ESG issues impact every part of the insurance ecosystem, from product design and sale through asset and liability management to board governance. Insurers have a key role to play in helping the rest of society manage ESG-related risks. We support our insurance clients through every step in that journey.

The issue

Insurance companies have a very significant role to play in an environment where ESG considerations are increasingly important for consumers, regulators, employees, investors and other stakeholders. Not only are insurance companies considering their own ESG profiles and agenda, but they are also helping support business and society more widely to deliver sustainability targets. This is being driven by:

- The demands of consumers, regulators, employees, investors, pension fund managers and other stakeholders who are scrutinising behaviours, credentials and risk exposure in the ESG arena
- The growing pressure on insurance companies to invest in, or underwrite only assets or projects that are sustainable
- The use of technology and digitalisation in product development and design and to improve the customer experience
- An increasing body of “hard” and “soft” law that is forcing companies to put ESG considerations (including the UN Sustainable Development Goals) at the heart of who they are and what they do
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What we do

We have a market-leading insurance team which means that there are very few issues which we have not seen before. We advise a significant number of insurance and reinsurance clients and we are also well known to regulators and other advisers. Our insurance team has breadth of expertise and strength in depth covering the full range of issues which can arise including corporate governance, systems and controls, M&A, reinsurance, product design and distribution, investment policies, litigation and regulatory investigations.

Regulation in this area is increasing: the Prudential Regulation Authority in the UK and the European Union’s European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority have made it clear that they expect insurance companies to identify and quantify the impact of ESG factors (with particular focus on climate change) and to report on the results.

Our deep sector expertise and understanding is particularly important in working with our insurance sector clients to understand the specific ESG impacts in their market and their businesses.

We advise on:

- Compliance with rules and regulations affecting all public and private insurance companies including those requiring increased reporting of ESG issues
- Building ESG considerations and targets into clients’ investment policies
- The design of new products which help deliver sustainability goals
- Sustainability and social impact principles and best practices
- Green investments
- Partnering with our clients to deliver social impact initiatives