

## Understanding Sustainable Funds: A Disclosure Guide Where Investors Can Find Sustainability-Related Information

Perhaps one of the most significant recent global trends is the increasing investor interest in ESG matters. The fund industry is responding to this increased investor interest by, among other things, creating new funds that explicitly tailor their investments to specific ESG criteria. For simplicity, we refer to these funds as sustainable funds.

The Securities and Exchange Commission regulates funds by, among other things, requiring them to describe their investment goals and how they plan to achieve those goals. They also must explain the risks of investing in the fund. In fact, all funds must provide investors with a prospectus that sets forth the fund's investment objectives along with its principal investment strategies and risks. A summary appears at the beginning of each prospectus, which provides this key information about the fund in a concise format. Many funds issue a stand-alone "summary prospectus" containing this exact same information. The full prospectus is often referred to as the "statutory prospectus."

To illustrate how an investor can easily find sustainability-related information about a fund, we created a prototype of a summary prospectus, indicating where the pertinent information can be found.

Important information also may be found in a fund's statutory prospectus and its semi- and annual shareholder reports, and the summary prospectus includes a website address for accessing this information. In addition, many fund complexes provide summary information about each fund on their websites, such as in fact sheets, which also may contain sustainability-related information.

### The Fund's Name

A fund's name can communicate a great deal about the fund. It might indicate that the fund focuses on a particular type of investment (e.g., green bonds) or a particular investment strategy (e.g., environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") investing).

But a fund's name should not be relied on as the sole source of information about the fund. Funds that have sustainable investing strategies are not all alike, and funds that include similar terms in their name (such as "ESG" or "sustainable") may have different investment objectives and strategies. So, you need to look at the fund's investment objectives, strategies and risks sections in the prospectus to understand the fund's goals and how it intends to achieve those goals.

### Legend

The cover or beginning of the summary prospectus includes a website address to access the statutory prospectus and other information.

## The Investment Objective

The fund states its investment objectives or goals here. The investment objective frequently will be capital appreciation, income, or a combination of the two. Some funds also reference an ESG-related goal in the investment objective.

## -• ABC equity fund

### **Summary Prospectus**

Class A (ABCAX) Class B (ABCBX)

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#### O INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE(S)

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#### FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

The tables below describe the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least  $\qquad$  In ABC ESG Fund.

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## **Principal Investment Strategies**

This section tells you how the fund intends to achieve its investment objectives and provides important information about the sustainability-related focus of the investment strategies. For example, if a fund has a principal investment strategy to exclude certain companies or sectors from the portfolio, pursue a positive tilt in the portfolio based on ESG factors alongside financial return, and/or invest in companies delivering positive change in certain sustainability-related fields, it will explain those strategies in this section. Additional detail may be found in the statutory prospectus.

## **Principal Risks**

This section provides a summary of the principal risks of investing in the fund. The types of risks may vary considerably depending on the nature of the fund's investments. This section may describe risk(s) associated with the fund's sustainable investing strategy. For example, it might state that the fund's sustainable investing strategy limits the types and number of investment opportunities available to the fund and, as a result, the fund may underperform other funds that do not have a sustainability focus. Additional detail may be found in the statutory prospectus.

# **ABC** EQUITY FUND

#### • PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

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#### PRINCIPAL RISKS

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#### INVESTMENT ADVISER

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