SEB Case Study

Case SEB Investment Management AB: Turning risk into opportunity with an in-depth climate impact assessment

SEB Investment Management AB (SEB IM)*, one of the largest asset managers in the Nordics, was looking for their investment carbon footprint that would take into consideration their global reach.*

By choosing South Pole Group's Climate Impact Assessment solution, SEB IM was able to leverage the final results to enhance stakeholder dialogue on climate risk and strategy, and better engage with its clients on climate risk considerations.

The brief

SEB Investment Management (SEB IM) was looking for a trustworthy provider to help them better understand their climate-related risks and impacts. As a responsible investor, SEB IM was driven by the need to further improve internal and external engagement with portfolio managers and companies on climate strategy. SEB IM also wanted to adequately measure and communicate its investments' carbon footprint, in line with its commitment to the Montreal Carbon Pledge.

The context

SEB IM has a strong ambition to contribute to sustainable growth and to make a difference for customers, staff and the society at large. SEB IM became a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) in 2008 and has been striving to make sustainability a core part of its business.

SEB IM has integrated sustainability factors into its investment processes and made the management of environmental, social and governance impacts associated with businesses a priority among its portfolio companies.

The challenge

Due to the global nature of their investments, SEB IM was looking for a partner who could provide an analysis of their investment carbon footprint with the appropriate depth and coverage. To have external assurance on the quality of the evaluation, SEB IM sought out a specialist who could complete the task with a sound methodology. SEB IM's ambition is to work together with portfolio companies to evaluate potential risks and opportunities of their businesses, and to secure sustainable value creation. It was thus important that all results could be communicated to portfolio managers, clients and other stakeholders in a transparent manner.

About the client

SEB *works with large corporate and financial institutions in Sweden and holds a forefront position in providing corporate services also in Norway, Denmark and Finland. While it provides universal banking services in Sweden and the Baltics, SEB also offers services in Germany, where it engages mainly with medium sized corporates. SEB's presence reaches beyond the European borders with international centers in New York, London, Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong and Singapore, among others.*

SEB's customer-base consists of 3.000 large corporates and institutions, 40.000 small and midsize companies, and 4 million private customers. The mission of SEB and its 16'000 employees is to help people and businesses thrive by providing quality advice and appropriate financial resources.

SEB Investment Management AB is SEB's Swedish fund company and one of the largest asset managers in the Nordics, managing assets of more than 500 billion SEK.

1213EN, 03.2016

The process

South Pole Group was first recommended to SEB IM by a client who had already had a good relationship with the Group for a few years. Before starting to work with South Pole Group, SEB IM contacted a number of suppliers to compare their proposed coverage and methodology and evaluate their proposals. In view of SEB's presence in several different markets, it finally decided to work with South Pole Group given the Group's international reach and expertise.

The solution

SEB IM chose South Pole Group's Climate Impact Assessment solution, which entails a fully transparent GHG emissions analysis of a portfolio. In addition to addressing the requirements for institutional investors underlined in article 173 of the French Energy Transition, the solution also enables investors to commit to the Montreal Carbon pledge.

Key benefits

SEB IM was able to leverage the results of South Pole Group's analysis in several ways. These included:

- Compiling their report to the Montreal Carbon Pledge.
- Enabling fund managers to better understand the issues linked to and the impact of their investments.
- Communicating with clients in a clear manner, with the ability to provide absolute numbers and benchmarks on climate-related impacts.
- Further enhancing stakeholder engagement by providing valuable, fact-based information to companies during stakeholder meetings.

"Thanks to the analysis provided by South Pole Group, we have been able to better involve our fund managers in the full investment processes. The in-depth screening we received has further increased the understanding of possible climate impact on company valuations: we are able to better identify climate-related business opportunities and engage in risk mitigation. Having our work externally verified by an internationally renowned company like South Pole Group has also supported our communication with our clients - the Group's services are professional and their methodology is sophisticated and transparent."

Anette Andersson
ESG Investment Specialist, SEB IM

Why work with us

Global team

We are a truly global provider of sustainability solutions and services. Our team is made up of over 130 skilled and enthusiastic professionals from over 20 different countries, based in offices spanning 6 continents.

Proven impact

Since 2006, we have measured the climate impact of countless companies and products worldwide. We have screened USD 200 bn+ of investments for their climate impact and we have developed 400 projects in renewables, forestry, agriculture, industry and households. Through our efforts, 50 million tonnes of CO_2 have been saved, almost as much as the annual CO_2 emissions of the country of Portugal. We have enabled the production of 35,000 GWh of renewable energy (more than the annual electricity consumption of the country of Denmark), and mobilised over USD 6 bn for clean energy investments in emerging markets. In total, our projects have helped create almost 20,000 jobs in developing countries; this roughly corresponds to the number of employees of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). We have also saved 55,000 hectares of forest from deforestation, about the size of 77,000 soccer pitches.

Added value

We help you grow with groundbreaking solutions that benefit your business, the environment and society.

thesouthpolegroup.com/clients

Nicole Neghaiwi
Key Account Manager

Phone +41 43 501 35 50
n.neghaiwi@thesoutholegroup.com