

Luxembourg, 16 July 2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ARDIAN NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS FUND
Project Number:	2024-0330
Country:	Regional – Africa, Latin America, Asia, Central America
Project Description:	A Fund focusing on nature-based solutions through forestry projects and sales of carbon credits.
EIA required:	Multi-scheme Equity/Quasi-equity operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Sustainability aspects of the investment strategy

The Fund has a sustainable investment objective within the meaning of Article 9 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (EU) 2019/2088. The Fund's objective is to contribute to global climate mitigation efforts through the implementation of nature-based solutions (NBS) projects that sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and generate certified carbon credits to support buyers in pursuing low-carbon strategies.

The Fund aims to invest in NBS projects focused on restoring degraded ecosystems and landscapes through reforestation, afforestation, and restoration of wetlands and mangroves, by adhering to and implementing sustainable forest and land management practices. The investment pipeline aims to contribute (1) to climate change mitigation and adaptation by increasing carbon sequestration and enhancing the resilience of forest landscapes and ecosystems, and (2) to the conservation of biodiversity and nature by restoring and protecting biodiversity on degraded land and (3) to social development by improving rural livelihoods, creating local jobs, and supporting gender-inclusive, resilient communities.

Fund's pipeline projects aim to generate carbon credits certified by international certification bodies such as Verra or Gold Standard, following approved methodologies for the quantification of CO₂ removals. These credits will ensure that carbon removals from the atmosphere are additional—i.e., dependent on the intervention of the carbon credit project. A verification and accounting system for carbon credits will be implemented to track emission reductions and credits generated by all projects. The carbon credits generated will be entered into a single registry to prevent double counting.

The Fund's reforestation and afforestation projects are expected to also provide biodiversity co-benefits, by using mixed and mosaic planting models with native and/or locally adapted tree

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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and shrub species, especially where they reconnect remaining forest areas in regions experiencing high forest loss.. Wetland and mangrove restoration projects could also offer biodiversity co-benefits due to the high ecological value of these habitats and their ongoing decline. Additionally, mangroves enhance resistance to coastal erosion and offer related benefits in terms of climate change adaptation for coastal populations.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework

The Fund Manager has developed an ESG Policy tailored to the Fund's investment strategy, that will be regularly updated, ensuring clear ESG accountability throughout the Fund's lifecycle.

The Fund Manager has prepared an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) following IFC's ESMS implementation guidelines², that defines the procedures, tools, and responsibilities for assessing, managing, and monitoring E&S risks and impacts of the Fund's investments. The ESMS is aligned with the objectives of EIB Environmental and Social Standards.

Some of the Fund's investments may require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). The Fund's ESMS outlines requirements for ESIA preparation and disclosure, aligned with Environmental and Social Standards. For high and medium-risk projects, ESIA's and associated mitigation plans must be disclosed publicly in advance, ensuring stakeholder engagement, transparency, and compliance with applicable national permitting regulations.

Management of environmental risks

The assessment of good governance practices among investee companies is governed by the ESG Impact Policy within the ESMS, which includes a business integrity policy that sets minimum standards for the Fund's business engagements.

Investment activities are subject to various laws, rules, and regulations related to environmental human right's protection in the relevant jurisdictions. The Fund will require and verify that each project and its developers/contractors comply not only with local regulations under the necessary licenses or permits, but also with international best practices, particularly the IFC Performance Standards and EIB E&S Standards, and the Fund's ESG framework, certified by third-party organizations.

Key Stakeholders in ESG governance

The Fund's ESG governance structure involves several key stakeholders, each playing a distinct role in ensuring responsible and sustainable investment practices. The Ardian Sustainability Team ensures alignment with Ardian's Responsible Investment Policy, supports the investment team, and monitors and reports on E&S considerations throughout the investment lifecycle. Project Developers are responsible for developing their own ESMS in alignment with the Fund's ESMS and for implementing the Fund's ESG requirements. The Impact Committee reviews due diligence outcomes and ensures that projects remain consistent with the Fund's overall objectives.

² [IFC - Environmental and Social Management System \(ESMS\) Implementation Handbook](#)



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Capacity of the Fund Manager

Rolling out and effectively applying the Fund's ESMS will require the appropriate capacity and expertise. The requirement for a robust ESMS and the accompanying staffing capacity has been addressed to the Fund Manager, and this is regarded as a cornerstone for the Fund's success. The EIB will carefully ensure that the ESMS is applied effectively and to the satisfaction of the Bank. This is a specialised and pioneering Fund, and therefore implementing its requirements in practice may be challenging.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The Fund aims to achieve substantial carbon sequestration and net CO₂ emission reductions through enhanced carbon storage in resilient landscapes and ecosystems. Over its 21-year lifespan, the Fund aims to sequester around 78 million tonnes of CO₂ through the activities supported by its investments³.

Social Assessment

The Fund's ESMS includes a commitment to apply the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards 1 to 8 (2012), the Core ILO Standards as reflected in international best practices, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the UNFCCC environmental, social, and human rights safeguards. As a signatory to the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the Fund Manager is committed to the six PRI principles, which promote ESG integration, transparency, and collaboration. The ESMS also incorporates guidance documents on land rights and involuntary resettlement, as well as human and labor rights. Additionally, a draft policy has been prepared addressing Indigenous Peoples, local and customary communities, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and the protection of cultural heritage. All projects funded will be required to include emergency preparedness and response plans in accordance with the Fund's ESMS.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the ESMS, the Stakeholder Engagement Policy establishes standards for engaging with stakeholders affected by the Fund's activities. The ESMS is also designed to promote active engagement between the Fund Manager and the Fund's Operators, who are required to align their ESG policies, ESMS and grievance mechanisms with those of the Fund.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Through its ESG Policy and ESMS, the Fund Manager commits to apply the following frameworks to its investments: the EU Taxonomy, including the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) criteria; the IUCN NBS Standards⁴; carbon crediting programs such as Verra, Gold Standard, and ACR, including specific labels such as the CCB Standards; the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) and its Core Carbon Principles (CCP); and forest certification systems such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and/or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

³ As per the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, intermediated lending through equity and debt funds is not currently included in the scope of carbon footprint exercise.

⁴ [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions | IUCN](#)



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In addition, the Fund has developed a biodiversity protection and restoration guidance aligned with various international and national frameworks to ensure robust environmental and social performance. This guidance draws from the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards, IFC Performance Standards 3 and 6, the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions Standard, and relevant national laws, strategies, and biodiversity plans.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Subject to the following conditions being satisfactorily fulfilled, the Fund is deemed acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

Disbursement Conditions:

Within 90 days from the date of the First Close of the Fund, and in any case prior to the first disbursement, the Fund Manager shall comply with the following conditions:

At Fund Level:

- Submission of an updated Fund ESMS, including all relevant annexes and policies, acceptable to the Bank.
- Strengthen the Fund Manager's core team by appointing fully dedicated additional staff, as follows:
 - One (1) Sustainability Team Leader - responsible for the implementation, operation, and ongoing maintenance of the Fund's ESMS, including for managing and monitoring E&S matters at Fund and investment portfolio level; and
 - Two (2) Senior Agribusiness and/or Forestry Expert(s) - to ensure that sectoral and geographical expertise, particularly in forestry, agribusiness, and financial services, are fully integrated in the core management team.

Undertakings:

At Project Level:

- Ensure that E&S, sectoral and geographical expertise, particularly in forestry, agribusiness, and financial services, are fully represented and maintained within the core management team throughout the Fund's life.
- Ensure that the Fund's ESG Policy and ESMS are regularly reviewed and updated, and that portfolio investments and/or investee companies are developing, updating and implementing their specific ESMS in alignment with the Fund's ESMS and ESG requirements.
- Monitor the uptake and implementation of the Fund's ESG Policy and ESMS in investee companies and/or portfolio investments.
- The Fund Manager shall ensure that all portfolio investments and/or investee companies:
 - Develop and maintain their own ESMS aligned with the Fund's ESMS;
 - Comply with the [EIB eligibility, excluded activities and excluded sectors list](#)";
 - Have internal procedures to safeguard health and safety of staff and nearby communities;

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- Implement internal grievance mechanisms and maintain active community engagement in areas of operation;
- Conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), where required, and ensure timely public disclosure of ESIA documents in line with the Fund's ESMS, IFC Performance Standards, and applicable local regulations; and
- Adopt and enforce appropriate labour as well as Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards.
- **Projects Requiring FPIC, RAP, or LRP:** For any project triggering Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, requiring a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), or requiring a large-scale Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP), the Fund Manager shall send the documentation, as well as any relevant ex-post remediation or corrective action plans, benefit sharing agreement to the EIB for information.
- **Retention of Due Diligence documentation:** the Fund Manager shall ensure that all environmental and social due diligence documentation—collected either directly or through Developers/SPVs—is properly retained for all Fund-invested projects.
- **Community Liaison and Stakeholder Engagement:** the Fund Manager shall ensure that community liaison managers are appointed at the portfolio project level to manage and register stakeholder engagement and community relations. Upon request by the EIB, the Fund Manager shall submit, for review:
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs)
 - Documentation of the full FPIC processes accompanied by an appropriate IDPD or equivalent including all accompanying mitigating measures and benefit-sharing agreements.
 - Fund's environmental and social due diligence documentation for selected investments.
- Ensure adherence to- and application of- sustainable forest and land management practices for all Fund's investments, as evidenced by formal forest certification and/or adherence to the core principles of third-party forest certification standards (e.g. FSC; PEFC; SFI), and formal carbon credits certification.