



# **Assessment of Value Report Global Sustainable Value Fund**

March 2020



## **Overview**

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has introduced new rules to strengthen the duty of asset managers to act in investors' best interests. These require us to carry out an annual assessment of whether we provide value for our clients (known as an assessment of value) in the context of fund performance and other benefits but also cost.

The FCA mandates seven assessment criteria which we review for our fund in this document. The assessment criteria are as follows:

- Performance
- General costs of the fund
- Economies of scale
- Comparable market rates
- Comparable
- Classes of units
- Quality of services

The table below summarises the outcome of our review for the GSI Global Sustainable Value Fund (the **Fund**) for the year ending 29 February 2020, using the seven assessment criteria set by the FCA.

	Global Sustainable Value Fund
Performance	+
General costs of the fund	+
Economies of scale	o
Comparable market rates	+
Comparable	+
Classes of units	+
Quality of services	+
<b>Overall fund rating</b>	<b>+</b>

The table above shows the following information for the assessment criteria:

+ = fund provides good value

o = fund provides value but merits some action.

- = fund does not provide good value

## **How we assessed each of the criteria**

### Performance

Does the Fund provide good performance in relation to its investment objective?

The investment objective of the Fund is to achieve long-term total return. We seek to achieve this through diversified investment in the securities of companies listed on developed market exchanges around the world.



The table below shows the performance of the GSI Global Sustainable Value Fund compared to other funds in the same Morningstar category (EAA Fund Global Large-Cap Value Equity) and also compared to the Morningstar category index (the MSCI ACWI Value NR USD (converted to GBP)).

		Global Sustainable Value Fund
1 Year	Return (annualised) %	3.83
	Category mean return %	-6.04
	Category mean index return %	-9.91
	Category percentile rank %	12
3 Years	Return (annualised) %	2.59
	Category mean return %	0.19
	Category mean index return %	-0.52
	Category percentile rank %	11

Source: Morningstar. Morningstar Category: EAA Fund Global Large-Cap Value Equity. Morningstar Category index: MSCI ACWI Value NR USD (converted to GBP). Fund returns are as of Mar 06, 2020.

The table shows that the Fund has performed well relative to other funds in the same category both over the last twelve months as well as over three years. It has also performed well against the category index return over the same time periods.

Differences in returns between different strategies are driven by differences in investment processes. We also monitor the returns of the Fund against other comparators and, based on our reviews, we are confident the Fund provides good returns in relation to its investment objective.

### General costs of the Fund

Are the charges fair compared with the cost to GSI of providing the services?

The GSI Global Sustainable Value Fund's ongoing charges figure (OCF) is 0.50% per year. This compares very favourably to the mean OCF in its Morningstar category which is 1.23% per year. Relative to this mean figure, the Fund provides a 59% discount.

GSI Global Sustainable Value ongoing charges figure (OCF) %	Category average ongoing charges figure (OCF) % <sup>1</sup>	Category median ongoing charges figure (OCF) % <sup>1</sup>	GSI Discount (based on category average)%
0.50	1.23	1.20	59

<sup>1</sup> Average and median category OCF is sourced from Morningstar with published fees as of March 2020.

Effective management of costs is a core component of our strategy as a firm. We will continue to monitor all costs that we face as investment managers and will not hesitate to pass on cost savings that we may achieve over time to our clients.

### Economies of Scale

Has the Fund achieved appropriate economies of scale and have these been passed on to investors?

We apply a 0.20% fee cap to the total expenses of the Fund, which means that the total fee for the Fund does not exceed 0.50%. The fee cap protects investors from the effect of fixed costs while the



Fund is small. As the Fund grows, the total expense ratio will fall below 0.50% and this cost benefit will be passed on to the investors.

#### Comparable Market Rates

Do the fund charges provide value compared to similar funds in the market?

Funds with low ongoing charges (OCF) offer better value than those with higher fees. The GSI Global Sustainable Value Fund has an OCF of 0.5% compared to an average OCF level of 1.23% for all funds in its Morningstar category.

We are continually monitoring our fees to ensure that GSI continues to offer good value for money for its funds.

#### Comparable Services

How do the charges each investor pays compare with those paid by other investors in the same fund?

All investors in the GSI Global Sustainable Fund pay the same charges. This is true for all share classes in the Fund.

#### Classes of units

Have I invested in an expensive share class when a cheaper one is available?

Currently, all share classes of the GSI Global Sustainable Fund incur the same charges.

#### Quality of Service

Is the range and quality of service satisfactory given what investors are paying?

GSI provides clients with informational material about the Fund and their investments on a regular basis. In addition, because we are a small firm, we are able to offer regular access to decision-making personnel (such as portfolio managers).

In addition, due to GSI's business model of outsourcing all non-core activities such as compliance, model portfolio creation, trade implementation, record keeping and accounting, this provides a very robust infrastructure. GSI itself focuses only on investments, research and client communications.

#### Overall conclusion

GSI is an investments-led firm that is committed to provide investors with the best value for money. Using the seven criteria discussed above and which are mandated by the FCA, we conclude that we provide good value to investors but, at the same time, we recognise that there is always room for improvement, so we aim to make continual enhancements to our offering.