

Our Global Sustainable Finance & Investment practice brings together a multidisciplinary global team and provides clients with best-in-market support in this mission-critical area. We help our clients stay ahead in this rapidly evolving sector through delivering tools, products and solutions to overcome the challenges facing the sustainable finance economy.

The issue

Financial institutions, and the products and services they offer, have a vital role in delivering key climate sustainability developmental goals and policies such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement (to name a few), and it has become increasingly evident that this is not a task for the public sector alone.

The private financial sector is central to mobilizing capital to meet the current significant shortfall. It is vitally needed to finance long-term sustainable growth and build a low-carbon, climate-resilient and circular economy by channelling funds towards well-governed responsible and ethical enterprises.

What we do

We position our advice within the wider ESG landscape, identifying risks and also opportunities. Innovation is a core part of the strategy and the team meets regularly in order to create and consider innovation – the use of existing tools in different contexts and the creation of new tools and systems.

Against this backdrop, we highlight the importance of the Sustainable Development Goal #17. In order to mobilise capital and create an efficient, scalable sustainable finance ecosystem, partnerships and collaboration are crucial. Our lawyers are tasked with servicing our clients but also contributing to the development of the sector.

We bring sustainability to every finance transaction, create innovative solutions combining guidance, legal expertise, project management, and alignment of ESG strategy to facilitate sustainability. An important part of this is raising awareness, education and training in collaboration with and aligned with international organisations, trade associations and law and regulation; thereby allowing our clients to navigate the complex, wide-ranging set of issues when considering sustainable finance and investments.

Our key services include:

- Advising on ESG investment and sustainability policies, ESG strategy, reporting and disclosure and ensuring alignment with corporate strategy and business operations
- Advising on the rapidly changing regulatory environment for sustainable finance and helping teams to analyse and apply trade body guidance and relevant reports and data
- Working with trade associations and organisations (such as ELFA, Global Digital Finance, 2X Challenge, LMA, ICMA, Borsa Italiana, GenderSmart, GSG and Global Compact) to develop market guidance and advising on ESG market practices and standards, voluntary codes and goals
- Working across Hogan Lovells finance practices and sectors on impact/ESG aspects of mainstream transactions
- Establishing impact funds and advising on hybrid transactions
- Connecting clients, organisations, foundations and enterprises across our network and raising awareness of issues and opportunities
- Advising on risk, potential disputes and legal issues
- Working with clients, trade bodies and organisations to develop innovative financing structures anchored in impact outcomes
- Advising social enterprises on investment readiness and receiving social finance from foundations or angel investors

Our impact

We partner with clients across practices, industries, financial products and jurisdictions and across the sustainable finance spectrum to achieve their goals anchored in impact. Representative experience includes advising:

- Advising EDF Energy, a market-leader in European renewable energy, on green and social financings raising €10.9 billion in aggregate, including its inaugural green bond in 2019.
- Advising financial institutions, asset managers and private equity funds on the SFDR (including on both the product and entity requirements under both Level I and II), the EU Taxonomy, and the risks associated with greenwashing.
- Advising a global automotive company, which also has a large financial services division, on a major ESG global mandate advising on implementing their global ESG strategy and compliance.
- Advising two syndicates of banks in connection with the issuance of the unsecured sustainability-linked senior notes due 2028 by Rexel in three issuances totalling €1 billion. The first of these was one of the first sustainability-linked high yield bonds issued in Europe.
- Advising ING Bank N.V. and a group of 16 European, American and Asian banks on a US\$500 million sustainability-linked senior secured borrowing base financing to Geneva-based coffee trader Sucafina. The facility, which includes a sustainability framework, will finance the group's trading operations in the coming years.
- Advising FinTechs on the reporting requirements to enable them to develop digitised solutions in order to assist firms with their risk frameworks and disclosure and reporting requirements to investors.
- Advising a global investment bank and a global investment management firm on structuring an ESG framework for sustainability linked loans using our innovative Sustainability Linked Loans Lender Toolkit. Our advice includes providing guidance on minimum sustainability linked loans criteria, the alignment with their internal sustainability policies and ESG investment processes and analysis; external disclosure and reporting requirements; and guidance on setting of sustainability performance targets and key performance indicators.
- Advising a “Double-Bottom Line” private equity fund sponsor on the formation, fundraising, and maintenance of a U.S. domiciled fund established to make impact investments in Latin America
- Advising Big Society Capital on its role as loan facility agent, security agent and lender on the Resilience Recovery Loan Fund, a newly established facility for social enterprises and charities facing business disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim to make the UK government's existing Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (more accessible, the RRLF loans will be government guaranteed). This project won “Social Investment Deal of the Year” at the UK Social Enterprise Awards in 2021.
- Advising Bayerische Landesbank as arranger of the world's first placement of a Blue Social Bond of Deutsche Kreditbank Aktiengesellschaft UBS Optimus Foundation (UBSOF) on structuring its second Education Development Impact Bond (DIB) in India and preparing key documents
- Co-launching Aurora: The Gender Lens Project with 2X Challenge to engage private sector investors and financial institutions to develop an industry approved “gold standard” legal toolkit for gender lens investing



Useful links

- [Hogan Lovells Sustainable Financing & Investment](#)
- [Hogan Lovells Engage: Sustainable Finance & Investment](#)
- [Hogan Lovells Financial Institutions](#)
- [Hogan Lovells UK 2030](#)
- [Hogan Lovells Engage: ESG Global Vision for Financial Institutions and Insurers](#)



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