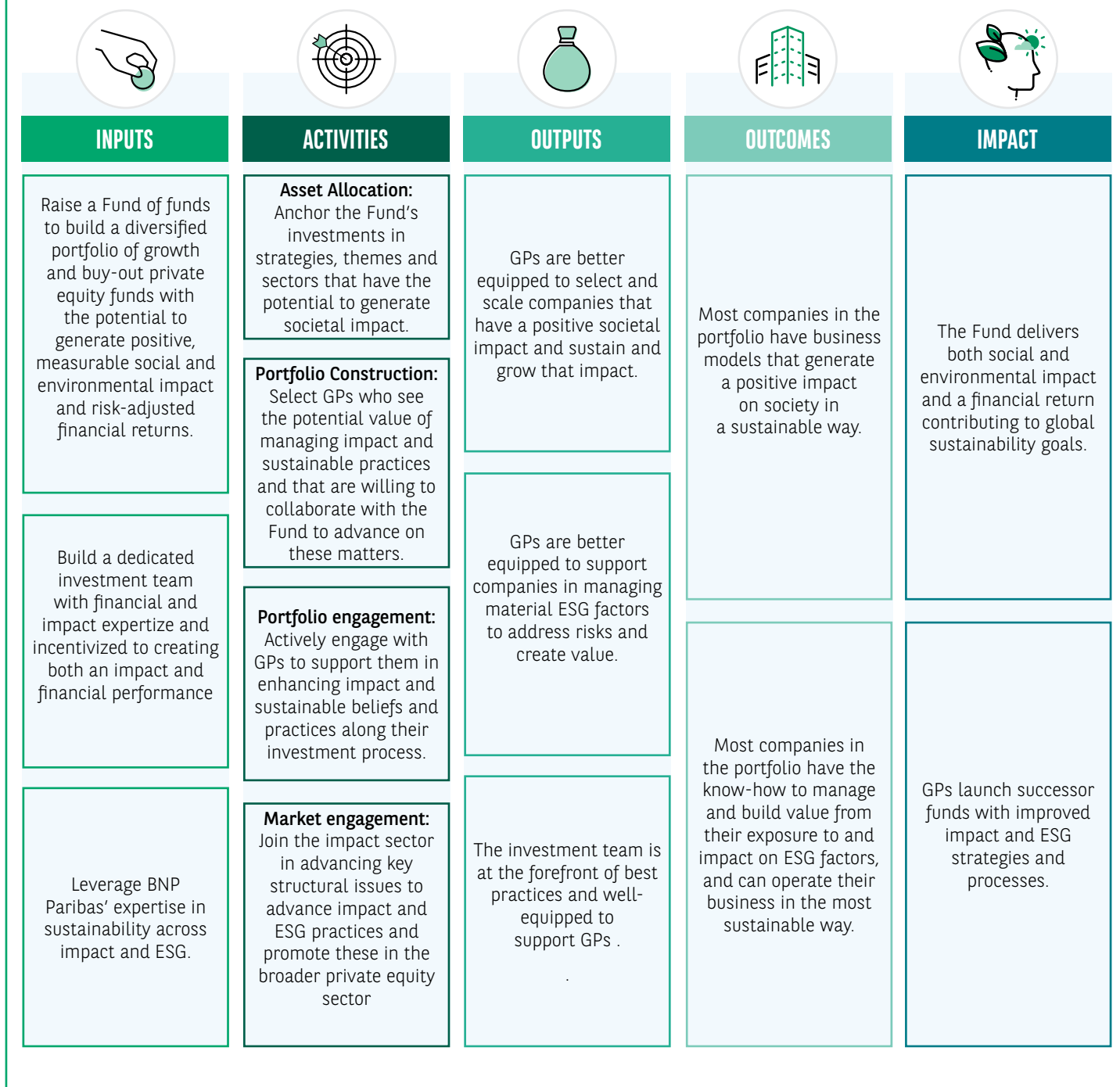
##### OUR IMPACT GOAL IS TWOFOLD

- BNP Paribas Towards Impact Fund I's mission is to bridge the gap between thematic investing and impact investing and hence contribute to the scaling of impact investing and to do so with integrity. Therefore we aim to:
- Demonstrate that fostering economic growth and development while intentionally protecting natural assets and favoring well-being across society represents a strong opportunity to generate risk-adjusted returns for investors
- Showcase the structural added value of a fund of funds product in scaling impact investing and ESG in private equity.



## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Towards Impact Fund I aims to reach these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

*For a Complete description and definition of risks, please consult the last available prospectus and KID of the fund. Investors considering subscribing to a fund should read carefully its most recent prospectus and KID that can be downloaded free of charge from our site.*

*Past performances or achievement is not indicative of current or future performance.*

# APPENDIX – FUNDS’ THEORY OF CHANGE

## BNP PARIBAS EUROPEAN SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS FUND AND BNP PARIBAS EUROPEAN IMPACT BONDS FUND II



### CONTEXT

A ‘theory of change’ describes the change that an initiative wishes to initiate and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change. Both BNP Paribas Impact Bonds Funds have been designed based on the following reasoning:

#### 1

#### THE PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

The fund aims to address a very large range of social and environmental issues.

##### Social topics:

In France and in Europe, millions of people are still living in poverty or experiencing social exclusion. It can take many forms. In France, INSEE estimates that 9.2 million people – mostly unemployed people, single-parent families and migrants– are living below the poverty line, accounting for almost 15% of the national population. INSEE also explains that more than 13% of the population is living in a situation of material and social deprivation, albeit more than 50% not living under the poverty line. Material and social deprivation means that, for financial reasons, those persons are unable to cover at least 5 of the basics needs (i.e. heat their homes, buy new clothes, have a personal vehicle, spend one week of vacation outside of their homes per year).

Another cause of vulnerability and exclusion is dependence or disability. INSEE estimates that there are 12 millions disabled people in France. The statistics demonstrate that they are under-educated and under-employed. Access to mobility and to leisure are more difficult. They suffer stigma and discrimination.

##### Environmental topics:

Climate and resource conservation are major challenges for humanity.

According to analysis from the European Environment Agency, over the past 50 years, human consumption of natural resources and raw materials has increased tenfold. Materials used to produce consumer goods are therefore becoming increasingly scarce and their manufacture involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Moreover, throwing away a product after use increases the volume of waste, which is a source of pollution with negative effects on human health and biodiversity.

According to estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), human activities have caused global warming of between 0.8°C and 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. At the current rate, global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2050.

The consequences of global warming observed and predicted by climatologists are numerous. They concern in particular: rising sea and ocean levels; intensification of a number of natural disasters which will lead to large population movements; loss of biodiversity; tensions around access to water or food; public health problems; risk of climate conflicts; etc.

#### 2

#### OUR IMPACT GOAL

BNP Paribas European Social Impact bonds fund and BNP Paribas European Impact bonds Fund II mission is to contribute to solutions for people in situation of vulnerability or the planet by financing innovative social or environmental projects run by non-profit organizations or social enterprises in the European Union.

In addition, the specific governance on impact bonds through steering committee allows all stakeholders (NGOs/Social Enterprise, Private Funders, Public authority) to monitor the progress of the project as well as its social and/or environmental impact measures which favor the continuation of most efficient solutions after impact bond maturity.

*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

*For a Complete description and definition of risks, please consult the last available prospectus and KID of the fund. Investors considering subscribing to a fund should read carefully its most recent prospectus and KID that can be downloaded free of charge from our site.*

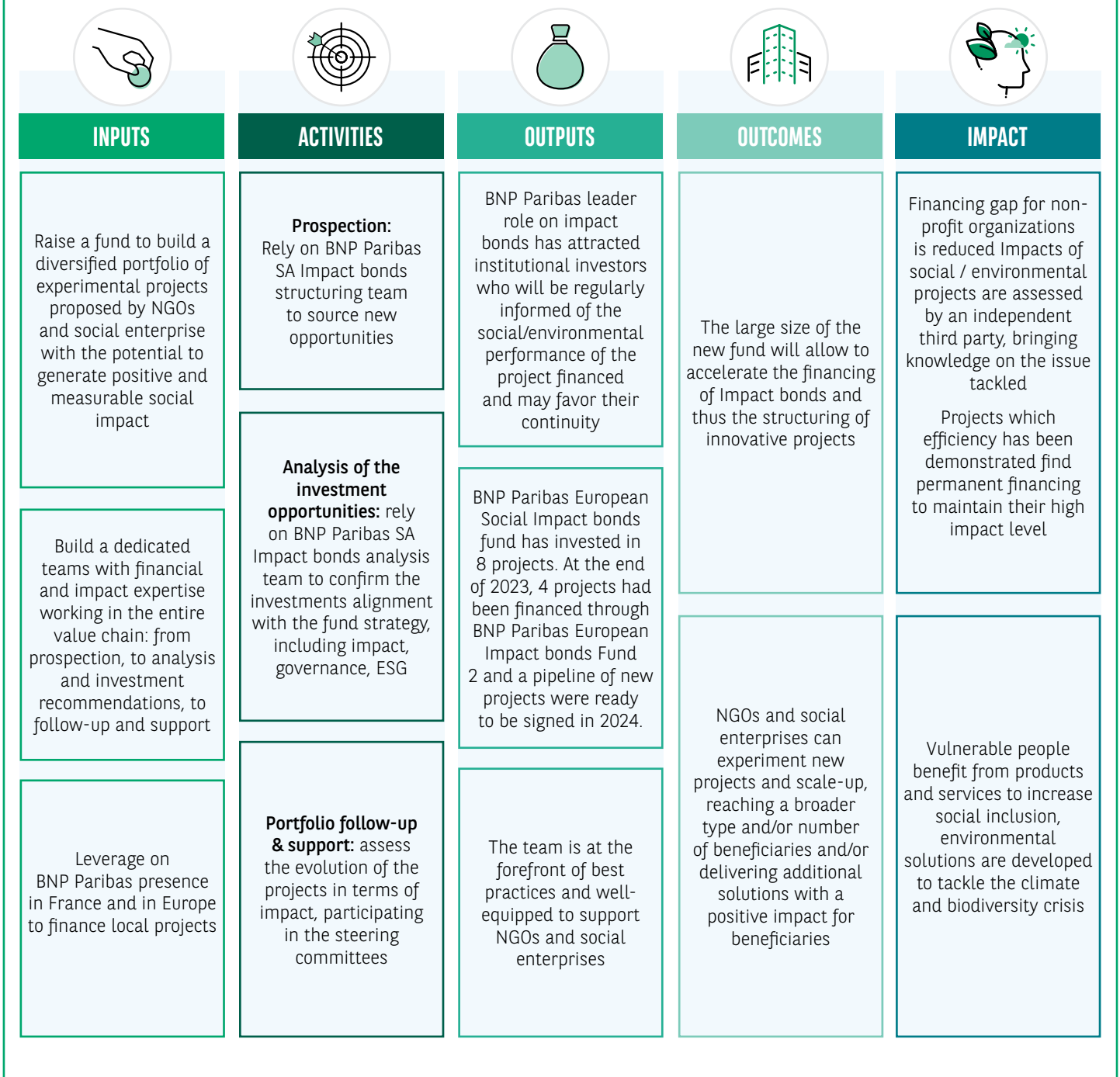
*Past performances or achievement is not indicative of current or future performance.e.*





## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Impact Bonds Funds aim at reaching these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

*For a Complete description and definition of risks, please consult the last available prospectus and KID of the fund. Investors considering subscribing to a fund should read carefully its most recent prospectus and KID that can be downloaded free of charge from our site.*

*Past performances or achievement is not indicative of current or future performance.*

# APPENDIX – FUNDS' THEORY OF CHANGE

## GREEN BONDS



### CONTEXT

A 'theory of change' describes the change that an initiative wishes to see and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change.

The BNP Paribas Green Bond Fund is a SFDR Article 9 fund which applies our BNP Paribas Asset Management proprietary Sustainable Investment Policy and invests in securities that provide solutions to environmental and/or social challenges. Each issuer must respect sustainable development criteria in terms of social, environmental and/or governance factors. The security selection criteria for this green bond fund includes BNP Paribas Asset Management's own thematic bond assessment methodology, taking into account the extent of contribution of the use of proceeds towards environmental objectives. We apply a strict and comprehensive in-house definition of a green bond through our ESG research, placing a high level of importance on reputational risk (avoiding green-washing). For more information about our Green Bond methodology, please see [BNPP AM Sustainability documents](#).

#### 1

### THE PROBLEMS WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

Green bonds are specifically used to raise money for projects with environmental benefits such as energy transition; energy efficiency; sustainable water management; sustainable agriculture and clean transportation; environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use; green buildings; circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes; terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation; climate change adaptation.

Policy developments and increased client awareness means that investors are under increasing pressure to better manage and report on their positive environmental and societal impacts. While the investment community has demonstrated appetite for instruments which meet positive environmental criteria, there are limited solutions in the market to help them systematically assess and quantify the positive impacts of green bonds.

The fund has a sustainable investment objective in accordance with Article 9\* of Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. The fund is invested in bonds issued by entities supporting projects, assets and activities that have positive environmental outcomes. The sub-fund invests at least 2/3 of its assets in green bonds denominated in hard currencies. Green bonds are use-of-proceeds bonds issued by corporates, supranationals, central governments, agencies, local entities and local governments.

#### 2

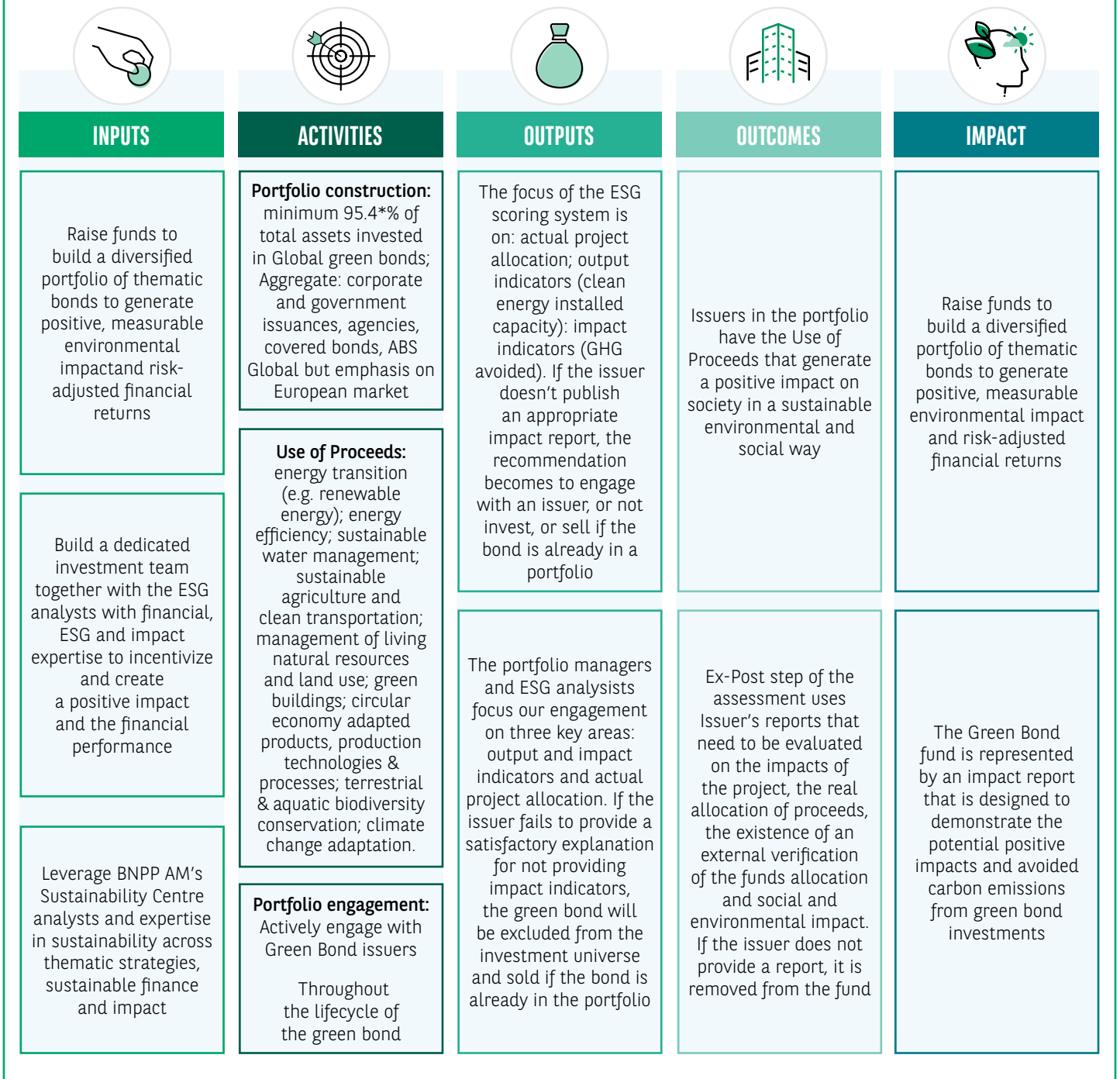
### OUR IMPACT GOALS

There are a number of metrics that quantify the physical impacts of different projects financed by the Green bonds included in the Green Bond Fund. These include green energy produced, area covered for green buildings, passenger km travelled on green transport, and energy saved through green products. Impact assessment and measurement of the positive environmental impacts of green bonds helps to address the growing market concern regarding the number of self-proclaimed financial which are either not audited at all or assessed inconsistently in the market. Therefore, the Green Bond fund is represented by an impact dataset that is designed to estimate the potential positive impacts and avoided carbon emissions from green bond investments.



## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Green Bond Fund aims to reach these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.

For a Complete description and definition of risks, please consult the last available prospectus and KID of the fund. Investors considering subscribing to a fund should read carefully its most recent prospectus and KID that can be downloaded free of charge from our site.

Past performances or achievement is not indicative of current or future performance.

# APPENDIX – FUNDS’ THEORY OF CHANGE

## SOCIAL BONDS



### CONTEXT

A ‘theory of change’ describes the change that an initiative wishes to see and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change.

The BNP Paribas Green Bond Fund is a SFDR Article 9 fund which applies our BNP Paribas Asset Management proprietary Sustainable Investment Policy and invests in securities that provide solutions to environmental and/or social challenges. Each issuer must respect sustainable development criteria in terms of social, environmental and/or governance factors. The security selection criteria for this green bond fund includes BNP Paribas Asset Management’s own thematic bond assessment methodology, taking into account the extent of contribution of the use of proceeds towards environmental objectives. We apply a strict and comprehensive in-house definition of a green bond through our ESG research, placing a high level of importance on reputational risk (avoiding green-washing). For more information about our Social Bond methodology, please see [BNPP AM Sustainability documents](#).

#### 1

### THE PROBLEMS WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

Social and/or Sustainability bonds are specifically used to raise money for projects with social benefits for social bonds, and both social and environmental benefits for sustainability bonds, such as employment benefits and support; affordable housing units constructed, renovated or acquired; healthcare benefits; SME financing; education, and the social inclusion benefits.

Policy developments and increased client awareness means that investors are under increasing pressure to better manage and report on their positive social and societal impacts. While the investment community has demonstrated appetite for instruments which meet positive social criteria, there are limited solutions in the market to help them systematically assess and quantify the positive impacts of social and/or sustainability bonds.

#### 2

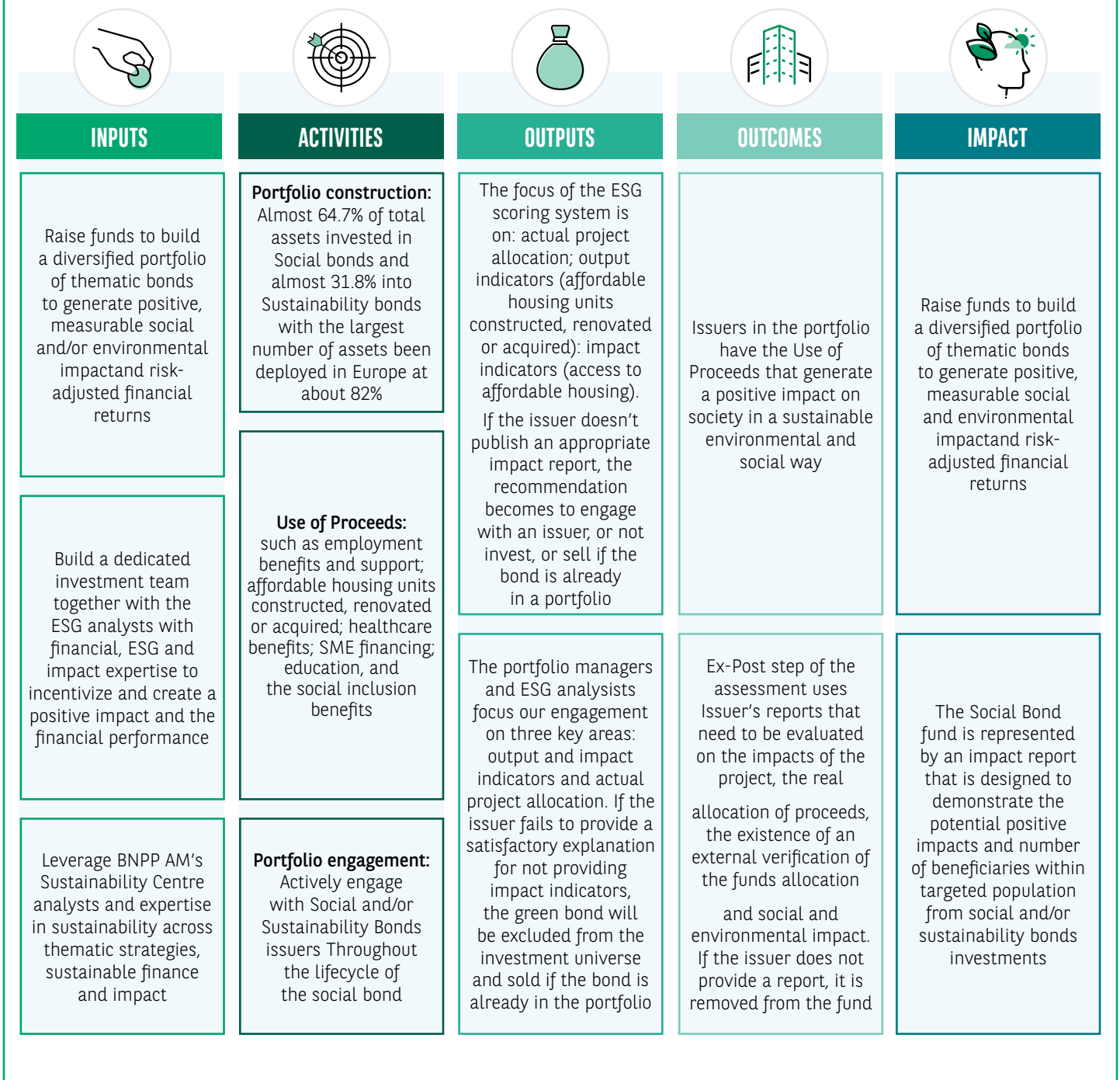
### OUR IMPACT GOALS

There are a number of metrics that quantify the real world impacts of different projects financed by the Social and/or Sustainability bonds included in the Social Bond Fund. These include number of beneficiaries who received employment benefits and support; number of affordable housing units constructed, renovated or acquired; number of hospital beds / spaces financed; number of SME jobs created / retained; number of student beneficiaries financed, and the social inclusion beneficiaries. Impact assessment and measurement of the positive social impacts of social and/or sustainability bonds helps to address the growing market concern regarding the number of self-proclaimed financial which are either not audited at all or assessed inconsistently in the market. Therefore, the Social Bond fund is represented by an impact dataset that is designed to estimate the potential positive impacts and number of beneficiaries within targeted population from social and/or sustainability bonds investments.



## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Social Bond Fund aims to reach these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

*For a Complete description and definition of risks, please consult the last available prospectus and KID of the fund. Investors considering subscribing to a fund should read carefully its most recent prospectus and KID that can be downloaded free of charge from our site.*

*Past performances or achievement is not indicative of current or future performance.*

# APPENDIX – FUNDS' THEORY OF CHANGE

## SOCIAL BUSINESS



### CONTEXT

A 'theory of change' describes the change that an initiative wishes to initiate and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change. BNP Paribas Social Business Impact Fund has been designed based on the following reasoning:

1

#### THE PROBLEM WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

In France and in Europe, millions of people are still living into poverty or experiencing social exclusion. It can take many forms.

In France, INSEE estimates that 9.2 million people – mostly unemployed people, single-parent families and migrants– are living below the poverty line, accounting for almost 15% of the national population. INSEE also explains that more than 13% of the population is living in a situation of material and social deprivation, albeit more than 50% not living under the poverty line. Material and social deprivation means that, for financial reasons, those persons are unable to cover at least 5 of the basics needs (heat their homes, buy new clothes, have a personal vehicle, spend one week of vacation outside of their homes per year, ...). A 2021 study by IFOP on social exclusion and poverty points out that 25-34 years old are particularly affected by social exclusion, and two new fragile populations are emerging: working poors and seniors.

Another cause of vulnerability and exclusion is disability. INSEE estimates that there are 12 millions disable people in France. And it is not only a question of ability. The statistics demonstrate that they are under-educated, under-graduated and under-employed. Access to mobility and to leisure are more difficult. They suffer stigma and discrimination.

Finally, the 2022 IPCC report finds that environmental issues strengthen inequalities as they disproportionately affect the most vulnerable people. It estimates that approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

2

#### OUR IMPACT GOAL IS TWOFOLD

BNP Paribas Social Business Impact Fund's mission is to contribute to solutions for people in situation of vulnerability by bridging the financing gap for non-profit organizations and social businesses in France and in Europe. We achieve this by financing:

- Non-profit organizations and social businesses that aim at answering the needs of vulnerable people, by offering them directly products and services with a positive social and/or environmental impact;
- By offering adapted financing tools with low-interest and by creating long-term trusted partnerships.

*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

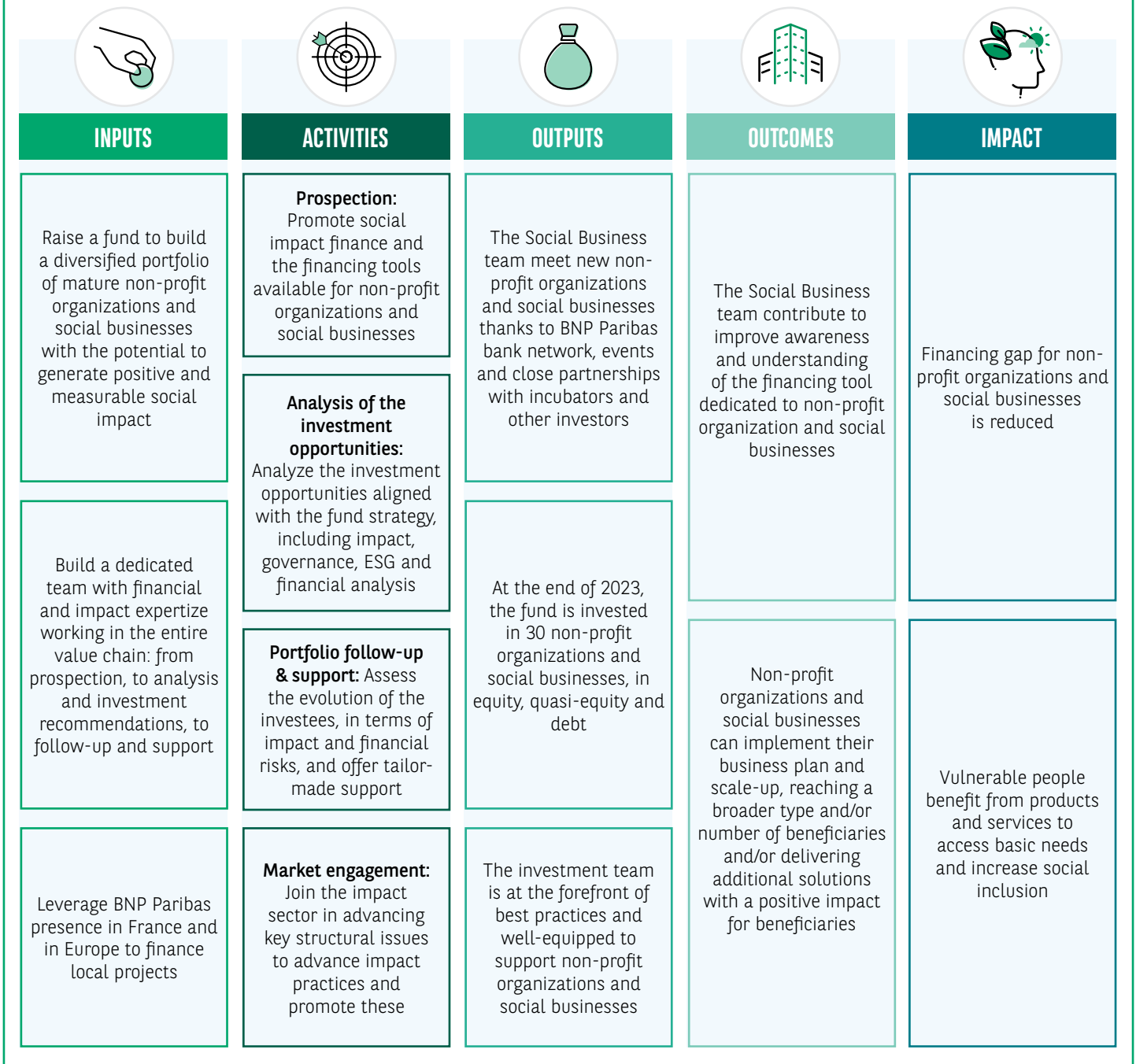
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## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Social Business Impact Fund aims at reaching these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

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# APPENDIX – FUNDS’ THEORY OF CHANGE

## CLIMATE IMPACT INFRA DEBT



### CONTEXT

A 'theory of change' describes the change that an initiative wishes to see and its understanding of how it will contribute to that change. BNP Paribas Climate impact private debt fund will invest in private debt infrastructures with the aim to contribute to mitigating climate change. The approach has been designed based on the following reasoning:

#### 1

##### THE PROBLEMS WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS

The IPCC considers that "Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals" (source: [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf))

Global CO2 emissions caused by human activities have reached in 2022 record levels bringing CO2 concentration in the atmosphere close to a tipping point. According to the International Energy Agency, global CO2 emissions have grown by 0,9%, reaching a new high of over 36,8 Gt. Human GHG emissions are strongly affecting climate and is responsible for an increase in global warming by already around 1°C since the industrial revolution. Global warming is in turn already bringing an increase in the frequency and intensity of hot extremes, marine heatwaves, heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts; an increase in intense tropical cyclones which are expected to worsen as global temperatures increase. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to boom with a 1.5°C global warming and to worsen as temperature rises beyond this point. The consequence will be strong negative impacts on sustainable development making climate change one of the most pressing challenges humanity is facing.

In order to mitigate these risks, global warming must be contained to 1.5°C, this implies that the quantity of GHG emitted does not exceed the storage capacities of natural sinks. This requires a dual approach: reduce emissions and optimize carbon sinks. Reducing emissions can be made possible via two ways: by having emitters transitioning to low carbon or carbon neutral activities or by developing enabling solutions to support economic players in their transition. Optimizing carbon capture capacity can be done through natural sinks –like ocean, forests or soil- or thanks to artificial capture and storage solutions. The International Energy Agency indicates that \$4 trillion are need annually to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

#### 2

##### OUR IMPACT GOALS

The fund will target positive impact by allocating capital in assets that are part of the solutions described above. The fund will use the EU Taxonomy as a framework to identify assets that are relevant to contribute to climate change mitigation. Eligible assets can be either aligned to this framework, or eligible under the condition that a set of additional criteria are met. This includes a minimum environmental score computed by a third-party expert as well as several climate metrics.

*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

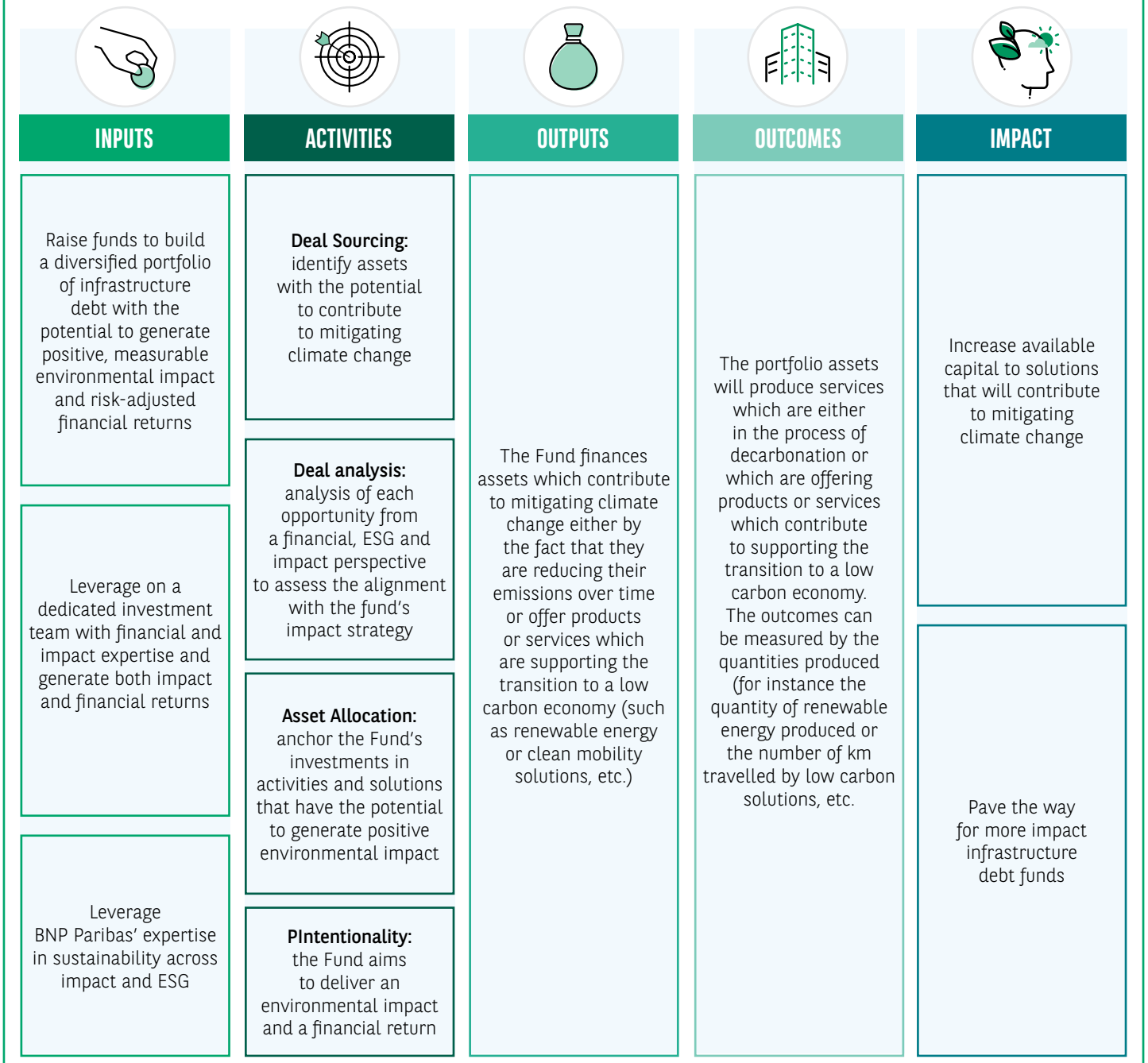
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## LOGIC MODEL

BNP Paribas Climate Impact Private Debt Fund aims at reaching these goals by investing and engaging with stakeholders in the following manner:



*The investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investments in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial outlay, the fund described being at risk of capital loss.*

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# VIEWPOINT



**BNP PARIBAS**  
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changing world**