BOND INVESTMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Can Profit and Impact go together?

Date: Tuesday 28 May 2024
Time: 14.00 - 15.00 CEST

Register here:
https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MszyqJnqQ_aSTSQmXpIV0A
The global challenges posed by climate change and the major social upheavals in recent memory have brought the need for innovations in sustainable finance to centre stage. Such environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues serve as a platform for international cooperation between the public and private sectors in funding the multi-trillion-dollar investments required to deliver on ESG goals. As of 31 March 2023, a total of 5,391 signatories consisting of 4,841 investors and 550 financial services providers in nearly 100 countries accounting for $121 trillion assets under management have become part of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) which was launched in 2006. Regulatory developments globally mirror the efforts made by states to drive policy change amid the growing long-term focus on ESG in which the financial sector is assigned a vital role in developing innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. IFAD, in collaboration with UN peers and other capital markets participants, has steadily made progress in incorporating ESG considerations in managing Treasury investments consisting of proceeds from contributions from member states, Treasury borrowings and loan repayments from IFAD’s project participants. IFAD’s Treasury has actively participated in innovative ESG bond investments over the years and has shown that profitability can go hand in hand with purpose.

Objectives:

- Synthesise insights gained from engagement in innovative finance in capital markets, particularly on optimal strategies with respect to investments in ESG thematic bonds.
- Provide evidence from existing literature and academic/industry studies that ESG considerations serve not only as a risk management tool, but also as an investment opportunity to drive alpha using the traditional metrics of investment performance.
- Examine the experience of participants in the capital markets in investing in ESG bonds over the years, including the occurrence of trade-offs between investment performance and sustainability based on conventional metrics of financial performance.

The event will aim to answer the following questions:

- What are the differences in terms of risk and performance between ESG and conventional bonds?
- What are the pros and cons of current ESG investment strategies such as negative screening and sustainability themed investing?
- What are the biggest challenges the ESG bond industry faces today?
- How do responsible investors reconcile financial performance and ESG considerations in managing investments?
Gulnara is Treasurer of IFAD. In this position she is responsible for IFAD’s borrowing program, liquidity management, financial planning, balance sheet management and back office operations. Before joining the Fund in 2021, Gulnara spent almost two decades in World Bank Group, starting her career on ALM desk at IBRD and then transitioning to IFC Treasury, where she oversaw the delivery of derivatives and local currency solutions for IFC clients. Gulnara holds BSc in Economics from Uzbekistan University of World Economy and Diplomacy and MSc in International Finance from School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Ms. Sheila-Codamus-Platel joined IFAD in 2021 as head of the Treasury unit responsible for managing the Fund’s investments. Prior to IFAD, Ms. Codamus-Platel served in Treasury investment management positions at the African Development Bank (AfDB) from 2012 to 2021 and at the Dutch development bank (FMO) from 2009 to 2012. As the representative of IFAD at the United Nations Working Group of Corporate Treasury Services (UNWGCTS), she collaborated with UN peers in developing a joint Responsible Investment Statement (RIS) that was endorsed by the Finance & Budget Network (FBN). At AerCap, Ms. Codamus-Platel served in senior leadership positions from 2004 to 2009 with responsibilities in investment management and funding. Before embarking in Treasury, Ms. Codamus-Platel acquired extensive experience in corporate banking over a period of nine years specializing in financial product structuring and loan origination with the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and Credit Agricole. Ms. Codamus-Platel is currently a Fellow (FCT) at the Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT) after having completed with distinction the highest level of treasury, risk management and corporate finance qualification (MCT) program and obtained the Royal Charter for Treasury in the United Kingdom. She completed her Master of Science (MsC) program in Accounting & Finance at the University of Salford in the United Kingdom and holds a Master in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Ateneo de Manila University Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of the Philippines.
Anna is a Senior Financial Officer within the World Bank Treasury, where she currently works with official institutions as an Engagement Manager. In this role, she is responsible for fostering client relationships and coordinating and delivering their technical advisory engagements under the Reserve Advisory and Management Partnership (RAMP).

Prior to joining the World Bank in 2024, she worked at the Bank of Finland as the Principal Responsible Investment Specialist within the Asset Management team. Before working at the Central Bank, Anna worked for a large private sector pension insurance company in Finland and Hong Kong, covering different roles such as portfolio manager, analyst, Head of Responsible Investment to name a few.

Anna holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees in economics from Hanken (the Swedish School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland), The Nottingham Trent University (UK) and Université de Montpellier I (France).

Sébastien Lévy is the Head of Investment and Treasury at the ESM since 2014. In this position, he supervises the investment of the ESM’s €80 billion Paid-in capital and short-term liquidity portfolios, invested in fixed income markets. He focuses, with his team, on developing the ESM’s investment capacity, introducing a responsible investment approach and digitalising the activity.

Previously, Sébastien Lévy was the Head of Reserves Management at Banque de France. In this role, he focused, in particular, on enhancing reserve diversification. He was directly involved in the operational implementation of Eurosystem market intervention programmes. He joined the Banque de France, in 2000, as a market economist before becoming a fixed income portfolio manager. During this period, he also spent two years at the Reserve Bank of Australia, in the International Reserves division, and conducted a number of technical assistance missions for the IMF, in Africa.

Mr. Lévy holds a Master in Macro-economics (University of Paris Dauphine) and a Bachelor from the Institute of Political Studies (Grenoble).

Zach Dhruve is currently Head of Portfolio Management at Nordic Investment Bank based in Helsinki, having joined the firm in July 2023. Prior to that Zach has worked at Nordea Bank AB based in Stockholm for eight years in various leadership roles within Group Finance & Treasury. Zach holds an Economics degree from the University College London and is a CFA charterholder.
Emmi Oikari is the Director for the Unit for Development Financing and Private Sector Cooperation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Emmi Oikari is a career diplomat with 20 years of experience in security and development policies. Before assuming her current post in 2022, she was the Alternate Executive Director for Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, Spain and Sweden at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC. She has served abroad in the Embassy of Finland in Beijing, the Embassy of Finland in México and the Permanent Representation of Finland to NATO in Brussels. In the Ministry, she has held various leadership and staff level posts at the Unit for United Nations and General Global Affairs, the Unit for Latin American and the Caribbean, and the Unit for Civilian Crisis Management, OSCE, and European Council. During her career, she has promoted peace and security, human rights, gender equality, trade and investments, development finance, and sustainable development. Prior to joining the Ministry, Ms. Oikari worked for Finnish telecommunications company Nokia as concept owner and project manager. She holds a Master’s Degree from Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration and a diploma from Ecole Superior de Commerce, Dijon, France.

Gladys Morales is Global Head of Innovation in IFAD’s Innovation Unit, where she leads the design and implementation of corporate innovation initiatives and partnerships aiming to support testing, learning and scaling up of innovative solutions to help the rural poor. She is also currently the Regional Ambassador in Italy of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC). Prior to joining IFAD, Gladys led the digital transformation of a range of governmental and United Nations agencies’ projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe; and worked for the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) where she led the design of digital platforms and established partnerships and knowledge networks for the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth (GPIG) Portal. She is also familiar with the startup eco-system having been part of the management team for a digital advertising startup in Indonesia and founding her own startup in Italy. Gladys is a graduate from the Executive Programme on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School, Columbia University in New York; and from the Executive Programme in Artificial Intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, United States. Gladys also has a Master’s in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome, Tor Vergata and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and International Economics from Georgetown University.
Hosting organization

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN’s food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, the Fund has provided US$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

About the UN Innovation Network

The UN Innovation Network (UNIN) is an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators from across the UN. In addition to promoting innovation overall, UNIN also hosts UN Groups on specific topics including on scaling innovations in collaboration with UN Global Pulse. UNIN is open to innovators from all UN Entities as well as external partners.

The UN Group on Scaling Innovations aims to bring together UN colleagues and interested observers to jointly explore the challenges innovators face when scaling their initiatives and discuss emerging good practices for systematically supporting innovations to scale. Join the group by filling out this form: https://www.uninnovation.network/form-pages/un-scaling.

Background to IFAD Innovation Talk no. 16

Founded in 1977, IFAD has a unique role as both a specialised UN agency and an international financial institution, seeking to eradicate rural poverty by strengthening food security and resilience. In 2021, IFAD ranked as number one by the Quality of Official Development Assistance Report, which evaluated the capacity of 49 countries and multilateral agencies to deliver impactful long-term assistance to countries in need. In March 2022, IFAD adopted a new definition of and approach to innovation. IFAD now defines innovation as a new process, product or approach that adds value and delivers a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and/or new contextual solution to rural development challenges.

For IFAD, the most important innovations are those that impact poor rural people directly.

IFAD aims to catalyse the generation, testing and scaling up of solutions that have the potential to contribute to deliver equitable, better and greater impact for the rural poor by leveraging on learning, strategic partnerships, digitalization and the implementation of sustainable tools and guidelines.
About the IFAD INNOVATION TALKS

IFAD Innovation Talks are a series of learning and knowledge sharing sessions, lasting one hour. They feature innovative approaches, tools, products and services developed by IFAD, its partners and the members of the IFAD Innovation Network in order to further the aims of the network. The Talks follow various formats: from interviews and panel discussions to TEDx talks and demonstrations of new technological tools.

Watch the IFAD Innovation Talk series here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHLkfcOqwa-xfcOsMqqSQte8K7yQ8zru5

About the IFAD INNOVATION NETWORK

The IFAD Innovation Network is an informal, democratic, non-hierarchical space to share ideas, good practices, tools and lessons learned on how members can use innovation to improve performance and better address the needs and challenges of our target groups and beneficiaries.

This group is open to IFAD staff, representatives of IFAD’s members, fellow United Nations and Development Finance Institutions colleagues, representatives of academia, research centres, think tanks and the private sector, and those who wish to contribute to advancing innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Don’t hesitate to get involved and share your ideas with us!

If you’re not a member yet, apply to join us here: https://ifad.dgroups.io/g/IFADInnovation