

**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 lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product Name:** M&G (Lux) Investment Funds 1 - M&G (Lux) Japan Smaller Companies Fund  
**Legal Entity Identifier:** 549300QUHQWF3GEVSU46

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

### Did this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

☒ ☒ ☐ **Yes**

☒ ☐ ☒ **No**

☐ It made **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 made **sustainable investments with a social objective:**

☒ It **promoted Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it did not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it had a proportion of 49.4% 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 promoted E/S characteristics, but **did not make any sustainable investments**



### To what extent were the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by this financial product met?

The Fund promoted the use of an Exclusionary Approach and a Positive ESG Tilt (as defined below):

The Fund excluded certain potential investments from its investment universe to mitigate potential negative effects on the environment and society ("Exclusionary Approach"). Accordingly, the Investment Manager promoted environmental and/or social characteristics by excluding certain investments that are considered to be detrimental to ESG Factors.

The Fund maintained a weighted average ESG rating that was equivalent to at least an MSCI A rating.

In constructing a portfolio positively tilted towards investments with better ESG characteristics, the Investment Manager may nonetheless invest in investments across the full spectrum of ESG ratings. At an individual security level, the Investment Manager favours investments with better ESG characteristics where this is not detrimental to the pursuit of the financial investment objective.

No reference benchmark was designated for the purpose of attaining the Fund's promoted environmental and/or social characteristics.

The Investment Manager operates a data driven quantitative good governance test used to consider investments into companies. M&G excludes investments in securities that are considered as failing the Investment Manager's good governance test. When assessing good governance practice the Investment Manager will, as a minimum, have regard to matters it sees relevant to the four identified pillars of good governance (sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance).

The alignment percentage indicated in the graphic below shows the allocation between such investments and "Other" Investments.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted

### • How did the sustainability indicators perform?

The Fund's sustainability indicators to test its compliance with its Exclusionary Approach and Positive ESG Tilt were met at all times during the reporting period.

by the financial product are attained.

The Fund committed to maintain a weighted average ESG rating that is either

1. higher than that of the equity market as represented by its investment universe; or
2. equivalent to at least an MSCI A rating, whichever is lower ("Positive ESG Tilt").

The second of these tests was met.

Please see the below table for an overview of the Fund's performance relative to its sustainability indicator.

The 'Eligibility' figure is a measure of the percentage of Fund assets which are eligible to be measured by the sustainability indicator. The 'Coverage' figure indicates the percentage of eligible assets for which data is available.

Sustainability Indicator Name	Value	Eligibility	Coverage
As at - 31 March			
Portfolio weighted average ESG score for the fund	5.82 ESG Score	98.12%	81.90%
Portfolio weighted average ESG score for the Investment Universe	6.45 ESG Score	99.15%	48.92%

● **...and compared to previous periods?**

The Fund is not yet able to provide comparison to a previous reporting period as this is the Fund's first SFDR Level 2 Periodic Report. The Fund will provide historic comparison in the next Periodic Report.

● **What were the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially made and how did the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?**

The Fund may allocate to sustainable investments of any type, i.e., investments with an environmental and/or social objective. The Fund is not required to favour any specific type of sustainable investment.

The Investment Manager used a series of proprietary tests based on available data to determine whether and how an investment made positive contribution(s) towards environmental and social objectives.

**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.

● **How did the sustainable investments that the financial product partially made not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**

Sustainable investments that the Fund made did not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective as they passed a series of tests, including:

1. Whether they represent significant exposure to businesses the Investment Manager considers harmful
2. Principal Adverse Impact indicators considered to render the investment incompatible with sustainable investment (violations of the UN Global Compact Principles or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, social violations by sovereigns such as being subject to sanctions, negative effects on biodiversity sensitive areas)
3. Other Principal Adverse Impact indicators form part of a materiality assessment to understand whether any exposures were compatible with sustainable investment

● **How were the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors taken into account?**

The Investment Manager's research process includes consideration of Principal Adverse Impact indicators for all investments where data is available (i.e. not just for sustainable investments), which allowed the Investment Manager to make informed investment decisions.

The Fund's consideration of Principal Adverse Impact indicators is used as part of understanding the operating practices of the investments purchased by the Fund.

Investments held by the Fund were then subject to ongoing monitoring and a quarterly review process. Further information on the Principal Adverse Impact indicators which are taken into account by the Investment Manager can be found in the Annex to the Investment Manager's website disclosures for the Fund.

- **Were sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:**

All investments purchased by the Fund passed the Investment Manager's good governance tests, and in addition, sustainable investments also passed tests to confirm they do no significant harm, as described above. These tests embed a consideration of the OECD Guidelines and UN Guiding Principles.

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.*



#### **How did this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

For sustainable investments, principal adverse impacts are a key part of assessing such investments do not do significant harm as explained above. For other investments the Investment Manager's research process includes consideration of Principal Adverse Impact indicators for all investments where data was available, which allows the Investment Manager to make informed investment decisions, as explained above.

Further information on the Principal Adverse Impact indicators which are taken into account by the Investment Manager can be found in the Annex to the Investment Manager's website disclosures for the Fund.



#### **What were the top investments of this financial product?**

The list includes the investments constituting **the greatest proportion of investments** of the financial product during the reference period which is: 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023

Largest investments	Sector	% Assets	Country
SPARX GROUP LTD	Financial and insurance activities	3.71%	JP
OPEN UP GROUP INC	Administrative and support service activities	3.49%	JP
CREDIT SAISON LTD	Financial and insurance activities	3.34%	JP
KYB CORP	Manufacturing	3.14%	JP
NIKON CORP	Manufacturing	3.12%	JP
NIPPON PILLAR PACKING LTD	Manufacturing	3.09%	JP
AXXZIA INC	Manufacturing	2.96%	JP
SANRIO LTD	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2.76%	JP
SUMITOMO FORESTRY LTD	Construction	2.73%	JP
NIPPON SIGNAL LTD	Manufacturing	2.68%	JP
T HASEGAWA LTD	Manufacturing	2.62%	JP
TOYOTA INDUSTRIES CORP	Manufacturing	2.53%	JP
TAZMO LTD	Manufacturing	2.51%	JP
NORITSU KOKI LTD	Manufacturing	2.36%	JP
USHIO INC	Manufacturing	2.34%	JP



## What was the proportion of sustainability-related investments?

In the SFDR Level 2 Pre-Contractual Disclosure (annex to the Fund Prospectus) the Fund committed to 70% of the Fund to be aligned to the promoted E/S characteristics and a minimum of 20% in Sustainable Investments.

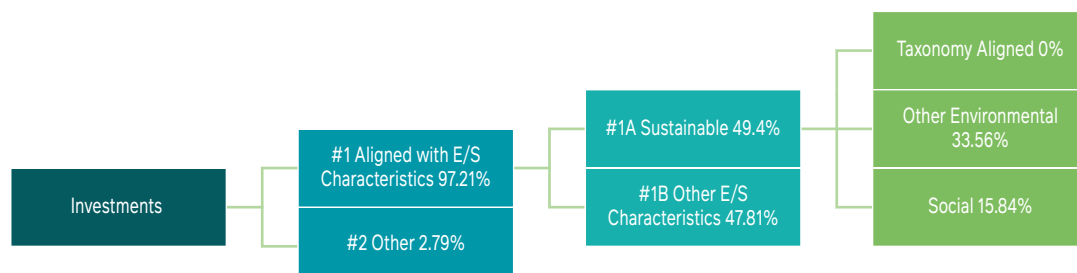
Asset allocations below are expressed as a percentage of Net Asset Value (NAV). The % of investments that were aligned to the environmental or social characteristic promoted was 97.21% of NAV as at 31st March 2023. This comprised 49.40% of NAV in sustainable investments, and the remaining 47.81% of NAV in investments with other environmental and or social characteristics.

The Fund did not commit to invest in investments aligned to the EU Taxonomy, 0% were aligned to the EU Taxonomy, while 33.56% related to investments with other environmental characteristics, and 15.84% related to socially sustainable investments.

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

## What was the asset allocation?

The graphic below provides an overview of the asset allocation.



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

## In which economic sectors were the investments made?

The investment breakdown uses NACE (Nomenclature of Economic Activities) and is expressed as a % of Net Asset Value (NAV).

Economic sector	% Assets
Manufacturing	54.11%
Administrative and support service activities	8.25%
Financial and insurance activities	8.03%
Transportation and storage	7.77%
Information and communication	7.02%
Construction	4.02%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3.87%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.20%
Other	2.42%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.32%



## To what extent were sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

Whilst the minimum mandatory allocation to Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments is 0%, the Fund is permitted to allocate to such investments, which would form part of its overall allocation to sustainable investments with environmental objectives.

The share of the Fund's investments that were aligned with the environmental objectives under the Taxonomy Regulation during the reference period was 0%. This percentage is determined by taking the quarter end figure for each quarter in the reference period and averaging it. The information was obtained from public disclosures.

No assurance from an auditor, third party or review was undertaken on the EU Taxonomy data.

**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.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflects the "greenness" of investee companies today.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) shows the green investments made by investee companies, relevant for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflects the green operational activities of investee companies.

## Did the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities complying with the EU Taxonomy<sup>1</sup>?

☐ Yes:

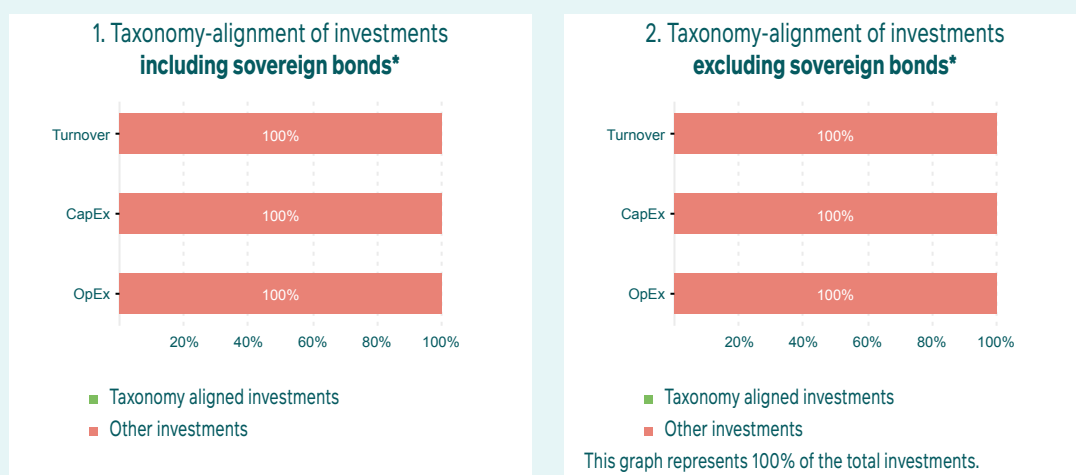
☐ In fossil gas

☐ 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 graphs below show the percentage of investments that were 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

## What was the share of investments made in transitional and enabling activities?

The share of the Fund's investments made in transitional and enabling activities over the period was 0%. This compares to a minimum percentage commitment of 0% stated in the Fund's precontractual disclosure.

Activity	Percentage Investments
Share of transitional activities	-%
Share of enabling activities	-%

- **How did the percentage of investments that were aligned with the EU Taxonomy compare with previous reference periods?**

The Fund is not yet able to provide comparison to a previous reporting period as this is the Fund's first SFDR Level 2 Periodic Report. The Fund will provide historic comparison in the next Periodic Report.

 are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account** the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities under Regulation (EU) 2020/852.



**What was the share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that were not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that were not aligned with the EU Taxonomy was 33.56%. This compares to a minimum percentage commitment of 5% in environmentally sustainable investments (i.e., both aligned to the EU Taxonomy and not) stated in the Fund's precontractual disclosure.



**What was the share of socially sustainable investments?**

The share of socially sustainable investments was 15.84%. This compares to a minimum percentage commitment of 5% stated in the Fund's precontractual disclosure.



**What investments were included under "other", what was their purpose and were there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

During the reference period the Fund held cash and near cash and as "Other" investments, for any purpose permitted by the Fund's investment policy. No minimum environmental or social safeguards were applied, other than as set out below.

Derivatives used to take investment exposure to diversified financial indices, and funds (i.e. UCITS and other UCIs) may be held for any reason permitted by the Fund's investment policy and will be subject to such minimum environmental or social safeguard tests as the Investment Manager considers appropriate, for example a minimum weighted ESG score test. No minimum environmental or social safeguards are applied to FX derivatives.

The Fund may also hold as Other investments those investments where insufficient data exists to determine the investments' alignment with the promoted characteristics.



**What actions have been taken to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics during the reference period?**

The Fund applied an exclusion policy to achieve its Exclusionary Approach. The Fund committed to maintain a weighted average ESG rating that is either

1. higher than that of the equity market as represented by its investment universe; or
2. equivalent to at least an MSCI A rating, whichever is lower ("Positive ESG Tilt").

The second of these tests was met. Its compliance with the same is reported in the sustainability indicators above.



**How did this financial product perform compared to the reference benchmark?**

N/A. No reference benchmark was designated for the purpose of attaining the Fund's sustainable investment objective.

- **How does the reference benchmark differ from a broad market index?**

N/A

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

- **How did this financial product perform with regard to the sustainability indicators to determine the alignment of the reference benchmark with the environmental or social characteristics promoted?**  
N/A

- **How did this financial product perform compared with the reference benchmark?**  
N/A

- **How did this financial product perform compared with the broad market index?**  
N/A