



# AAF ESG Profile 2- Defensive

Website Product Disclosure



## Summary

### No Sustainable Investment Objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

### Environmental/Social characteristics of the financial product

The analysis of ESG factors is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process of ABN AMRO Funds ESG Profile 2- Defensive (the “Sub-Fund”). ESG integration is the process of recognising the financial materiality (or significance) of environmental, social and corporate governance factors as part of the investment process. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with ABN AMRO Investment Solutions (the “Management Company”) ESG responsibility criteria. Under the ESG responsibility criteria of the Management Company, the Sub-Fund is committed to conducting both negative and positive screenings as well as taking engagement actions when necessary. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responsibility criteria. The portfolio will be composed of issuers that are leading in ESG best-practice or attractive due to their progression in ESG best-practice.

The Sub-Fund promotes both environmental and social characteristics. On the environmental front, the Sub-Fund promotes climate risk management. The social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund focus on global human rights, labour standards as well as diversity, equity and inclusion.

### Investment Strategy

The Management Company may (i) delegate part of the management of the sub-funds to External Investment Managers which are selected by the Management Company who will make investment decisions as part of the portfolio, (ii) invest in units or shares of open-ended investment funds which qualify as UCITS, and/or qualify as other undertakings for collective investment, and (iii) manage directly the sub-funds.

UCITS and delegations are selected in accordance with the Management Company’s standards of quality and go through a qualitative ESG selection process before being retained. This process involves an in-depth analysis of the overall sustainability strengths going from the analysis of philosophy and investment processes.

Within the UCITS and delegations, the approaches are committed to combine a sustainability negative screening (exclusions) and a positive ESG selection investment process. The Sub-Fund’s assets are predominantly allocated into investments that comply with the defined standards in respect to the promoted environmental and social characteristics and defined within the Management Company’s exclusion policy. Looking at investments in external funds, the manager will only select external funds which promote environmental and social characteristics and qualify as an investment product in accordance with article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability related disclosures in the financial services sector or fund which contribute to environmental and social objectives and qualifies as an investment product in accordance with article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability related disclosures in the financial services sector. External funds may not apply the same set of exclusions and thus may deviate from the ESG responsibility criteria of the Management Company (i.e., applicable only to direct investments).

### Proportion of Investment

The Sub-Fund plans to invest at least 90% of its net assets in assets that have been determined as “eligible” as per the ESG process in place (hence in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics). Consequently, up to 10% of the investments may not be aligned with these characteristics.

## Monitoring of the Environmental/Social characteristics

When the Management Company delegates part of the management of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers, controls are performed at two levels. With respect to pre-trade controls, the External Investment Managers perform controls using their own frameworks as well as including the guidelines given by the Management Company. With respect to post-trade controls, these are performed at both the External Investment Managers' and the Management Company's level, each using their own frameworks.

When the Management Company invests in units or shares of open-ended funds which qualify as UCITS, and/or qualify as other undertakings for collective investment, the environmental and/or social characteristics or the sustainable investment objective of these open-ended funds are defined by the asset managers managing these products. Hence, the asset managers are the accountable parties for both the pre-trade and the post-trade controls. The asset managers will use their own proprietary frameworks.

When the Management Company is directly managing the sub-funds, the Management Company oversees all controls related to the achievement of the environmental and/or social characteristics. The Management Company's Business Control & Oversight team will therefore perform pre-trade and post-trade controls according to its proprietary frameworks.

## Data sources and processing

The Management Company monitors the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the funds under delegated management as well as external funds by using its own data providers. When the Management Company carries out direct management, the Management Company uses its own data providers to assess the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund.

The Management Company uses three external data providers as its main sources:

- The Management Company assesses the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund's constituents using the external data provider Sustainalytics. The Management Company uses Sustainalytics for ESG risk scores, controversies, product involvement as well as alignment with global standards.
- The Management Company uses Morningstar to analyse the Sub-Fund's peer group, as well as for various ESG data calculations at portfolio level.
- The Management Company uses the data provider ISS for climate and impact data. The Management Company also uses ISS as a proxy voting solution.

Similar to the Management Company, external asset managers managing delegated sub-funds or open-ended investment funds have their own data providers and methodologies with respect to their data environment. They will be responsible for defining their own methodologies regarding data processing and ensuring data quality.

## Due Diligence

The Management Company carries out due diligences for the selection of delegated strategies as well as for open-ended investment funds. The Management Due Diligence analysts team (MDD) identifies and selects high quality investment strategies and monitors the universe of approved strategies. The MDD team focuses on all investment and sustainability-related elements of an investment strategy. The Management Company's in-depth analysis is based on a "5-P approach": Parent, People, Process, Portfolio and Performance. Each of the previously outlined aspects is evaluated and ultimately leads to a final rating of the strategy. As part of the monitoring process, the MDD team periodically reviews the performance of the strategy to ensure that it remains aligned with the investment style of the portfolio. The ESG team supports the MDD team in reviewing the process and methodologies implemented by the external asset managers when considering ESG and sustainability issues. The ESG team provides qualitative feedback during the selection phase and supports the MDD team throughout its analysis process, using the "5-P approach" aforementioned. In addition, during the monitoring phase, the ESG team will monitor the Sub-Fund's characteristics and performance related to the environmental and/or social characteristics defined (including the review of underlying investments).



## No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.



## Environmental/social characteristics of the financial product

The analysis of ESG factors is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process of ABN AMRO Funds ESG Profile 2- Defensive (the “Sub-Fund”). ESG integration is the process of recognising the financial materiality (or significance) of environmental, social and corporate governance factors as part of the investment process. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with ABN AMRO Investment Solutions (the “Management Company”) ESG responsibility criteria. Under the ESG responsibility criteria of the Management Company, the Sub-Fund is committed to conducting both negative and positive screenings as well as taking engagement actions when necessary. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responsibility criteria. The portfolio will be composed of issuers that are leading in ESG best-practice or attractive due to their progression in ESG best-practice.

The Sub-Fund promotes both environmental and social characteristics. On the environmental front, the Sub-Fund promotes climate risk management. The social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund focus on global human rights, labour standards as well as diversity, equity and inclusion.

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.



## Investment Strategy

### Description of the strategy

The Management Company may (i) delegate part of the management of the sub-funds to a minimum of two External Investment managers which are selected by the Management Company who will make investment decisions as part of the portfolio; (ii) invest in units or shares of open-ended investment funds which qualify as UCITS, and/or qualify as other undertakings for collective investment; (iii) manage directly the Sub-Funds. UCITS and delegations are selected in accordance with the Management Company’s standards of quality and go through a qualitative ESG selection process before being retained. This process involves an in-depth analysis of the overall sustainability strengths going from the analysis of philosophy and investment processes.

Within the UCITS and delegations, the approaches are committed to combine a sustainability negative screening (exclusions) and a positive ESG selection investment process. The Sub-Fund’s assets are predominantly allocated into investments that comply with the defined standards in respect to the promoted environmental and social characteristics and defined within the Management Company’s exclusion policy. Looking at investments in external funds, the manager will only select external funds which promote environmental and social characteristics and qualifies as an investment product in accordance with article 8(1)

of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability related disclosures in the financial services sector or fund which contribute to environmental and social objectives and qualifies as an investment product in accordance with article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability related disclosures in the financial services sector. External funds may not apply the same set of exclusions and thus may deviate from the “Sustainability Investment Policy” of the Management Company (i.e., applicable only to direct investments).

## Good governance practices

As part of its “Good Governance Policy”, the Management Company of the Sub-Fund determines if a company does not follow good governance practices. Companies that do not follow good governance practices are excluded from the initial investment universe of the Sub-Fund. The data source used for all below mentioned criteria and to define the pass/fail good governance test of the Management Company is Sustainalytics.

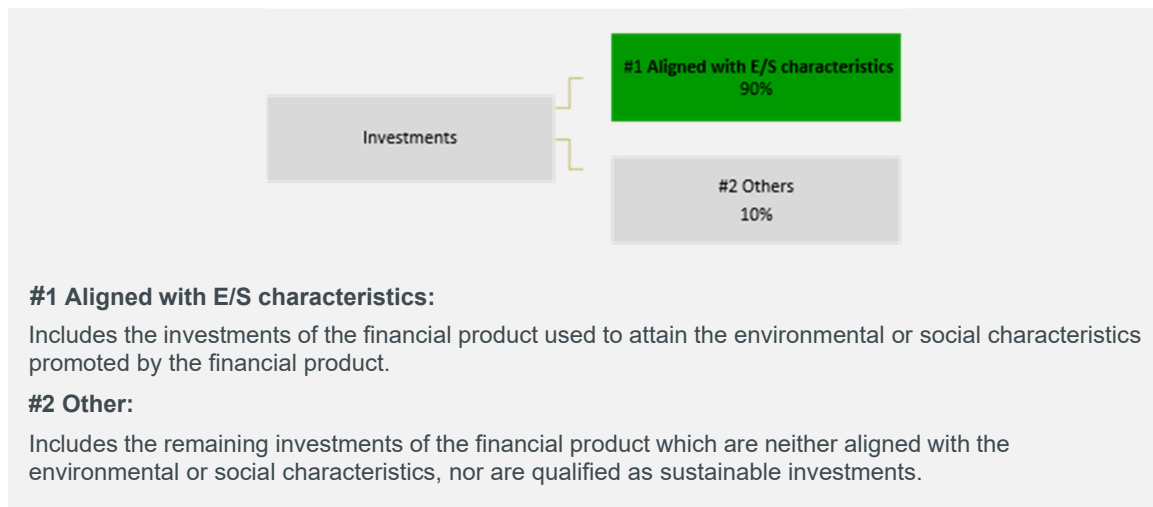
SFDR Component	Indicator	Exclusion Criteria	Description
Sound Management Structure	UN Global Compact - Principle 10	Watchlist and Non-Compliant status	Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact is related to anti-bribery and corruption and states businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
	Governance controversy assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, the following topics are included: accounting irregularities, bribery and corruption, anti-competitive practices, sanctions as well as board composition.
Employee Relations	UN Global Compact – Principles 3, 4, 5 and 6	Watchlist and Non-Compliant status	Principle 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the UN Global Compact are related to labour conditions. The principles state that businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
	Social Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, the following topics are included: freedom of association, child/forced labour, health and safety, community relations, respect of human rights, labour standards, discrimination and harassment.
Tax Compliance	Governance Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, taxes avoidance and evasion are taken into consideration.
Remuneration of Staff	Governance Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, remuneration is taken into consideration.



## Proportion of investments

The Sub-Fund plans to invest at least 90% of its net assets in assets that have been determined as “eligible” as per the ESG process in place (hence in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics)).

Consequently, up to 10% of the investments may not be aligned with these characteristics (#2 Other). “#2 Other” includes delegated external investment managers assets that qualify as Article 8 as defined by the Management Company’s Sustainable Investment Policy, derivatives, bank deposits at sight, including cash held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time. These are used for investment or hedging or efficient management portfolio purposes. A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this Sub-Fund can be found in the prospectus of this Sub-Fund. There are no minimum environmental or social safeguards associated with these investments.



## Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The Management Company may (i) delegate part of the management of the sub-funds to a minimum of two External Investment Managers which are selected by the Management Company who will make investment decisions as part of the portfolio, (ii) invest in units or shares of open-ended investment funds which qualify as UCITS, and/or qualify as other undertakings for collective investment, and (iii) manage directly the sub-funds.

Depending on the nature of the three constituents mentioned above, the Management Company performs diverse controls to ensure that the Sub-Fund complies with the environmental and/or social commitment made.

### 1. Delegated Management of part of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers

When the Management Company delegates part of the management of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers, controls are performed at two levels. With respect to pre-trade controls, the External Investment Managers perform controls using their own frameworks as well as including the guidelines given by the Management Company. With respect to post-trade controls, these are performed at both the External Investment Managers' and the Management Company's level, each using its own frameworks.

In the event that a "non-compliant matter" is detected by the Management Company, its Business Control & Oversight team will first analyse it and engage in dialogue with the External Investment Manager if necessary. Depending on the nature of the non-compliance, the Management Company's ESG team may decide to

monitor it using its proprietary "ESG Watchlist". If the non-compliance persists over time, an escalation process is put in place by the Management Company to ensure a timely remediation plan in the best interest of shareholders.

## 2. Investment in units or shares of open-ended investment funds

When the Management Company invests in units or shares of open-ended funds which qualify as UCITS, and/or qualify as other undertakings for collective investment, the environmental and/or social characteristics or the sustainable investment objective of these open-ended funds are defined by the asset managers managing these products. Hence, the asset managers are the accountable parties for both the pre-trade and the post-trade controls. The asset managers will use their own proprietary frameworks.

## 3. Direct Management of the sub-funds

When the Management Company is directly managing the sub-funds, the Management Company oversees all controls related to the achievement of the environmental and/or social characteristics. The Management Company's Business Control & Oversight team will therefore perform pre-trade and post-trade controls according to its proprietary frameworks. In the event that a "non-compliant matter" is detected by the Management Company, its Business Control & Oversight team will first analyse it and engage in dialogue with the portfolio managers and ESG team if necessary. If the non-compliance persists over time, an escalation process is put in place by the Management Company to ensure a timely remediation plan in the best interest of shareholders.



## Methodologies

ESG analysis is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process. As part of its ESG framework, the Management Company uses the following sustainability indicators to measure the achievement of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund:

On the corporate side:

- Absence of companies that do not meet the criteria defined in the Management Company's Exclusion List and that are deemed incompatible with the E/S promotion (e.g. tobacco, controversial weapons).
- Controversy Level Assessment - Controversy involvement is a key measure of ESG performance. Controversy level assessment reflects a company's level of involvement in issues and how it manages those issues.
- Compliance with the UN Global Compact - The United Nations Global Compact is the world largest corporate sustainability initiative aimed at encouraging businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. The UN Global Compact is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
- ESG Risk Scores - ESG risk scores measure a company's exposure to material industry-specific ESG risks and how the company manages those risks. This multi-dimensional way of measuring ESG risk combines the concepts of management and exposure to arrive at an absolute assessment of ESG risk.
- Scope 1 GHG Emissions - Scope 1 emissions emanate from a company's internal operations, including on-site energy production, vehicle fleets, manufacturing operations, and waste.
- Scope 2 GHG emissions - Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions generated by the production of energy used by the company.

On the Sovereign side:

- Absence of countries that do not meet the criteria defined in the Management Company's Exclusion List and that are deemed incompatible with E/S promotion (i.e. countries listed on ABN AMRO Sanctions List, ratification of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, ratification of the Paris Agreement, ratification of the ILO Conventions 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour).
- Country Risk Scores - The Country Risk Scores measure the risk to a country's long-term prosperity and economic development by assessing how sustainably it is managing its wealth.
- Government emissions.



## Data sources and processing

The Management Company monitors the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the funds under delegated management as well as external funds by using its own data providers. When the Management Company carries out direct management, the Management Company uses its own data providers to assess the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund.

The Management Company uses three external data providers as its main sources:

- The Management Company assesses the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund's constituents using the external data provider Sustainalytics. The Management Company uses Sustainalytics for ESG risk scores, controversies, product involvement as well as alignment with global standards (e.g., OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises).
- The Management Company uses Morningstar to analyse the Sub-Fund's peer group, as well as for various ESG data calculations at portfolio level.
- The Management Company uses the data provider ISS for climate and impact data. The Management Company also uses ISS as a proxy voting solution.

Once collected from these sources, the data is integrated and stored in the internal front-to-back tool and/or available in the Management Company's dedicated data management system (which directly and continuously obtains data from the providers). Information is also available via dedicated portals developed by external data providers, access to which is limited to specific users of the Management Company. The Management Company verifies that the data is available, reported (or calculated), and reliable over time. On a case-by-case basis (e.g., if an ESG score is missing), the Management Company may use other sources of information to form its own opinion regarding the ESG suitability of any investment opportunity with the Sub-Fund's strategy.

Similar to the Management Company, external asset managers managing delegated sub-funds or open-ended investment funds have their own data providers and methodologies with respect to their data environment. They will be responsible for defining their own methodologies regarding data processing and ensuring data quality.





## Limitations to methodologies and data

The methodologies and data used have the following limitations:

- **Data quality:** the approach followed includes qualitative analysis of a company's ESG credentials. The methodology is subject to limitations, including reliance on the quality of data provided by investee companies or third-party research providers, as well as quantification of qualitative data.
- **Coverage:** the overall team of ESG analysts in charge of the analysis of the Sub-Fund may not be staffed to cover the entire investment universe and methodological limitations that exist. In addition, with respect to external data providers, although the number of companies covered by data providers has increased significantly over time, and continues to increase, there may be instances where a specific company is not assessed by them. This is because either the data provider does not cover the company in question, or the company has not provided the data necessary for a proper assessment by the data provider.
- **Discrepancy in ratings:** the data used for the analysis of the Sub-Fund is obtained from different data providers, that have different methodologies for assessing ESG performance. The result of their assessment is to some extent subjective and inconsistent. Moreover, the difference in data sources and processing methods used by the Management Company and the asset managers of open-ended investments funds may further add to this discrepancy in ratings.
- **Estimated data:** Not all data points are reported data and some of the data used are estimated. For example, in the case of carbon data or ESG ratings, some technical calculations may be based on estimated data (i.e., by reference to a peer group average).



## Due diligence

The Management Company carries out due diligences for the selection of delegated strategies as well as for open-ended investment funds:

- The MDD team identifies and selects high quality investment strategies and monitors the universe of approved strategies. The MDD analysts team focuses on all investment and sustainability-related elements of an investment strategy, such as organization, team, investment, portfolio construction, process, track record, etc. MDD's research reports include a thorough sustainability due diligence and a separate sustainability rating. For all strategies, MDD analysts assess the asset management company in charge of the strategy on its commitment to and transparency on ESG investing. They also assess to what extent, and at what stages, ESG criteria are integrated into the investment strategies and effectively taken into account in the investment process and the portfolio. This analysis is carried out by means of a questionnaire sent via the Management Company's proprietary platform, Deeligenz, as well as during meetings with the professionals involved in the strategy (e.g. portfolio managers, financial analysts, ESG analysts, management team, etc.). The Management Company's in-depth analysis is based on a "5-P approach": Parent, People, Process, Portfolio and Performance. Each of the previously outlined aspects is evaluated and ultimately leads to a final rating of the strategy. As part of the monitoring process, the MDD team periodically reviews the performance of the strategy to ensure that it remains aligned with the investment style of the portfolio. The MDD team provides transparency and regular monitoring of the strategy's portfolio. ESG ratings and other sustainable characteristics of the portfolio's underlying assets are also monitored regularly. In addition, MDD analysts meet periodically with portfolio managers to discuss recent performance as well as recent transactions in order to monitor alignment with promoted environmental and/or social characteristics. To prepare for the meeting, MDD analysts send out a monitoring questionnaire using the Management Company's proprietary platform, Deeligenz, with questions related to the portfolio, performance, and

ESG factors. During the calls, portfolio managers clarify if there were any changes in the team and processes. Analysts and investment managers also discuss recent engagements and milestones during the period. In addition, MDD analysts monitor any significant events that may affect the portfolio, e.g., with respect to their investments, financial and ESG analysts, investment process, engagement capacity. Each change may affect the strategy's 5-P based rating, which may result in a change in the strategy's ratings, including the sustainability rating.

- The ESG team supports the MDD team in reviewing the process and methodologies implemented by the external asset managers when considering ESG and sustainability issues. The ESG team provides qualitative feedback during the selection phase and supports the MDD team throughout its analysis process, using the “5-P approach” aforementioned. In addition, during the monitoring phase, the ESG team will monitor the Sub-Fund's characteristics and performance related to the environmental and/or social characteristics defined. The ESG team will also monitor the Sub-Fund's underlying investments against the overall environmental and/or social characteristics, as well as the ESG indicators for all the Sub-Fund's holdings. If a holding is identified as not meeting the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund, the ESG team will further investigate the issue through an internal analysis. In addition, the ESG team is responsible for periodically reviewing the exclusion lists, assessing the relevance of the latest ESG information regarding restricted companies and updating the lists, accordingly, thereby adjusting the portfolios. The ESG team also ensures the proper understanding and implementation of regulatory requirements on green finance, such as SFDR, RTS or Taxonomy, throughout the entire product range. Lastly, the ESG team is responsible for the sustainable labelling of the Management Company's product range. Overall, the ESG team plays a very transversal role in the Management Company's organization, as ESG is at the heart of its investment strategy.



## Engagement policies

When the Management Company delegates part of the management of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers or invests in an open-ended investment fund, the engagement is the responsibility of the external asset manager managing the product. That said, there is a distinction between external delegated funds and external (non-delegated) open-ended investment funds. As part of its sub-advisory business model, the Management Company does not delegate all stewardship activities and is responsible for proxy voting. External Investment Managers may act as advisors and guide the Management Company before voting on resolutions to leverage on specific matters on which they engage with some companies. In any case, the Management Company remains the final decision maker on proxy voting. With respect to investments in external (non-delegated) open-end investment funds, the Management Company is not responsible for proxy voting. When it comes to direct management of the sub-funds, engagement on material issues may be carried out at Management Company Group level (through, among others, a collaborative engagement programme).



## Designated reference benchmark

No specific ESG-related index has been designated for this Sub-Fund.