#### Sustainability-related disclosures

Product name: SEB Nordic Small Cap Fund

Legal entity identifier: 529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02

#### **Summary**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed and invests in stocks, primarily in small and mid-sized companies in the Nordic market.

Sustainability-related characteristics of the Sub-Fund are promoted partly through integrated sustainability analysis, based on fundamental analysis and with the help of the management company's proprietary sustainability model (it is a model, in which companies are ranked on a set of sustainability performance parameters. Characteristics within the model include, but are not limited to, carbon emissions, climate solutions, diversity and equality) and partly through the exclusion of companies,

business models and products that negatively affect the climate, society or stakeholders. In addition, the characteristics are promoted by the fund's active corporate governance process, which aims to drive and

influence the development of the companies in which we invest. The ESG strategy applied in the Sub- Fund is through: Integration:

- Integrate sustainability into their ongoing business model and strategy.
- Demonstrate a high degree of willingness to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

(transitioning issuers) or aim to be more energy efficient.

Active ownership, the Sub-Fund seeks to influence issuers towards a more sustainable direction. This could include adopting new business models, lowering the emissions of the company or improving social requirements in the value chain. This could be done through direct dialogues with companies, collaboration with other asset managers or partners, or via collaborative initiatives. This could also be done by voting at

the shareholder meetings, in support of, or against, specific shareholder- or management proposals.

Exclusion, the Sub-Fund will comply with the Management Company's exclusion policy and therefore excludes companies that:

- Breach international norms and standards where the company cannot present clear goals and ongoing measures to address the issue(s).
- Operate in controversial sectors or business areas such as tobacco, recreational cannabis,

pornography, commercial gambling, civilian weapons, and alcohol.

- Companies where more than 5% of their revenue is from the development, production and service of weapons comprising combat equipment or certain other military equipment.
- Produce fossil fuels or use unconventional extraction methods. Consequently, the Sub-Fund has limited exposure to:
- companies generating energy from fossils fuels
- companies, where distribution linked to fossil fuels exceeds 5% of total revenue
- companies for which services related to fossil fuels exceed 50% of total revenues.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics withing the meaning of Article 8 of SFDR. To promote general sustainability characteristics, such as fair business practices, human rights, labour

rights, anti- corruption and fair competition, the Sub-Fund excludes companies that breach international norms and standards where the company cannot present clear goals and ongoing measures to address the issue(s). To promote social and general sustainability characteristics, the Sub-Fund excludes investments in companies that operate in sectors or business areas that are assessed to present major sustainability challenges, such as tobacco, recreational cannabis, pornography, commercial gambling, civilian weapons and alcohol. Integration, the Sub-Fund promotes companies that:

- · Successfully manage sustainability risks and opportunities within their operations and products/services.
- Demonstrate a high degree of willingness to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions (transitioning companies) or aim to be more energy efficient.

Active ownership, the Sub-Fund seeks to influence issuers towards a more sustainable direction. This could include adopting new business models, lowering the emissions of the company or improving social requirements in the value chain. This could be done through direct dialogues with companies, collaboration with other asset managers or partners, or via collaborative initiatives. This could also be done by voting at the shareholder meetings, in support of, or against, specific shareholder- or management proposals.

Exclusions, the Sub-Fund excludes companies that:

- Breach international norms and standards
- Operate in controversial sectors or business areas such as tobacco, recreational cannabis, pornography, commercial gambling, civilian weapons, and alcohol.
- Have exposure to fossil fuels or other activities with a negative climate impact.

The Sub-Fund can invest in companies that are assessed to be in transformation in accordance with the

Management Company's sustainability policy. No benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social

characteristics that the Sub-Fund promotes.

Summaries in multiple languages:

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_EN.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_NO.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_SV.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_DA.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_ET.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_LV.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_FR.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02 DE.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_Fl.pdf

https://seb.se/pow/fmk/SFDR/529900TZ8RRBXQL4SG02\_NL-Be.pdf

### **Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product**

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Management Company's sustainability policy. No benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social

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# **Investment strategy**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed and invests in stocks, primarily in small and mid-sized companies in the Nordic market.

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- Companies where more than 5% of their revenue is from the development, production and service of weapons comprising combat equipment or certain other military equipment.
- Produce fossil fuels or use unconventional extraction methods. Consequently, the Sub-Fund has limited exposure to:
- companies generating energy from fossils fuels
- companies, where distribution linked to fossil fuels exceeds 5% of total revenue
- companies for which services related to fossil fuels exceed 50% of total revenues.

The binding elements in the investment strategy are:

• complying with the Management Company's exclusion policy, described in the question above.

The Sub-Fund will have no exposure to excluded companies based on:

- o breaches in international norms and standards
- o operation in controversial sectors or business areas
- o companies' exposure to fossil fuels and other activities with a negative environmental impact

The Management Company's exclusions are laid out in the sustainability policy available here:

https://sebgroup.com/about-us/our-business/our-divisions/seb-investment-management/oursustainability-approa

#### Proportion of investments

At least 85% of the Sub-Fund 's investments are aligned with the environmental or social, E/S, characteristics. The investments in the "#2 Other" category are cash and/or cash equivalents, government bonds, derivatives, or ETFs which are used for hedging, liquidity and efficient portfolio management, while the cash is used in the meaning of ancillary liquid assets. The "2# Other" category has no minimum environmental or social safeguards.

Not applicable. The Sub-Fund does not use derivatives to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.



**#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.

## Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The fund management company's exclusion policy is implemented through an exclusion list of issuers, along with continuous screening for relevant sanction breaches.

All assets classified as sustainable investments are monitored regularly to ensure the fulfilment of the fund management company's criteria for sustainable investments. This includes DNSH criteria on environmental and social targets as well as minimum social safeguards.

## **Methodologies**

The fund management company uses a data-driven method, using data delivered by third party actors, in order to construct an exclusion list, as mentioned above, and to identify issuers based on additional screening criteria. The method is also used for the selection process which defines a credible sustainable investment. The additional screening criteria consists of probable or suspected breaches towards international norms, minimum safeguards as specified in the EU Taxonomy and significant obstruction towards any of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Given that an investment passes the tests above, it is checked for contribution based on several factors, namely:

- Taxonomy aligned revenue of a minimum of 10%, based on estimations by third-party data providers.
- SDG aligned revenue of a minimum of 20%, based on estimations by third-party data providers.
- Carbon Key Resource Efficiency, as determined by the threshold of sector-normalized carbon emissions intensity, set by the top 10% of companies within the relevant regional benchmark. This is then applied to all potential companies within the investment universe. This is done in order to remove dependencies and potential resulting skewness in the results due to varying levels of data coverage and distribution of the metrics within the investment universe.
- Equality Performance, as determined by the threshold of a third-party data provider equality scoring, set by the top 25% companies within the relevant regional benchmark. This is then applied to all potential companies within the investment universe. This is done in order to remove dependencies and potential resulting skewness in the results due to varying levels of data coverage and distribution of the metric within the investment universe.

Companies can also be determined to contribute on other grounds if:

- there is a lack of data on the above-mentioned data points, but at least 20% of the revenue can be classified as contributing to Environmental and/or Social objectives;
- there are other data points, apart from the above-mentioned, that prove that the company is contributing to Environmental and/or Social objectives by Key Resource Efficiency;
- there is a fundamental case that is visual through data, that indicates that the company is clearly contributing to Environmental and/or Social objectives.

These other cases need to be approved by the sustainability team, and a full written justification is required.

An issued bond is classified as sustainable if the instrument is either green (climate related), blue (water related) or socially sustainable.

Other management companies may use another approach and other criteria to classify sustainable investments. Therefore, the definition of a sustainable investment may differ between different fund management companies.

# Data sources and processing

Sustainability data is retrieved from external data providers, which provide data on company level. This includes emissions and other environmental indicators, as well as assessments of social and governance indicators. The data provider(s) collects data either directly from the companies' annual or sustainability reports, or by estimating the data themselves.

The sustainability data is processed at SEB in a central data hub, where it is governed and quality-assured, in close collaboration with the data providers. Having multiple data providers for the same datapoints enables cross-checking and more opportunities for data quality assessment.

The estimated data that is being used is essentially the emissions data, mostly indirect Scope 3 emissions, and the proportion of estimated data depends on the specific financial product. A high degree of estimated data is present for approximately 70% of the total number of issuers mapped by the data providers, but companies with a high degree of reported data comprise a much larger part of the fund's portfolio weight and share of issuers present in the fund's portfolio. This will probably decrease as reported data becomes more readily available.

Data for exclusions and screening of sustainable investments is obtained from ISS, Sustainalytics, Equileap and RBICS.

# Limitations to methodologies and data

The main limitation of the data sources is lack of data in general for those datapoints that are not estimated but gathered from annual- and sustainability reports. In the cases where the environmental or social characteristics of the product are related to those datapoints, measures are taken to increase coverage through continuous dialogue with our data provider(s) or directly with the affected companies. If relevant data points are missing, similar variables from another data provider can be used. Secondly, relevant proxy variables or analyses of peer groups can be used. Thirdly, a fundamental analysis can be made in order

to ensure that limitations in data availability or data quality do not affect the environmental or social characteristics of the financial product.

## **Due diligence**

Internal due diligence for sustainability aspects of the fund's investments is carried out via the fund management company's exclusions, along with screening processes, in order to ensure that all investment meets DNSH criteria, minimum social safeguard criteria and practice good governance. The fund management company ensures pre-trade rules and restrictions on the portfolio management and trading systems. Sustainable investments are monitored by the sustainability team at the fund management company, which also monitors the reported indicators for the fund.

## **Engagement policies**

The fund management company's strategies for engagements apply for all the fund's assets. The fund management company's engagement with the companies can be via direct dialogues, participation at general meetings, participation in election committees, dialogues through collaborative initiatives and investor collectives, and both proactive and reactive dialogues, either through partners or directly.

Proactive dialogues mean to influence companies to, on the one hand, improve the general sustainability work, and also to work proactively with companies based on specific topics. Through ownership dialogues, the fund seeks to influence companies through the methods mentioned above.

Reactive company dialogues are carried out in response to situations where the fund management company has a credible assessment of breaches towards international guidelines and norms. Through dialogue, the fund management company examines the facts, and any mitigating or corrective actions planned by the company. The target of each dialogue is to ensure that routines and frameworks are in place in order to avoid future breaches, and that the company adheres to all relevant frameworks and international norms. All investments are regularly screened in order to identify holdings in breach of the fund management company's policies and values on human rights, environment, labour rights and anti-corruption. The assessment can be made through the mediation of a third party. For these purposes, the fund management company makes a detailed assessment of the nature and severity of the charges. If an identified breach is verified and the issuer refuses to mitigate or remediate the issue, or if the change process if stalling for too long, the fund will divest the holding.

14/03/2023

Past performance is not indicative of future results. The value of investments and income derived from investments may rise as well as fall. Future returns are not guaranteed, and a loss of principal may occur. Key information documents and prospectuses are available on www.sebgroup.lu