

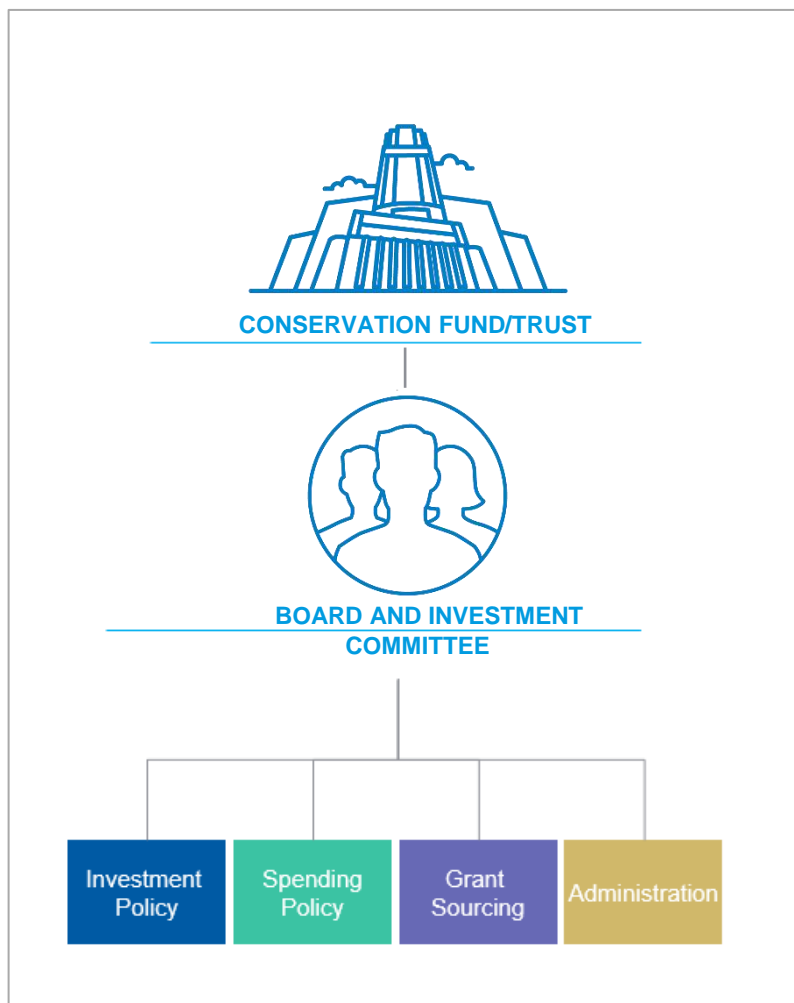


# **Morgan Stanley | Graystone XXV RedLAC Congress 2023**

**Governance and Impact: ESG & Impact Policies for Conservation Trust  
Funds**

**October 23, 2023**

# Governance is a “secret sauce” for successful organizations



## Key pillars to good governance:



**1. Board and Investment Committee:** organization’s governance and decision making.



**2. Investment Policy:** investment objectives, return & risk, prohibited investments, impact, reporting, conflicts.

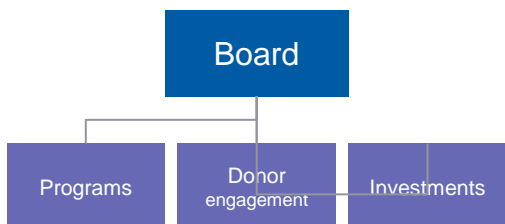


**3. Spending Policy:** Sustainability, spending supported, smoothing rules

**4. Reflect organization’s values mission, values and philosophy** (i.e. impact objectives)

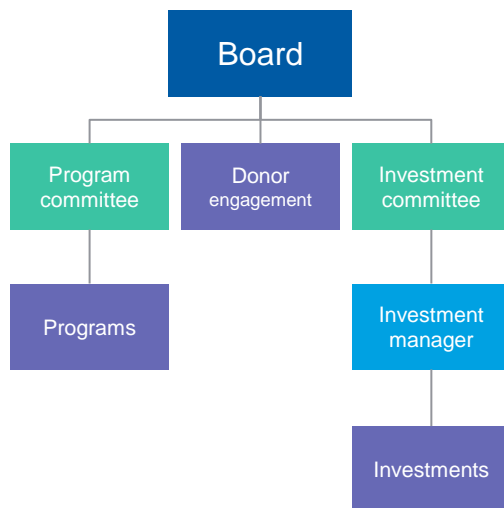
# Governance and oversight can take different shapes

## Direct model



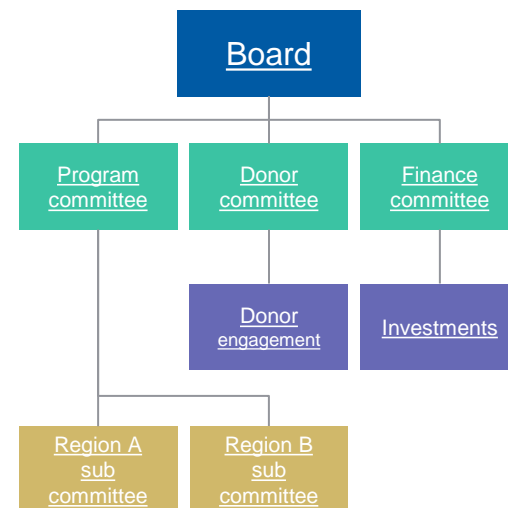
1. Board directly involved
2. Appropriate for smaller organizations
3. Board members can spare time
4. Can create bottlenecks
5. Can suffer from lack of expertise

## Hybrid model



1. Allows Board to focus
2. Board creates committees for certain initiatives
3. Retains direct control over others.
4. Board has expertise in certain areas
5. Boards should review their time is spent optimally.

## Committees and subcommittees



1. Board creates committees
2. Committee: board members + staff + outside experts
3. Governance is required to keep organization on track.
4. Typical of very large organizations

# The investment policy statement (“IPS”): an institutional “North Star”

**The IPS provides a roadmap and long-term vision** and defines key roles and responsibilities, portfolio objectives, distribution policy, and risk management, among others.

**The IPS establishes accountability** for the various entities that work on behalf of the investor.

**Helps provide continuity** to an investment program by memorializing parameters and changes.

**The IPS is where the organization can express its values via impact and ESG investments.**

## I. Organization

- Legal structure (i.e., trust, corporation, private or public, etc.)
- Time horizon (perpetual; term of years)
- Assets (liquid and illiquid)
- Liabilities
- Cash inflow expectations

## II. Investment Objectives and Goals

- Return
- Risk tolerance
- Liquidity

## III. Portfolio Guidelines

- Strategic asset allocation
- Liquidity requirements
- Diversification parameters
- Concentrated positions
- Permissible assets
- Investment restrictions
- Tactical overlays

## IV. Risk Management

- Volatility of portfolio returns
- Manager parameters and controls

## V. Manager Due Diligence

- Selection
- Form
- Termination

## VI. Communication and Reporting

## Why organizations choose to align their values with investments



### *Alignment to organizational mission*

Endowments and foundations can seek to meet their financial goals while pursuing investments that generate positive environmental and social impact in alignment with their mission



### *Responding to donors and other stakeholders*

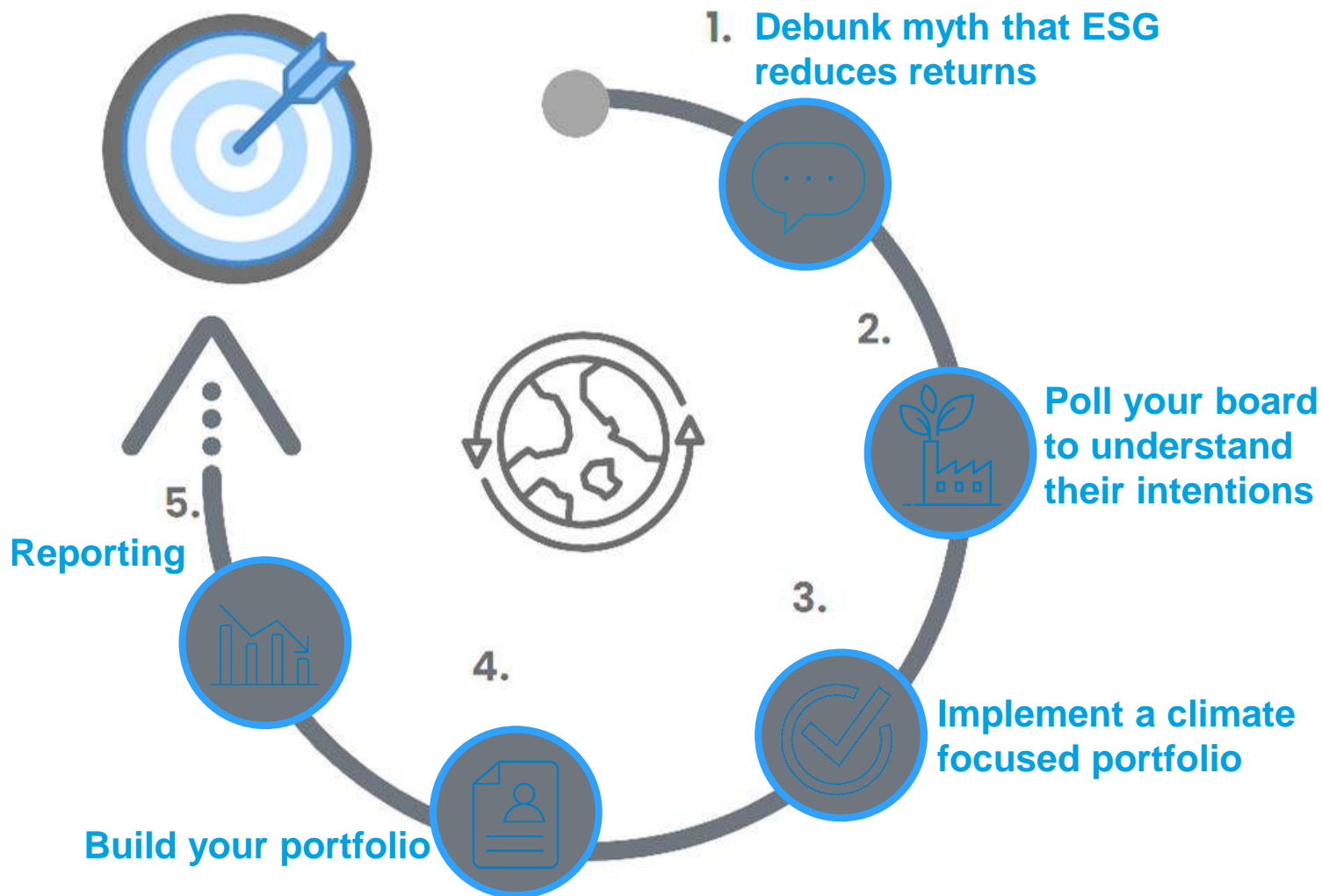
Many donors increasingly want their endowment donations to be invested according to their values and mission



### *For economic and investment purposes*

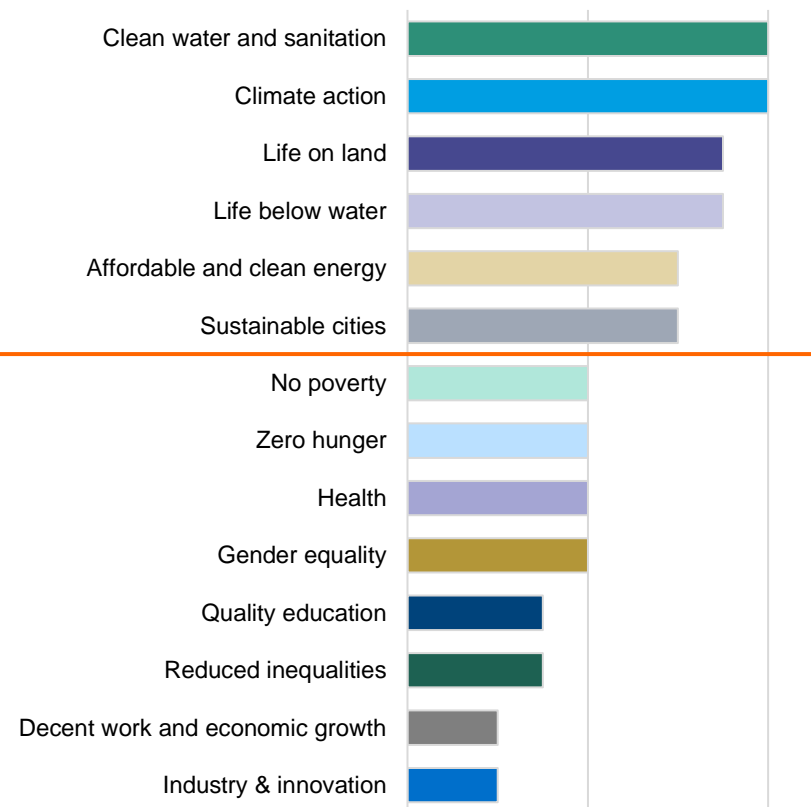
Are not merely collateral considerations or tie-breaks, but rather are proper components of fiduciary's primary analysis of the economic merits of competing investment choices

# Roadmap

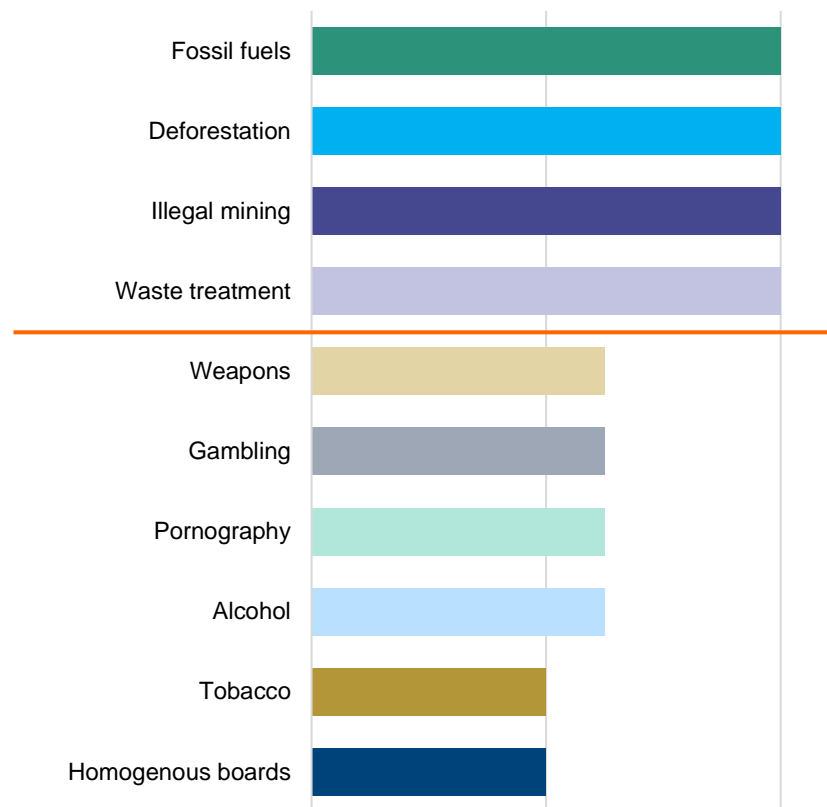


## Step 2: Poll your board to understand their intentions

### (Sample) Themes to emphasize



### (Sample) Areas to avoid



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# Step 3: Implement a Climate Focused Portfolio

Broad-Based Sustainability	Climate Action	Gender Lens
<p>Advancing the broadest range of environmental and social goals</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Solutions</li> <li>Governance Practices</li> <li>Empowerment Solutions</li> <li>Environmental Practices</li> <li>Natural Resource Solutions</li> <li>Social Practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> <li>Human Rights (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Advancing solutions to combat climate change and transition to a low carbon, resilient economy</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Disclosure</li> <li>Cleaner Energy Solutions</li> <li>Climate Footprint</li> <li>Energy Efficiency</li> <li>Natural Resource Solutions</li> <li>Natural Resource Use</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon Underground 200™</li> <li>Oil &amp; Gas</li> <li>Environment (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Promoting gender equality in corporate leadership and empowering women and girls</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Diversity in Leadership</li> <li>Gender Diversity in Workforce</li> <li>Closing the Gender Pay Gap</li> <li>Parental Leave</li> <li>Preventing Sexual Harassment</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pornography</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>
Improving Lives	Inclusive Workplace	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
<p>Generating solutions that contribute to healthy lives and well-being for all ages</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to Education</li> <li>Access to Finance</li> <li>Access to Food &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>Access to Healthcare &amp; Disease Prevention</li> <li>Access to Information</li> <li>Affordable Housing</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Rights (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> <li>Weapons (Firearms)</li> <li>Private Prisons</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Promoting fair and safe work environments for all employees</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity in Leadership</li> <li>Human Rights Record</li> <li>Employee Treatment</li> <li>Ethical Practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Rights (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Advancing equal opportunity, representation and inclusivity for all people</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SME Finance</li> <li>Access to Information</li> <li>Employee Engagement</li> <li>Diverse Supplier Program</li> <li>Diversity in Leadership</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pornography</li> <li>Weapons (Firearms)</li> <li>Private Prisons</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>
Circular Economy	Conservation & Biodiversity	Health & Wellness
<p>Improving natural resource efficiency and reducing waste through recycling, reuse and recovery</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Resource Solutions</li> <li>Sustainable Consumer Products</li> <li>Products with Lower Environmental Impact</li> <li>Sustainable Agriculture</li> <li>Reducing Toxic Emissions, Waste &amp; Pollution</li> <li>Reducing Water Stress</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemicals</li> <li>Oil &amp; Gas</li> <li>Environment (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Protecting vital land and marine ecosystems and biodiversity</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Conservation</li> <li>Land Conservation</li> <li>Sustainable Agriculture</li> <li>Natural Resource Use</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment (Bottom 5% Performers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>Supporting long-term health outcomes including addiction and disease treatment</p> <p><b>Impact Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable and Cleaner Energy</li> <li>Sustainable Consumer Products</li> <li>Healthier Products &amp; Services</li> <li>Major Disease Treatment</li> <li>Product Safety Record</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol</li> <li>Tobacco</li> <li>Weapons (Firearms)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>

### Issues Of Concern

Customize your profile by selecting from the below list of Issues of Concern. Prioritize up to 10 (including any already selected as part of an Impact Theme).

**PRODUCTS & PRACTICES**

- Abortion/Abortifacients
- Alcohol
- Animal Welfare Concerns
- Carbon Underground 200™
- Catholic Values Exclusions
- Contraceptives
- Defense
- Gambling
- Jewish Values Exclusions
- Nuclear Power
- Pornography
- Private Prisons
- Sharia Compliant Exclusions
- Steam Cells
- Tobacco
- Weapons (Firearms)

**INDUSTRIES & SECTORS**

- ADRs
- Airlines
- Automotive
- Banking
- Biotechnology
- Chemicals
- Financial Services
- Healthcare
- Insurance
- Limited Partnerships (does not include MLPs)
- Oil & Gas
- Pharmaceuticals
- Real Estate Investment Trusts
- Utilities

**OTHER**

**RATINGS**

- Environment (Bottom 5% Performers)
- Human Rights (Bottom 5% Performers)

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### Targeted Populations For Impact

Customize your profile by selecting from the below geographies and groups intended to experience positive impacts associated with selected investments. Select all that apply.

**GEOGRAPHIES**

- Global
- International Developed Markets (ex-US)
  - Australia and New Zealand
  - Canada
  - Western, Northern and Southern Europe
- United States (broad focus)
  - Midwest US
  - Northeast US
  - Pacific US
  - Rocky Mountains US
  - South US
  - Southwest US

**Emerging Markets**

- East and Southeast Asia
- Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia
- Latin America & Caribbean (incl. Mexico)
- Middle East and North Africa
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa

**Other:**

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### Faith-Based Approaches

Customize your profile by selecting a faith to serve as a lens or set of considerations within your investment portfolio. Limit 1.

- Baptist Values
- Catholic Values
- Christian Values

- Islamic Values
- Jewish Values
- Other:

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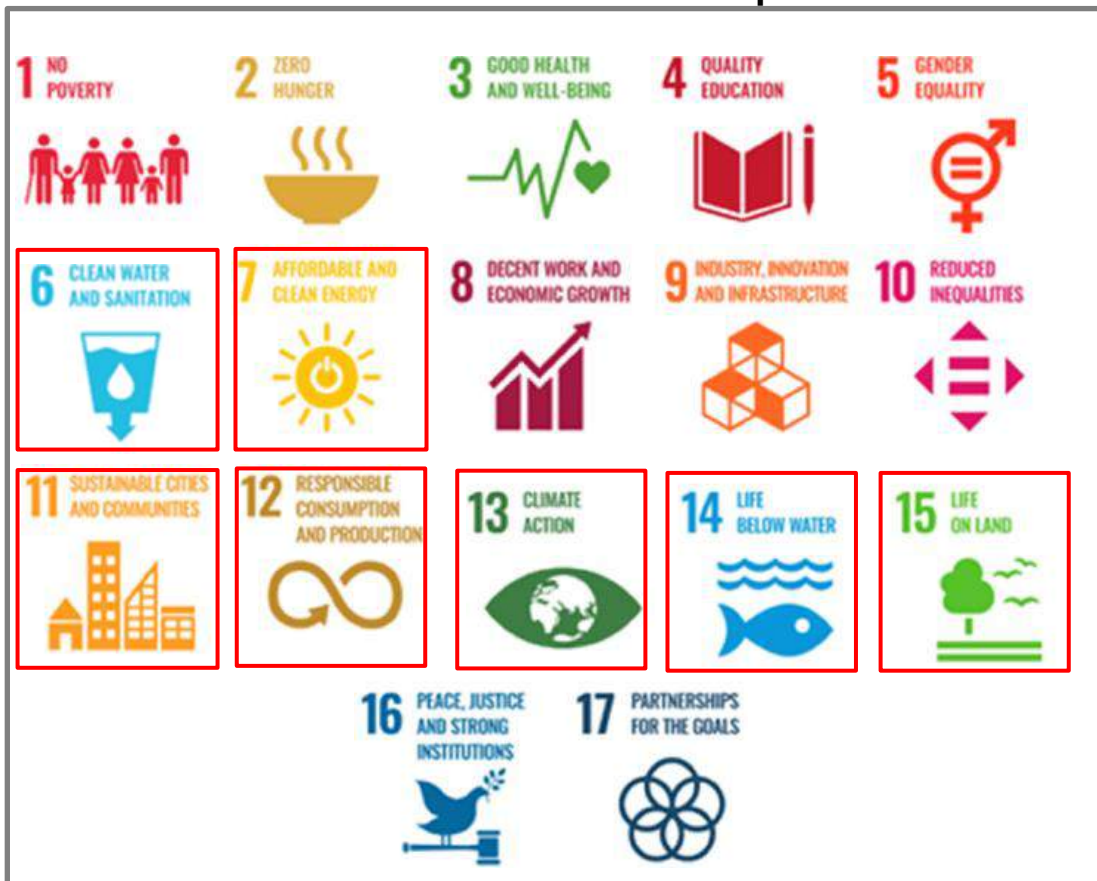
**GROUPS**

- Bottom of the Pyramid (Individuals living on <\$2.50/day)
- Low or Moderate Income Populations
- Women & Girls
- Other:



# Step 3: Implement a Climate Focused Portfolio

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



## Focus Areas



# Step 4: Build your Portfolio

## Additional Investment Parameters:

- No fossil fuels, mining, resource extraction companies
- Respect indigenous rights
- Restrict carbon emissions
- Reduce water contamination and usage

Customized Impact Objectives 

Customize your profile by selecting from the below list of social and environmental impact objectives. *Prioritize up to 12 (including any already selected as part of an Impact Theme).*

**IMPACT SOLUTIONS**  
Company outputs—including products and services—contributing to solutions in the areas of Climate, Natural Resources and Empowerment.

- Climate Solutions**
  - Energy Efficiency**  
Energy efficient transportation, buildings and energy storage distribution systems
    - Sustainable Real Estate & Building Materials
    - Energy Efficient Transportation
    - Energy Storage, Management & Distribution
  - Cleaner Energy Sources**  
Providing renewable and cleaner sources of energy
    - Renewable & Cleaner Energy
    - Environmental Leaders in Traditional Energy
- Natural Resource Solutions**
  - Waste & Pollution Management**  
Solutions and systems for water and pollution management
- Access to Food & Nutrition**  
Providing access to basic and healthy food, and healthier products and services
  - Healthier Products & Services
  - Access to Basic Food
  - Preventive Healthcare
- Access to Healthcare & Disease Prevention**  
Treating major diseases and providing access to medicine and health systems
  - Major Disease Treatment
  - Access to Sanitary Products
  - Health Delivery Systems
  - Access to Medicine
  - Health Payment Systems
  - Mobile Health & Telemedicine
- Economic Development**  
Access to employment, entrepreneurship and local infrastructure
  - Access to Employment
  - Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development
  - Transportation Infrastructure
  - Disaster Relief & Preparedness
- Arts & Culture**  
Supporting vibrant communities through arts and culture
  - Criminal Justice Reform  
Prison alternatives, education and re-employment
  - Prison Alternatives
  - Prison Education
  - Prisoner Re-entry & Employment
- Employee Treatment**  
Promoting employee welfare through health & safety, diversity & inclusion, good benefits, employee relations and workplace policies
  - Living Wage
  - Preventing Sexual Harassment
  - Employee Protection
  - Flexible Work Options
  - Parental Leave
  - Closing the Gender Pay Gap
  - Gender Diversity in Workforce
  - Employee Engagement
  - Union Relations/Collective Bargaining
  - Worker Health & Safety
  - Equal Employment Opportunity
  - Multicultural Diversity
  - LGBT Diversity
  - Health Insurance Coverage
  - Retirement Plan
  - Childcare Services
  - Employee Training
  - Customer & Supplier Treatment**  
Promoting product safety

**Investing With Impact**  
We help you clarify your goals based on theme

**CLIMATE ACTION INVESTING**

Aid in the transition to a low carbon economy by investing in climate solutions and environmental leaders, as well as considering portfolio exposure to climate change-related risks.

**RACIAL EQUITY INVESTING**

Advance racial equity and combat systemic racism through increased exposure to companies committed to supporting social and racial equity.

**MISSION ALIGN 360° INVESTING**

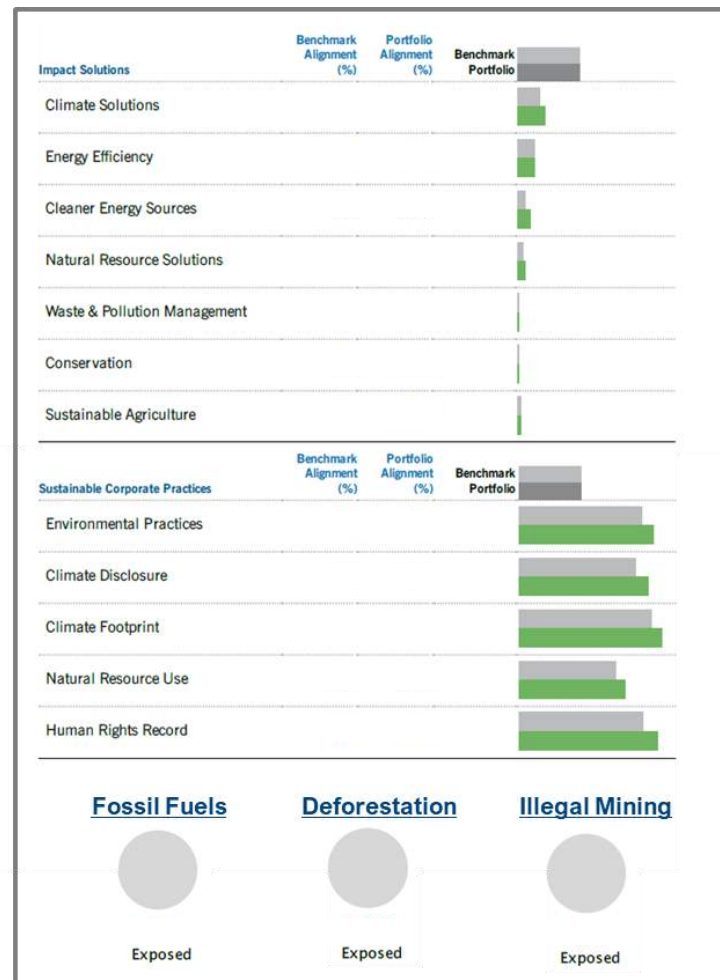
Evaluate, align and activate all pools of capital (human, philanthropic and financial) towards the theme of your choice to accomplish your organization's unique mission statement

## Step 5: Measurement & Reporting

Assess alignment with climate-focused objectives and identify opportunities:

Assess impact preferences and measure portfolio against benchmark.

Assess exposure to areas your organization wants to avoid.



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## Summary

- **Good governance** plays a critical role in the success of any foundation, endowment or other non-profit.
- Having a strong, well **functioning board and committees** doesn't happen by accident. Organizations need to identify internal talent and implement robust governance.
- A well-crafted **investment policy statement** is a critical part of an organization's long-term sustainability, and it should evolve over time.
- Organizations looking to **incorporate ESG and impact investing** into their mandates must prioritize values.
- After selecting which ESG and impact areas to focus on, organizations must have a **robust way to track compliance and performance**. Robust reporting is key to success.

## Bios



+1-212-271-0389  
juan.etinge@ms.com

399 Park Ave  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

### Juan Etinger

Based in New York Juan Etinger is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, and a designated Institutional Consulting Director for Graystone, the firm's Institutional arm. Juan focuses on designing and managing single and multi-asset portfolios for endowments and foundations. Before joining Morgan Stanley, Juan lead the Outsourced CIO and Endowments & Foundations Groups for J.P.Morgan, with hundreds of client relationships in US, Europe and Latin America.

Previously, Mr. Etinger was Senior Portfolio Manager managing JPMorgan's suite of global multi-asset investment solutions called Global Access Portfolios. Mr. Etinger served as member of the investment team for the J.P. Morgan Access Funds, a multi-asset family of open-ended mutual funds.

Mr. Etinger holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (Booth), where he graduated with honors with a concentration in Quantitative Finance and Entrepreneurship



+1-305-533-5396  
cassio.camara@ms.com

200 S Biscayne Blvd  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami, FL 33131

### Cassio Camara

Based in Miami, Cassio Camara is an Executive Director at Morgan Stanley, and a designated Institutional Consulting Director for Graystone, the firm's Institutional arm. Cassio focuses on designing and managing single and multi-asset portfolios for endowments, foundations and family offices. Before joining Morgan Stanley, Cassio was a portfolio manager in the Outsourced CIO and Endowments & Foundations Group business for JPMorgan, responsible for managing 50 client relationships in Latin America.

Previously, Cassio was Head of Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities (FICC) for JPMorgan Private Bank's Latin America business and was head of JPMorgan Private Bank's Emerging Market Fixed Income Trading, responsible for idea generation and annual trading flow. Cassio began his career at an emerging market fixed income manager, where he spent three years.

Cassio is a graduate of University of Miami, where he graduated with double bachelor's degrees in finance and marketing. He currently resides in Miami with his wife and daughter.

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## Disclaimers

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Portfolios that include investment holdings deemed ESG investments or that employ ESG screening criteria as part of an overall strategy may experience performance that is lower or higher than a portfolio not employing such practices. Portfolios with ESG restrictions and strategies as well as ESG investments will not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as portfolios where ESG criteria is not applied. ESG investments may also be referred to as sustainable investments, impact aware investments, socially responsible investments or diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") investments. It is important to understand there are inconsistent ESG definitions and criteria within the industry, as well as multiple ESG ratings providers that provide ESG ratings of the same subject companies and/or securities that vary among the providers. This is due to a current lack of consistent global reporting and auditing standards as well as differences in methodologies, processes, data sources and subjectivity among ESG rating providers when determining a rating. Certain issuers of investments including, but not limited to, separately managed accounts (SMAs), mutual funds and exchange traded-funds (ETFs) may have differing and inconsistent views concerning ESG criteria where the ESG claims made in offering documents or other literature may overstate ESG impact.

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Investment managers can have different approaches to ESG and can offer strategies that differ from the strategies offered by other investment managers with respect to the same theme or topic. Additionally, when evaluating investments, an investment manager is dependent upon information and data that may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, which could cause the manager to incorrectly assess an investment's ESG characteristics or performance. Such data or information may be obtained through voluntary or third-party reporting. Morgan Stanley does not verify that such information and data is accurate and makes no representation or warranty as to its accuracy, timeliness, or completeness when evaluating an issuer. This can cause Morgan Stanley to incorrectly assess an issuer's business practices with respect to its ESG practices. As a result, it is difficult to compare ESG investment products.

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It is important to understand there are multiple ESG ratings providers that provide ESG ratings whereas ratings of the same subject companies and/or securities may vary among the providers. This is due to a current lack of consistent global reporting/auditing standards as well as differences in methodologies, processes, data sources and subjectivity when determining a rating. Additionally, data may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, which could cause the ratings to incorrectly assess an investment's ESG characteristics or performance. Morgan Stanley does not verify that such ratings are accurate and makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of the ratings.

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**Adverse Active AlphaSM 2.0** is a patented screening and scoring process designed to help identify high-quality equity and fixed income managers with characteristics that may lead to future outperformance relative to index and peers. While highly ranked managers performed well as a group in our Adverse Active Alpha model back tests, not all of the managers will outperform. Please note that this data may be derived from back-testing, which has the benefit of hindsight. In addition, highly ranked managers can have differing risk profiles that might not be appropriate for all investors. Our view is that Adverse Active Alpha is a good starting point and should be used in conjunction with other information. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management's qualitative and quantitative investment

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manager due diligence process are equally important factors for investors when considering managers for use through an investment advisory program. Factors including, but not limited to, manager turnover and changes to investment process can partially or fully negate a positive Adverse Active Alpha ranking. Additionally, highly ranked managers can have differing risk profiles that might not be appropriate for all investors.

The proprietary **Value Score** methodology considers an active investment strategies' value proposition relative to its costs. From a historical quantitative study of several quantitative markers, Value Score measures perceived forward-looking benefit and computes (1) "fair value" expense ratios for most traditional investment managers across 40 categories and (2) managers' perceived "excess value" by comparing the fair value expense ratios to actual expense ratios. Managers are then ranked within each category by their excess value to assign a Value Score. Our analysis suggests that greater levels of excess value have historically corresponded to attractive subsequent performance.

For more information on the ranking models, please see Adverse Active AlphaSM 2.0: Scoring Active Managers According to Potential Alpha and Value Score: Scoring Fee Efficiency by Comparing Managers' "Fair Value" and Actual Expense Ratios. The whitepapers are available from your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor. ADVERSE ACTIVE ALPHA is a registered service mark of Morgan Stanley and/or its affiliates. U.S. Pat. No. 8,756,098 applies to the Adverse Active Alpha system and/or methodology.

Additionally, highly ranked managers can have differing risk profiles that might not be appropriate for all investors. For more information on AAA, please see the Adverse Active Alpha Ranking Model and Selecting Managers with Adverse Active Alpha whitepapers. The whitepaper are available from your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor. ADVERSE ACTIVE ALPHA is a registered service mark of Morgan Stanley and/or its affiliates. U.S. Pat. No. 8,756,098 applies to the Adverse Active Alpha system and/or methodology.

**The Global Investment Manager Analysis (GIMA) Services Only Apply to Certain Investment Advisory Programs** GIMA evaluates certain investment products for the purposes of some – but not all – of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC's investment advisory programs (as described in more detail in the applicable Form ADV Disclosure Document for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management). If you do not invest through one of these investment advisory programs, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management is not obligated to provide you notice of any GIMA Status changes even though it may give notice to clients in other programs.

**Strategy May Be Available as a Separately Managed Account or Mutual Fund** Strategies are sometimes available in Morgan Stanley Wealth Management investment advisory programs both in the form of a separately managed account ("SMA") and a mutual fund. These may have different expenses and investment minimums. Your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor can provide more information on whether any particular strategy is available in more than one form in a particular investment advisory program. Generally, investment advisory accounts are subject to an annual asset-based fee (the "Fee") which is payable monthly in advance (some account types may be billed differently). In general, the Fee covers Morgan Stanley investment advisory services, custody of securities with Morgan Stanley, trade execution with or through Morgan Stanley or its affiliates, as well as compensation to any Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor.

In addition, each account that is invested in a program that is eligible to purchase certain investment products, such as mutual funds, will also pay a Platform Fee (which is subject to a Platform Fee offset) as described in the applicable ADV brochure. Accounts invested in the Select UMA program may also pay a separate Sub-Manager fee, if applicable.

If your account is invested in mutual funds or exchange traded funds (collectively "funds"), you will pay the fees and expenses of any funds in which your account is invested. Fees and expenses are charged directly to the pool of assets the fund invests in and are reflected in each fund's share price. These fees and expenses are an additional cost to you and would not be included in the Fee amount in your account statements. The advisory program you choose is described in the applicable Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ADV Brochure, available at [www.morganstanley.com/ADV](http://www.morganstanley.com/ADV).

Morgan Stanley or Executing Sub-Managers, as applicable, in some of Morgan Stanley's Separately Managed Account ("SMA") programs may effect transactions through broker-dealers other than Morgan Stanley or our affiliates. In such instances, you may be assessed additional costs by the other firm in addition to the Morgan Stanley and Sub-Manager fees. Those costs will be included in the net price of the security, not separately reported on trade confirmations or account statements. Certain Sub-Managers have historically directed most, if not all, of their trades to outside firms.

Information provided by Sub-Managers concerning trade execution away from Morgan Stanley is summarized at: [www.morganstanley.com/wealth/investmentsolutions/pdfs/adv/sotresponse.pdf](http://www.morganstanley.com/wealth/investmentsolutions/pdfs/adv/sotresponse.pdf). For more information on trading and costs, please refer to the ADV Brochure for your program(s), available at [www.morganstanley.com/ADV](http://www.morganstanley.com/ADV), or contact your Financial Advisor / Private Wealth Advisor.

**Conflicts of Interest:** GIMA's goal is to provide professional, objective evaluations in support of the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management investment advisory programs. We have policies and procedures to help us meet this goal. However, our business is subject to various conflicts of interest. For example, ideas and suggestions for which investment products should be evaluated by GIMA come from a variety of sources, including our Morgan Stanley Wealth Management Financial Advisors and their direct or indirect managers, and other business persons within Morgan Stanley Wealth Management or its affiliates. Such persons may have an ongoing business relationship with certain investment managers or mutual fund companies whereby they, Morgan Stanley Wealth

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Management or its affiliates receive compensation from, or otherwise related to, those investment managers or mutual funds. For example, a Financial Advisor may suggest that GIMA evaluates an investment manager or fund in which a portion of his or her clients' assets are already invested. While such a recommendation is permissible, GIMA is responsible for the opinions expressed by GIMA. Separately, certain strategies managed or sub-advised by us or our affiliates, including but not limited to MSIM and Eaton Vance Management ("EVM") and its investment affiliates, may be included in your account. See the conflicts of interest section in the applicable Form ADV Disclosure Document for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management for a discussion of other types of conflicts that may be relevant to GIMA's evaluation of managers and funds. In addition, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, MS&Co., managers and their affiliates provide a variety of services (including research, brokerage, asset management, trading, lending and investment banking services) for each other and for various clients, including issuers of securities that may be recommended for purchase or sale by clients or are otherwise held in client accounts, and managers in various advisory programs. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, managers, MS&Co., and their affiliates receive compensation and fees in connection with these services. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management believes that the nature and range of clients to which such services are rendered is such that it would be inadvisable to exclude categorically all of these companies from an account.

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Morgan Stanley charges each fund family we offer a mutual fund support fee, also called a "revenue-sharing payment," on client account holdings in fund families according to a tiered rate that increases along with the management fee of the fund so that lower management fee funds pay lower rates than those with higher management fees.

Consider Your Own Investment Needs: The model portfolios and strategies discussed in the material are formulated based on general client characteristics including risk tolerance . This material is not intended to be an analysis of whether particular investments or strategies are appropriate for you or a recommendation, or an offer to participate in any investment. Therefore, clients should not use this material as the sole basis for investment decisions. They should consider all relevant information, including their existing portfolio, investment objectives, risk tolerance, liquidity needs and investment time horizon. Such a determination may lead to asset allocation results that are materially different from the asset allocation shown in this profile. Talk to your Financial Advisor about what would be an appropriate asset allocation for you, whether Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds is an appropriate program for you.

**No obligation to notify** – Morgan Stanley Wealth Management has no obligation to notify you when the model portfolios, strategies, or any other information, in this material changes.

**For index, indicator and survey definitions referenced in this report please visit the following:** <https://www.morganstanley.com/wealth-investmentsolutions/wmir-definitions>

**The Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds, Firm Discretionary UMA Model Portfolios,** and other asset allocation or any other model portfolios discussed in this material are available only to investors participating in Morgan Stanley Consulting Group advisory programs. For additional information on the Morgan Stanley Consulting Group advisory programs, see the applicable ADV brochure, available at [www.morganstanley.com/ADV](http://www.morganstanley.com/ADV) or from your Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor. To learn more about the Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds, visit the Funds' website at <https://www.morganstanley.com/wealth-investmentsolutions/cgcm>. Consulting Group is a business of Morgan Stanley.

**Morgan Stanley Pathway Program Asset Allocation Models** There are model portfolios corresponding to five risk-tolerance levels available in the Pathway program. Model 1 is the least aggressive portfolio and consists mostly of bonds. As the model numbers increase, the models have higher allocations to equities and become more aggressive. Pathway is a mutual fund asset allocation program. In constructing the Pathway Program Model Portfolios, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management uses, among other things, model asset allocations produced by Morgan Wealth Management's Global Investment Committee (the "GIC"). The Pathway Program Model Portfolios are specific to the Pathway program (based on program features and parameters, and any other requirements of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management's Consulting Group). The Pathway Program Model Portfolios may therefore differ in some respects from model portfolios available in other Morgan Stanley Wealth Management programs or from asset allocation models published by the Global Investment Committee.

The type of mutual funds and ETFs discussed in this presentation utilizes nontraditional or complex investment strategies and/or derivatives. Examples of these types of funds include those that utilize one or more of the below noted investment strategies or categories or which seek exposure to the following markets: (1) commodities (e.g., agricultural, energy and metals), currency, precious metals; (2) managed futures; (3) leveraged, inverse or inverse leveraged; (4) bear market, hedging, long-short equity, market neutral; (5) real estate; (6) volatility (seeking exposure to the CBOE VIX Index). Investors should keep in mind that while mutual funds and ETFs may, at times, utilize nontraditional investment options and strategies, they should not be equated with unregistered privately offered alternative investments. Because of regulatory limitations, mutual funds and ETFs that seek alternative-like investment exposure must utilize a more limited investment universe. As a result, investment returns and portfolio characteristics of alternative mutual funds and ETFs may vary from traditional hedge funds pursuing similar investment objectives. Moreover, traditional hedge funds have limited liquidity with long "lock-up" periods allowing them to pursue investment strategies without having to factor in the need to meet client redemptions and ETFs trade on an exchange . On the

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other hand, mutual funds typically must meet daily client redemptions. This differing liquidity profile can have a material impact on the investment returns generated by a mutual fund or ETF pursuing an alternative investing strategy compared with a traditional hedge fund pursuing the same strategy.

Nontraditional investment options and strategies are often employed by a portfolio manager to further a fund's investment objective and to help offset market risks. However, these features may be complex, making it more difficult to understand the fund's essential characteristics and risks, and how it will perform in different market environments and over various periods of time. They may also expose the fund to increased volatility and unanticipated risks particularly when used in complex combinations and/or accompanied by the use of borrowing or "leverage."

**Please consider the investment objectives, risks, fees, and charges and expenses of mutual funds, ETFs, closed end funds, unit investment trusts, and variable insurance products carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information about each fund. To obtain a prospectus, contact your Financial Advisor or Private Wealth Advisor or visit the Morgan Stanley website at [www.morganstanley.com](http://www.morganstanley.com). Please read it carefully before investing.**

**Money Market Funds:** You could lose money in money market funds. Although money market funds classified as government funds (i.e., money market funds that invest 99.5% of total assets in cash and/or securities backed by the U.S government) and retail funds (i.e., money market funds open to natural person investors only) seek to preserve value at \$1.00 per share, they cannot guarantee they will do so. The price of other money market funds will fluctuate and when you sell shares they may be worth more or less than originally paid. Money market funds may impose a fee upon sale or temporarily suspend sales if liquidity falls below required minimums. During suspensions, shares would not be available for purchases, withdrawals, check writing or ATM debits. A money market fund investment is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other government agency. The Fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the Fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the Fund at any time.

**Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of a money market fund before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information about the money market fund. To obtain a prospectus, contact your Financial Advisor or visit the money market fund company's website. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

**Exchange Funds** are private placement vehicles that enable holders of concentrated single-stock positions to exchange those stocks for a diversified portfolio. Investors may benefit from greater diversification by exchanging a concentrated stock position for fund shares without triggering a taxable event. These funds are available only to qualified investors and may only be offered by Financial Advisors who are qualified to sell alternative investments. Before investing, investors should consider the following:

- Dividends are pooled
- Investors may forfeit their stock voting rights
- Investment may be illiquid for several years
- Investments may be leveraged or contain derivatives
- Significant early redemption fees may apply
- Changes to the U.S. tax code, which could be retroactive (potentially disallowing the favorable tax treatment of exchange funds)
- Investment risk and potential loss of principal

## KEY ASSET CLASS CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHER RISKS

Investing in the markets entails the risk of market volatility. The value of all types of investments, including stocks, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), closed-end funds, and unit investment trusts, may increase or decrease over varying time periods. To the extent the investments depicted herein represent international securities, you should be aware that there may be additional risks associated with international investing, including foreign economic, political, monetary and/or legal factors, changing currency exchange rates, foreign taxes, and differences in financial and accounting standards. These risks may be magnified in emerging markets and frontier markets. Some funds also invest in foreign securities, which may involve currency risk. There is no assurance that the fund will achieve its investment objective. Small- and mid-capitalization companies may lack the financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths of larger companies. In addition, the securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may not trade as readily as, and be subject to higher volatility than, those of larger, more established companies. The value of fixed income securities will fluctuate and, upon a sale, may be worth more or less than their original cost or maturity value. Bonds are subject to interest rate risk, call risk, reinvestment risk, liquidity risk, and credit risk of the issuer. High yield bonds are subject to additional risks such as increased risk of default and greater volatility because of the lower credit quality of the issues. In the case of municipal bonds, income is generally exempt from federal income taxes. Some income may be subject to state and local taxes and to the federal alternative minimum tax. Capital gains, if any, are subject to tax. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities' (TIPS) coupon payments and underlying principal are automatically increased to compensate for inflation by tracking the consumer price index (CPI). While the real rate of return is guaranteed, TIPS tend to offer a low return. Because the return of TIPS is linked to inflation, TIPS may significantly underperform versus conventional U.S.

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Treasuries in times of low inflation. There is no guarantee that investors will receive par if TIPS are sold prior to maturity. The returns on a portfolio consisting primarily of **environmental, social, and governance-aware investments ("ESG")** may be lower or higher than a portfolio that is more diversified or where decisions are based solely on investment considerations. Because ESG criteria exclude some investments, investors may not be able to take advantage of the same opportunities or market trends as investors that do not use such criteria. The companies identified and investment examples are for illustrative purposes only and should not be deemed a recommendation to purchase, hold or sell any securities or investment products. They are intended to demonstrate the approaches taken by managers who focus on ESG criteria in their investment strategy. There can be no guarantee that a client's account will be managed as described herein. Options and margin trading involve substantial risk and are not appropriate for all investors. Besides the general investment risk of holding securities that may decline in value and the possible loss of principal invested, **closed-end funds** may have additional risks related to declining market prices relative to net asset values (NAVs), active manager underperformance and potential leverage. Closed-end funds, unlike open-end funds, are not continuously offered. There is a one-time public offering and once issued, shares of closed-end funds are sold in the open market through a stock exchange. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount from their NAV which may increase investors' risk of loss. The risk of loss due to this discount may be greater for investors expecting to sell their shares in a relatively short period after completion of the public offering. This characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that a closed-end fund's net asset value may decrease as a result of investment activities. NAV is total assets less total liabilities divided by the number of shares outstanding. At the time an investor purchases or sells shares of a closed-end fund, shares may have a market price that is above or below NAV. Portfolios that invest a large percentage of assets in only one industry sector (or in only a few sectors) are more vulnerable to price fluctuation than those that diversify among a broad range of sectors.

**Structured Investments** are complex and not appropriate for all investors. An investment in Structures Investments involve risks. These risks can include but are not limited to: (1) Fluctuations in the price, level or yield of underlying instruments, interest rates, currency values and credit quality, (2) Substantial or total loss of principal, (3) Limits on participation in appreciation of underlying instrument, (4) Limited liquidity, (5) Issuer credit risk and (6) Conflicts of Interest. There is no assurance that a strategy of using structured product for wealth preservation, yield enhancement, and/or interest rate risk hedging will meet its objectives.

**Alternative investments** may be either traditional alternative investment vehicles, such as hedge funds, fund of hedge funds, private equity, private real estate and managed futures or, non-traditional products such as mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that also seek alternative-like exposure but have significant differences from traditional alternative investments. Alternative investments often are speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors could lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. Alternative investments are appropriate only for eligible, long-term investors who are willing to forgo liquidity and put capital at risk for an indefinite period of time. They may be highly illiquid and can engage in leverage and other speculative practices that may increase the volatility and risk of loss. Alternative Investments typically have higher fees than traditional investments. Investors should carefully review and consider potential risks before investing. Certain of these risks may include but are not limited to: Loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative practices; Lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for a fund; Volatility of returns; Restrictions on transferring interests in a fund; Potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority when a single advisor is utilized; Absence of information regarding valuations and pricing; Complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting; Less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds; and Risks associated with the operations, personnel, and processes of the manager. Further, opinions regarding Alternative Investments expressed herein may differ from the opinions expressed by Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and/or other businesses/affiliates of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Certain information contained herein may constitute forward-looking statements. Due to various risks and uncertainties, actual events, results or the performance of a fund may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements. Clients should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing.

Alternative investments involve complex tax structures, tax inefficient investing, and delays in distributing important tax information. Individual funds have specific risks related to their investment programs that will vary from fund to fund. Clients should consult their own tax and legal advisors as Morgan Stanley Wealth Management does not provide tax or legal advice.

Interests in alternative investment products are offered pursuant to the terms of the applicable offering memorandum, are distributed by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC and certain of its affiliates, and (1) are not FDIC-insured, (2) are not deposits or other obligations of Morgan Stanley or any of its affiliates, (3) are not guaranteed by Morgan Stanley and its affiliates, and (4) involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is a registered broker-dealer, not a bank.

A majority of Alternative Investment managers reviewed and selected by GIMA pay or cause to be paid an ongoing fee for distribution from their management fees to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in connection with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management clients that purchase an interest in an Alternative Investment and in some instances pay these fees on the investments held by advisory clients. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management rebates such fees that are received and attributable to an Investment held by an advisory client and retains the fees paid in connection with investments held by brokerage clients. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management has a conflict of interest in offering alternative investments because Morgan Stanley Wealth Management or our affiliates, in most instances, earn more money in your account from your investments in alternative investments than from other investment options.

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It should be noted that the majority of hedge fund indexes are comprised of hedge fund manager returns. This is in contrast to traditional indexes, which are comprised of individual securities in the various market segments they represent and offer complete transparency as to membership and construction methodology. As such, some believe that hedge fund index returns have certain biases that are not present in traditional indexes. Some of these biases inflate index performance, while others may skew performance negatively. However, many studies indicate that overall hedge fund index performance has been biased to the upside. Some studies suggest performance has been inflated by up to 260 basis points or more annually depending on the types of biases included and the time period studied. Although there are numerous potential biases that could affect hedge fund returns, we identify some of the more common ones throughout this paper.

Self-selection bias results when certain manager returns are not included in the index returns and may result in performance being skewed up or down. Because hedge funds are private placements, hedge fund managers are able to decide which fund returns they want to report and are able to opt out of reporting to the various databases. Certain hedge fund managers may choose only to report returns for funds with strong returns and opt out of reporting returns for weak performers. Other hedge funds that close may decide to stop reporting in order to retain secrecy, which may cause a downward bias in returns.

Survivorship bias results when certain constituents are removed from an index. This often results from the closure of funds due to poor performance, "blow ups," or other such events. As such, this bias typically results in performance being skewed higher. As noted, hedge fund index performance biases can result in positive or negative skew. However, it would appear that the skew is more often positive. While it is difficult to quantify the effects precisely, investors should be aware that idiosyncratic factors may be giving hedge fund index returns an artificial "lift" or upwards bias.

**Hedge Funds of Funds** and many funds of funds are private investment vehicles restricted to certain qualified private and institutional investors. They are often speculative and include a high degree of risk. Investors can lose all or a substantial amount of their investment. They may be highly illiquid, can engage in leverage and other speculative practices that may increase volatility and the risk of loss, and may be subject to large investment minimums and initial lockups. They involve complex tax structures, tax-inefficient investing and delays in distributing important tax information. Categorically, hedge funds and funds of funds have higher fees and expenses than traditional investments, and such fees and expenses can lower the returns achieved by investors. Funds of funds have an additional layer of fees over and above hedge fund fees that will offset returns. An investment in an exchange-traded fund involves risks similar to those of investing in a broadly based portfolio of equity securities traded on an exchange in the relevant securities market, such as market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic and political developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in stock and bond prices. An investment in a target date portfolio is subject to the risks attendant to the underlying funds in which it invests, in these portfolios the funds are the Consulting Group Capital Market funds. A target date portfolio is geared to investors who will retire and/or require income at an approximate year. The portfolio is managed to meet the investor's goals by the pre-established year or "target date." A target date portfolio will transition its invested assets from a more aggressive portfolio to a more conservative portfolio as the target date draws closer. An investment in the target date portfolio is not guaranteed at any time, including, before or after the target date is reached. Managed futures investments are speculative, involve a high degree of risk, use significant leverage, are generally illiquid, have substantial charges, subject investors to conflicts of interest, and are appropriate only for the risk capital portion of an investor's portfolio. Managed futures investments do not replace equities or bonds but rather may act as a complement in a well diversified portfolio. Managed Futures are complex and not appropriate for all investors.

## Virtual Currency Products (Cryptocurrencies)

**Buying, selling, and transacting in Bitcoin, Ethereum or other digital assets ("Digital Assets"), and related funds and products, is highly speculative and may result in a loss of the entire investment. Risks and considerations include but are not limited to:**

- Digital Assets have only been in existence for a short period of time and historical trading prices for Digital Assets have been highly volatile. The price of Digital Assets could decline rapidly, and investors could lose their entire investment.
- Certain Digital Asset funds and products, allow investors to invest on a more frequent basis than investors may withdraw from the fund or product, and interests in such funds or products are generally not freely transferrable. This means that, particularly given the volatility of Digital Assets, an investor will have to bear any losses with respect to its investment for an extended period of time and will not be able to react to changes in the price of the Digital Asset once invested (for example, by seeking to withdraw) as quickly as when making the decision to invest. Such Digital Asset funds and products, are intended only for persons who are able to bear the economic risk of investment and who do not need liquidity with respect to their investments.
- Given the volatility in the price of Digital Assets, the net asset value of a fund or product that invests in such assets at the time an investor's subscription for interests in the fund or product is accepted may be significantly below or above the net asset value of the product or fund at the time the investor submitted subscription materials.

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- Certain Digital Assets are not intended to function as currencies but are intended to have other use cases. These other Digital Assets may be subject to some or all of the risks and considerations set forth herein, as well as additional risks applicable to such Digital Assets. Buyers, sellers and users of such Digital Assets should thoroughly familiarize themselves with such risks and considerations before transacting in such Digital Assets.
- The value of Digital Assets may be negatively impacted by future legal and regulatory developments, including but not limited to increased regulation of such Digital Assets. Any such developments may make such Digital Assets less valuable, impose additional burdens and expenses on a fund or product investing in such assets or impact the ability of such a fund or product to continue to operate, which may materially decrease the value of an investment therein.
- Due to the new and evolving nature of digital currencies and the absence of comprehensive guidance, many significant aspects of the tax treatment of Digital Assets are uncertain. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Digital Assets, directly or indirectly through a fund or product, under U.S. federal income tax law, as well as the tax law of any relevant state, local or other jurisdiction.
- Over the past several years, certain Digital Asset exchanges have experienced failures or interruptions in service due to fraud, security breaches, operational problems or business failure. Such events in the future could impact any fund's or product's ability to transact in Digital Assets if the fund or product relies on an impacted exchange and may also materially decrease the price of Digital Assets, thereby impacting the value of your investment, regardless of whether the fund or product relies on such an impacted exchange.
- Although any Digital Asset product and its service providers have in place significant safeguards against loss, theft, destruction and inaccessibility, there is nonetheless a risk that some or all of a product's Digital Asset could be permanently lost, stolen, destroyed or inaccessible by virtue of, among other things, the loss or theft of the "private keys" necessary to access a product's Digital Asset.
- Investors in funds or products investing or transacting in Digital Assets may not benefit to the same extent (or at all) from "airdrops" with respect to, or "forks" in, a Digital Asset's blockchain, compared to investors who hold Digital Assets directly instead of through a fund or product. Additionally, a "fork" in the Digital Asset blockchain could materially decrease the price of such Digital Asset.
- Digital Assets are not legal tender, and are not backed by any government, corporation or other identified body, other than with respect to certain digital currencies that certain governments are or may be developing now or in the future. No law requires companies or individuals to accept digital currency as a form of payment (except, potentially, with respect to digital currencies developed by certain governments where such acceptance may be mandated). Instead, other than as described in the preceding sentences, Digital Asset products' use is limited to businesses and individuals that are willing to accept them. If no one were to accept digital currencies, virtual currency products would very likely become worthless.
- Platforms that buy and sell Digital Assets can be hacked, and some have failed. In addition, like the platforms themselves, digital wallets can be hacked, and are subject to theft and fraud. As a result, like other investors have, you can lose some or all of your holdings of Digital Assets.
- Unlike US banks and credit unions that provide certain guarantees of safety to depositors, there are no such safeguards provided to Digital Assets held in digital wallets by their providers or by regulators.
- Due to the anonymity Digital Assets offer, they have known use in illegal activity, including drug dealing, money laundering, human trafficking, sanction evasion and other forms of illegal commerce. Abuses could impact legitimate consumers and speculators; for instance, law enforcement agencies could shut down or restrict the use of platforms and exchanges, limiting or shutting of entirely the ability to use or trade Digital Asset products.
- Digital Assets may not have an established track record of credibility and trust. Further, any performance data relating to Digital Asset products may not be verifiable as pricing models are not uniform.
- Investors should be aware of the potentially increased risks of transacting in Digital Assets relating to the risks and considerations, including fraud, theft, and lack of legitimacy, and other aspects and qualities of Digital Assets, before transacting in such assets.
- The exchange rate of virtual currency products versus the USD historically has been very volatile and the exchange rate could drastically decline. For example, the exchange rate of certain Digital

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Assets versus the USD has in the past dropped more than 50% in a single day. Other Digital Assets may be affected by such volatility as well.

- Digital Asset exchanges have limited operating and performance histories and are not regulated with the same controls or customer protections available to more traditional exchanges transacting equity, debt, and other assets and securities. There is no assurance that a person/exchange who currently accepts a Digital Asset as payment will continue to do so in the future.
- The regulatory framework of Digital Assets is evolving, and in some cases is uncertain, and Digital Assets themselves may not be governed and protected by applicable securities regulators and securities laws, including, but not limited to, Securities Investor Protection Corporation coverage, or other regulatory regimes.
- Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC or its affiliates (collectively, "Morgan Stanley") may currently, or in the future, offer or invest in Digital Asset products, services or platforms. The proprietary interests of Morgan Stanley may conflict with your interests.
- The foregoing list of considerations and risks are not and do not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in an investment in any product or fund investing or trading in Digital Assets.

**Asset allocation and diversification** do not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining financial markets. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Actual results may vary.

**Rebalancing** does not protect against a loss in declining financial markets. There may be a potential tax implication with a rebalancing strategy. Investors should consult with their tax advisor before implementing such a strategy.

Indices are unmanaged and investors cannot directly invest in them. They are not subject to expenses or fees and are often comprised of securities and other investment instruments the liquidity of which is not restricted. A particular investment product may consist of securities significantly different than those in any index referred to herein. Composite index results are shown for illustrative purposes only, generally do not represent the performance of a specific investment, may not, for a variety of reasons, be an appropriate comparison or benchmark for a particular investment and may not necessarily reflect the actual investment strategy or objective of a particular investment. Consequently, comparing an investment to a particular index may be of limited use.

To obtain **Tax-Management Services**, a client must complete the Tax-Management Form, and deliver the signed form to Morgan Stanley. For more information on Tax-Management Services, including its features and limitations, please ask your Financial Advisor for the Tax Management Form. Review the form carefully with your tax advisor. Tax-Management Services: (a) apply only to equity investments in separate account sleeves of client accounts; (b) are not available for all accounts or clients; and (c) may adversely impact account performance. Tax-management services do not constitute tax advice or a complete tax-sensitive investment management program. There is no guarantee that tax-management services will produce the desired tax results.

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**Equity securities** may fluctuate in response to news on companies, industries, market conditions and general economic environment. Ultrashort-term fixed income asset class is comprised of fixed income securities with high quality, very short maturities. They are therefore subject to the risks associated with debt securities such as credit and interest rate risk.

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**Investing in commodities** entails significant risks. Commodity prices may be affected by a variety of factors at any time, including but not limited to, (i) changes in supply and demand relationships, (ii) governmental programs and policies, (iii) national and international political and economic events, war and terrorist events, (iv) changes in interest and exchange rates, (v) trading activities in commodities and related contracts, (vi) pestilence, technological change and weather, and (vii) the price volatility of a commodity. In addition, the commodities markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to various factors, including lack of liquidity, participation of speculators and government intervention. Physical precious metals are non-regulated products. Precious metals are speculative investments, which may experience short-term and long term price volatility. The value of precious metals investments may fluctuate and may appreciate or decline, depending on market conditions. Unlike bonds and stocks, precious metals do not make interest or dividend payments. Therefore, precious metals may not be appropriate for investors who require current income. Precious metals are commodities that should be safely stored, which may impose additional costs on the investor.

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