Our funds
Stewart Investors Asia Pacific and Japan Sustainability Fund

The fund aims to achieve capital growth over the long term (at least five years).

The fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equity or equity-related securities of companies that are incorporated or listed, or where a majority of their economic activities take place, in the Asia Pacific region (including Japan) and invests in quality companies that are positioned to benefit from, and contribute to, the sustainable development of the countries in which they operate.

The manager invests with capital preservation in mind, meaning it defines risk as losing client money, rather than deviation from a benchmark index. The manager's focus on quality companies rather than investing according to a benchmark index may lag in very strong liquidity-driven or momentum-led markets and may perform well when due recognition is given to companies with quality management teams, good long-term growth prospects and sound balance sheets.

Performance

We have assessed performance of each share class considering absolute return, relative return and downside risk and all share classes have met the investment policy. However, we have observed that the share classes have underperformed their benchmark despite them performing better than the benchmark in negative market conditions. The relative returns compared to the benchmark led to the Amber rating for those share classes measured.

We have not assessed the performance of the Class A (Acc) EUR shares as it does not have sufficient performance history.

Overall, all share classes are rated Amber for performance.

Quality of service

In assessing quality of service, we have reviewed the investment proposition of the fund and share classes and found that it was run in accordance with the investment team's philosophy and purpose.

We have reviewed proxy voting and corporate engagement and found that the fund adheres to First Sentier Investors' Principles and Policy for Responsible Investment and Stewardship.

We have reviewed our governance functions, and how we oversee fund liquidity, compliance breaches and complaint handling to ensure that investors receive appropriate support when needed.

We have also reviewed the information that is available to investors on monthly and quarterly factsheets and found that it provides appropriate information on the characteristics of the fund and share classes. We seek to continuously develop our support to investors and tailor it to their needs.

All share classes are rated Green for quality of service.

Classes of units

All Class A shares have been rated Amber while we review commissions and servicing costs specific to Class A shares.

In November 2020, many shareholders were converted from Class A shares to Class B shares. Those who were not subject to the mandatory conversion were informed of the cheapest share class that they are eligible for, and invited to switch.

Class B shares are rated Green.

AFM costs

We have reviewed the AMC of the primary share class to ensure that it is in line with the value provided through investment returns.

All share classes are rated Green for costs because the allocation of costs between share classes is fair and reasonable and reflects differing levels of service for each class.

Comparable market rates

We have compared the OCF of each share class against a relevant peer group and Class A (Acc) EUR is slightly above the average comparable market rate in this sector, this is due to the small size of the share class and fixed costs that are proportionally more significant - the expense cap stops this becoming more material. Since EUR classes are no longer registered in the EU the marketing opportunities are limited for such share classes.

All other share classes are rated Green when compared to similar share class types in the sector.

Comparable services

First Sentier offers no comparable funds or mandates for this fund and so there is no rating for this criterion.

Economies of scale

The AMC of the Class B shares reflects pricing that is set for the investment strategy as a whole and considers the expected capacity of the strategy.

Share classes are either having economies of scale from third party costs passed on, or benefit from capped additional expenses of 0.25% above the AMC.

Based on our assessment, all share classes are rated Green.

Overall rating

All share classes are rated Green and are providing value to investors.

The fund has the following share classes:

Share class	Launch date	AUM £	AMC %	OCF %	Overall rating	Performance	Quality of service	Classes of units	AFM costs	Comparable market rates	Comparable services	Economies of scale
Class A (Acc) EUR	28-Sep-18	68,830	1.50	1.75	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Class A (Acc) GBP	30-Jun-88	60,178,652	1.50	1.59	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Class A (Inc) GBP	07-Dec-09	803,609	1.50	1.61	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Class B (Acc) GBP	06-Feb-01	397,675,262	0.85	0.93	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Class B (Inc) GBP	11-Dec-09	25,533,615	0.85	0.97	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●