

Product name:

Candriam Bonds - Euro High Yield

Legal entity identifier

UIVRSZFSQP1UFG9M8G73

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

**Yes**

**No**

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective**: \_%

in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective** \_%

It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10 % of sustainable investments

with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with a social objective

It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments**



### What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

The sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics as follows:

- by seeking to avoid exposure to companies that present both significant and severe structural risks and that are the most seriously in breach of the normative principles, taking account of their practices with regard to environmental and social issues and of adherence to norms such as the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises,
- by seeking to avoid exposure to companies that are significantly exposed to controversial activities such as the mining, transport or distribution of thermal coal, the production or retail of tobacco, and the production or sale of controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster bombs, chemical, biological, white phosphorus and or depleted uranium weapons),
- by seeking to achieve a lower carbon footprint than the benchmark.

In addition to the above, Candriam's ESG research methodology is an integral part of the

investment process. Finally, the sub-fund seeks to invest a minimum proportion of its assets in sustainable investments

No benchmark has been designated in order to achieve the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund.

● ***What Sustainability Indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used in order to measure the achievement of environmental and social characteristics are the following:

- carbon footprint: the sub-fund seeks to achieve a lower carbon footprint than the benchmark for private issuers,
- steps to ensure that there are no investments in issuers with the “red” flag indicating the most serious breaches of the principles of the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprise,
- steps to ensure that there are no investments in issuers particularly exposed to the exploration, mining, transport or distribution of thermal coal,
- steps to ensure that there are no investments in issuers exposed to controversial weapons,
- steps to ensure that there are no investments in issuers particularly exposed to the production and distribution of tobacco.

● ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The sustainable investments which the sub-fund intends to make for part of the portfolio aim to contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by means of exclusions and the use of climate indicators in the analysis of companies, and they aim to have a positive environmental and social impact in the long term.

Concerning sustainable investments with environmental objectives, the sub-fund, through its sustainable investments defined by Candriam’s exclusive ESG analysis, may over the long-term contribute to one or more of the following environmental objectives as set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852:

- a) climate change mitigation,
- b) climate change adaptation,
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources,
- d) the transition to a circular economy,
- e) pollution prevention and control.

● ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

The sustainable investments which the financial product makes do no significant harm to any sustainable environmental or social investment objectives, to the extent that Candriam takes account of the principal adverse impacts and aims for alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, through the framework of its ESG ratings and its exclusions policy on controversial activities and normative policy.

Companies that contribute negatively to environmental and/or social sustainable investment objectives and that consequently do significant harm to these objectives through their adverse impacts will consequently tend to be allocated a poor score under Candriam’s ESG rating system. It is therefore highly likely that they be excluded from the eligible investment universe.

— → *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

For these sustainable investments realised partially by the sub-fund, indicators of the

**Principal adverse impacts**  
are the most significant  
negative impacts of

investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti - corruption and anti - bribery matters.

principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors were considered using Candriam's ESG rating framework, exclusions from controversial activities and exclusions based on standards.

For example:

1. Through the exclusion of companies involved in controversial activities and standards-based exclusions, which are based on an analysis of companies' compliance with international standards, Candriam takes account of the following principal adverse impacts (PAIs):

- PAI 3, 4 and 5: Exclusion of companies with significant exposure to conventional and non-conventional fossil fuel activities and/or non-renewable energy production. For PAIs 4 and 5, Candriam applies thresholds when taking account of exposure to these activities.
- PAI 7: Activities adversely impacting biodiversity sensitive areas. For example, Candriam excludes companies involved in palm oil (thresholds based on palm oil not certified by the RSPO).
- PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons).

2. By analysing the contribution of a company's business activities to the main sustainability challenges of climate change and resource depletion, Candriam takes account of the following principal adverse impacts:

- PAI 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: By assessing the main sustainability challenges of climate change, Candriam analyses a company's exposure to climate risks as well as the intensity of GHG emissions generated by their business activities. This assessment is used to determine whether the company's business activities contribute positively or negatively to climate change.
- PAI 7, 8 and 9: Assessment of the impact of a company's business activities on the depletion of natural resources.

3. Through entity level engagement: In order to avoid and/or reduce adverse impacts on sustainability factors, Candriam also considers adverse impacts through its Enterprise-wide Engagement Programme, which includes dialogue with companies and/or the exercise of voting rights. Candriam prioritises engagement and/or voting activities based on an evaluation of the most significant and the most relevant ESG challenges faced by the sectors and the issuers, taking account of the financial, social and environmental impacts. Therefore, the level of engagement may vary from one issuer to another depending on Candriam's prioritising methodology.

The main themes of Candriam's engagement and/or voting practices are the energy transition, fair working conditions and business ethics. For example, in its dialogue and voting activities, Candriam takes into account PAI 1, 2 and 3 (GHG emissions, carbon footprint and GHG intensity), PAI 4 (exposure to fossil fuels), PAI 6 (energy consumption intensity by sector with high climate impact), PAI 10 (violations of the United Nations Global Compact Principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises), as well as PAI 12 and PAI 13 (gender).

— → *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

The investments in the portfolio undergo a normative analysis examining respect for international social, human, environmental and anti-corruption norms as defined in the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the International Bill of Human Rights are among the many international references embedded in the normative analysis and Candriam's ESG analysis framework.

The analysis seeks to exclude companies which have significantly and/or repeatedly breached one of these principles.

Additional information on how Candriam takes account of the "do no significant harm"

principle can be found at the links mentioned at the end of this Appendix.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



## Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

**X** Yes, at the sub-fund level, as indicated in Annex I of the SFDR delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, the Principal Adverse Impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors are taken into account – as described in the Level 1 PAIs in the document entitled "Principal Adverse Impact at Product Level" – by one or more of the following means:

- Exclusions:

Through the exclusion of companies involved in controversial activities and standards-based exclusions, which are based on an analysis of companies' compliance with international standards, Candriam takes account of:

- PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons).

- Engagement and voting:

In order to avoid and/or reduce adverse impacts on sustainability factors, the sub-fund also considers adverse impacts through its Entity-wide Engagement Programme, which includes dialogue with companies and the exercise of voting rights. Candriam prioritises its engagement and voting activities based on an evaluation of the most significant and the most relevant ESG challenges faced by the sectors and the issuers, taking account of the financial, social and environmental impacts. Therefore, the level of engagement may vary depending on the issuers and Candriam's prioritising methodology.

The main themes of Candriam's engagement and voting practices are the energy transition, fair working conditions and business ethics. For example, in its dialogue and voting activities, Candriam takes into account PAI 1, 2 and 3 (GHG emissions, carbon footprint and GHG intensity), PAI 4 (exposure to fossil fuels), PAI 6 (energy consumption intensity by sector with high climate impact), PAI 7 (activities having an adverse impact on biodiversity sensitive zones) PAI 10 (violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises), as well as PAI 12 and PAI 13 (gender).

- Monitoring:

Monitoring includes calculating and assessing the main adverse impacts on sustainability factors, including reporting at the sub-fund level.

For funds using carbon footprint as a sustainability indicator, PAI 2 is covered by this monitoring approach. PAI 3 (GHG intensity of investee companies) is monitored for funds forming part of Candriam's commitment to the Net Zero Asset Manager initiative. In addition, PAI 10 (Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises), PAI 14 (Exposure to controversial weapons).

The indicators of specific principal adverse impacts taken into account depend on data quality and availability and may change as data quality and availability improves. If it is not possible to use a principal adverse impact indicator due to data limitations or other technical issues, the fund manager may use a representative replacement indicator.

More extensive information on the types of PAI considered can be found through the links provided at the end of this Annex (document entitled “Principal adverse impacts at product level”).

No

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?



The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The objective of the sub-fund is to use discretionary management to benefit from the performance of the market in high yield bonds denominated in EUR and issued by private sector issuers, and to outperform the benchmark. These high yield securities are generally poorly rated and exposed to higher credit risk and liquidity risk than more highly rated securities; they may be subject to greater market value fluctuations and lower liquidity.

The investment strategy is applied according to a well-defined investment process and a rigorous risk framework. Adherence to these elements is subject to risk monitoring by Candriam.

Regarding the environmental and social aspects of the investment strategy, Candriam’s proprietary ESG analysis (which produces ESG ratings and scores) and a normative controversy evaluation (including the controversial activity exclusion policy) are applied, making it possible to define the investable universe for the sub-fund.

Furthermore, Candriam’s ESG analysis, which includes an analysis of the issuer’s activities and its interaction with its main stakeholders, is an integral part of the financial management of the portfolio, enabling the asset manager to identify the risks as well as opportunities around the serious challenges of sustainable development.

As the management company, Candriam has established a monitoring framework as described in the sustainability risk management policy. Monitoring of the sub-fund’s investment strategy risks seeks to ensure that the investments are aligned with and take account of environmental, social and governance indicators and the sustainability thresholds as explained above.

### ● **What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?**

The investment strategy contains binding elements such as an exclusion policy comprising a normative filter as well as the exclusion of certain controversial activities as described in Candriam’s Level 1 Company-Wide Exclusions Policy. Candriam’s Level 1 Company-Wide Exclusions Policy is aimed at harmful activities that in Candriam’s opinion have a substantial negative impact and involve significant financial and sustainability risks. Exposure to these activities presents significant systemic and reputational risks for invested companies from economic, environmental and social points of view.

Consequently Candriam excludes activities linked to controversial weapons, tobacco and thermal coal from all the portfolios that it manages directly and encourages third parties to do likewise.

Candriam’s Level 1 Company-Wide Exclusions Policy applies to all investments made by Candriam by way of long positions in direct lines on private sector and sovereign issuers and derivative products on individual issuers.

The full list of activities excluded by virtue of Candriam’s Level 1 Company-Wide Exclusions Policy and their respective thresholds and exclusion criteria are available through the links provided at the end of this Annex (document entitled “Candriam Level 1 Company-Wide Exclusions Policy”).

In addition, the portfolio is constructed in order to achieve or to respect:

- the objectives of the sustainability indicator described above,
- the defined minimum proportion of investments which have environmental and social characteristics,
- the defined minimum proportion of sustainable investments.

- **What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?**

The sub-fund is subject to an exclusion policy comprising a normative filter as well as the exclusion of certain controversial activities. There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy

- **What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?**

The company's governance is a core aspect of the stakeholder analysis performed by Candriam. It can be used to evaluate:

- 1) how a company interacts with and manages its stakeholders, and
- 2) how a company's board of directors discharges its governance and management functions regarding disclosure and transparency and regarding consideration of sustainability objectives.

In order to evaluate a company's governance practices specifically regarding the stability of the management structures, labour relations, staff remuneration and tax compliance as defined by the SFDR, Candriam's ESG analysis includes five key pillars of governance:

1. The strategic orientation, which evaluates the independence, expertise and composition of the board of directors and ensures that the board acts in the interests of all shareholders and other stakeholders and that it is able to act as an effective counterweight to management,
2. An audit committee and an evaluation of the independence of the auditors in order to avoid conflicts of interest,
3. Transparency around the remuneration of senior managers, enabling managers and the remuneration committee to be held to account by the shareholders, to align the interests of senior management with those of the shareholders, and to focus on long-term performance,
4. The share capital to ensure that all the shareholders have equal voting rights,
5. Financial conduct and transparency.

## **What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

The sub-fund seeks to invest at least 60% of its total net assets in investments which have environmental and social characteristics, of which a minimum of 10% of its total net assets will consist of sustainable investments. A maximum of 40% of the total net assets of the sub-fund may be allocated to other assets as defined below.

The investments which have environmental and social characteristics are investments which undergo Candriam's proprietary ESG analysis and are eligible on the basis of their ESG rating. In addition, these investments must respect Candriam's exclusion policy concerning controversial activities and the normative filter. The investments which have E/S characteristics must demonstrate good governance practices.

Sustainable investments are defined on the basis of Candriam's proprietary ESG analysis. An issuer which respects Candriam's exclusion filters is eligible as a sustainable investment on the basis of an ESG rating reflecting high sustainability standards.

For more detail about Candriam's ESG analysis, please see its website.

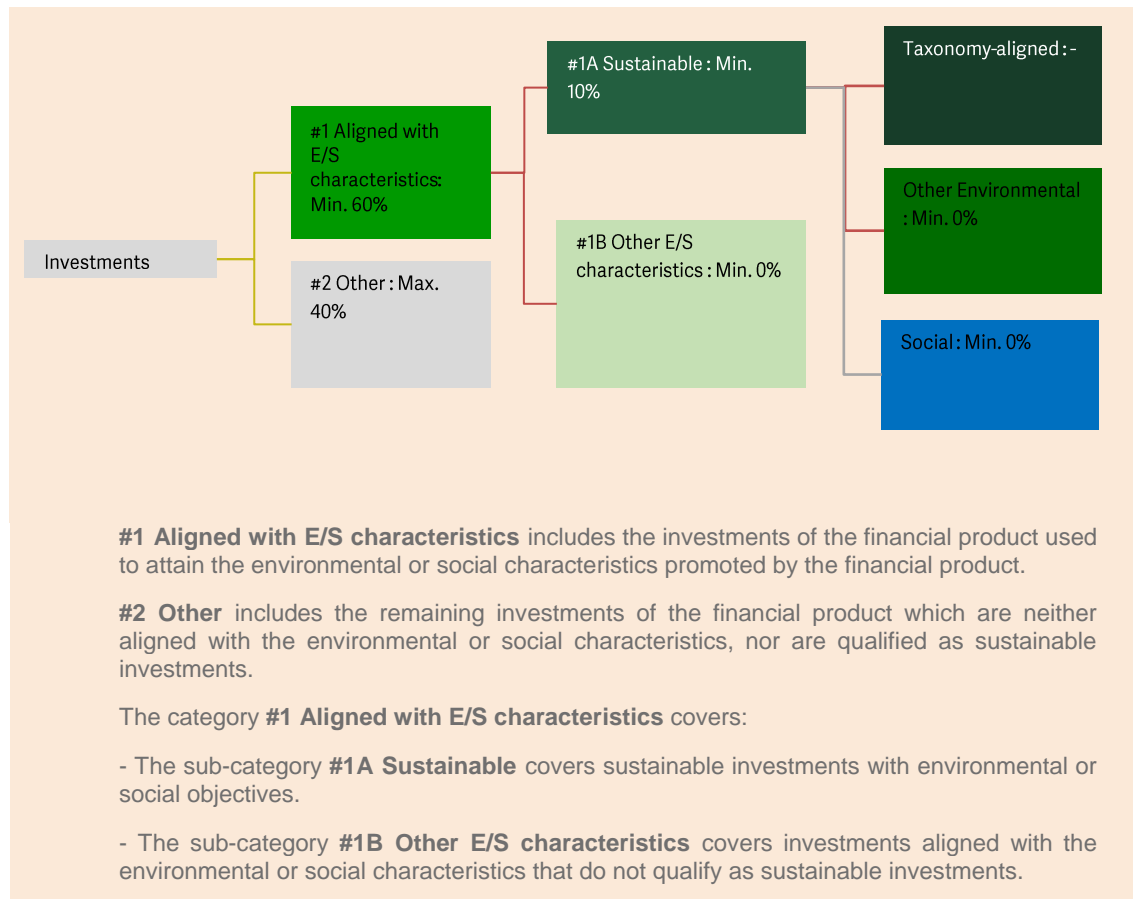
**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.



**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



● **How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

The use of derivative products is not intended to achieve the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund.



**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The EU Taxonomy Regulation establishes six distinct but interconnected environmental objectives. These environmental objectives are placed at the heart of Candriam’s ESG research and analysis of issuers.

At the present time, however, only a small number of companies worldwide publish the necessary information for a rigorous evaluation of their alignment with the Taxonomy.

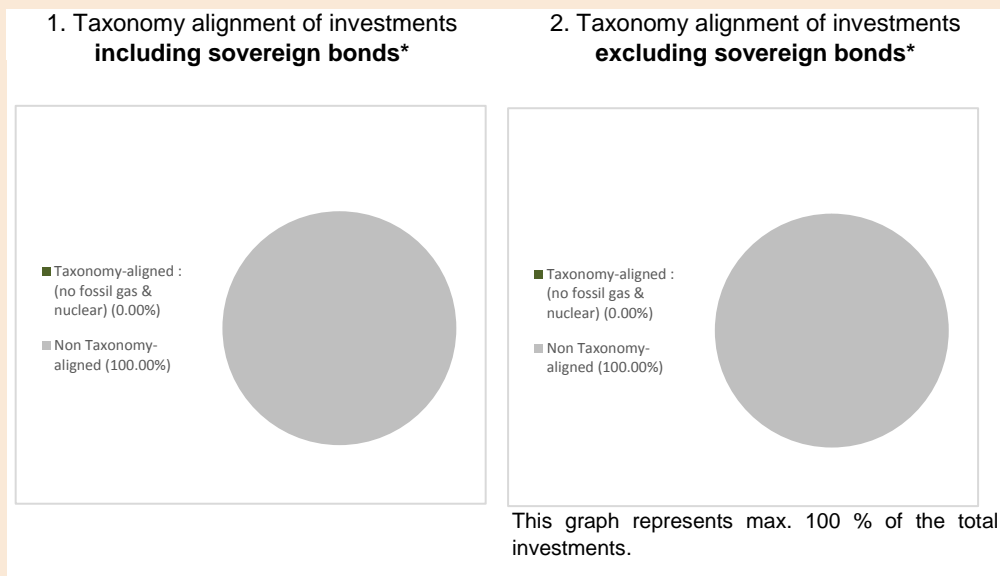
As a result, the sub-fund does not commit to a minimum Taxonomy alignment percentage, meaning that this percentage must be considered to be zero.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy ?<sup>1</sup>**

- Yes
- In fossil gas
- In nuclear energy
- No

<sup>1</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change (“climate change mitigation”) and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.



\*For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective. **Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

● **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

No minimum proportion of investments in transitional and/or enabling activities has been fixed. However, Candriam's ESG research and analysis framework includes an evaluation of transitional and/or enabling activities and how they contribute to the sustainability objectives.



**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

There is no hierarchy of environmental or social objectives and as a result, the strategy neither seeks nor commits to a specific minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

There is no hierarchy of environmental or social objectives and as a result, the strategy neither seeks nor commits to a specific minimum proportion of sustainable investments with a social objective.





## What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

Investments in the “Others” category may only be held in the sub-fund up to a maximum of 40% of the total net assets.

Such investments may be:

- cash and cash equivalents: demand deposits, reverse repurchase transactions that are necessary in order to manage the liquidity of the sub-fund following subscriptions/redemptions and/or resulting from the sub-fund’s market exposure decision
- issuers which had E/S characteristics at the time of investment and which are no longer fully aligned with Candriam’s E/S investment criteria. The intention is to sell these investments,
- other investments including single name derivatives which may be purchased for diversification purposes and which cannot undergo ESG filtering or for which ESG data is not available but which as a minimum respect the principles of good governance,
- non single name derivatives may be used for efficient portfolio management and/or for hedging purposes and/or temporarily following subscriptions/redemptions.



## Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

No specific index has been designated as a benchmark in order to evaluate alignment with E/S characteristics.

- **How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

N/A

- **How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?**

N/A

- **How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?**

N/A

- **Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?**

N/A



## Where can I find more product specific information online?

For more detailed information about the product, go to:

<https://www.candriam.com/en/private/sfdr/>

<https://www.candriam.com/en/professional/sfdr/>

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.