

The EQ Positive Impact Offshore Portfolios invest in companies that are making a positive impact on society and the environment by providing solutions to real world problems. We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a way to map the impact of their products and services.

Our biannual updates feature examples of these companies and funds; here we will focus on three relating to Goals 6 - Clean water and sanitation; 2 - Zero hunger; and 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure.



## Breaking new ground on protecting our waterways

The UK's freshwater waterways provide important natural corridors by bringing the countryside into the heart of

most populous cities, and linking fragmented wildlife communities together.

The UK's canals, rivers and reservoirs are some of the most bio-diverse spaces in the country. 30% of them have been officially recognised for their special environmental value. Despite their importance to biodiversity conservation and providing valuable spaces to learn about nature, their protection is no given – pollution, vandalism, and illegal waste disposal are some reoccurring challenges.

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Rathbone Ethical Bond

# Rathbones

The Canal and River Trust received investments in their bond issue from the Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund. This UK-focused bond fund invests in fixed income securities from sustainable businesses and projects, while avoiding investments in those doing harm. Another holding in the fund that is benefiting freshwater ecosystems is the utility Yorkshire Water.

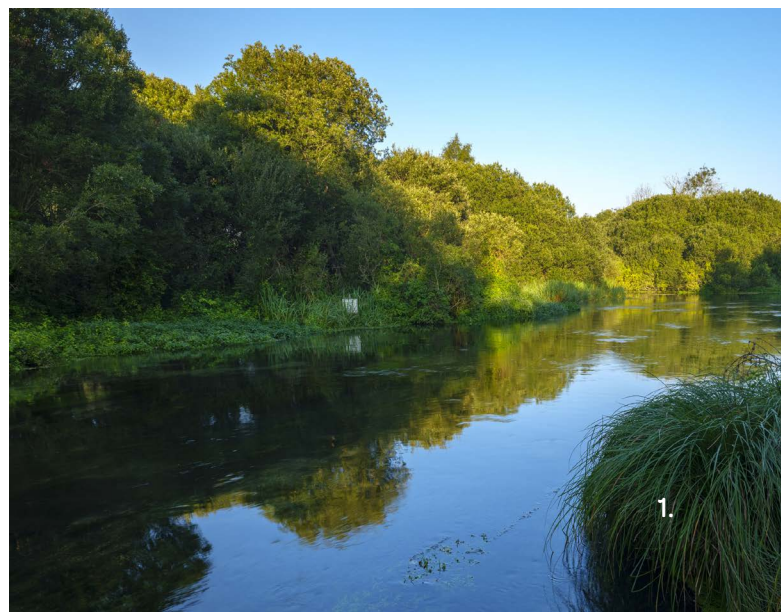
### EXAMPLE HOLDING

#### Canal and River Trust



The Canal and River Trust holds the guardianship for over 2000 inland waterways in the UK. Through the bond, the EQ Positive Impact Portfolios contribute to ongoing work to protect these freshwater ecosystems.

Activities of the Trust's environmental team include improvements made to connectivity of water courses for better fish movement, dealing with invasive plant species, and cleaning up industrial spills. To protect these spaces for generations to come, the Trust is increasingly using the canals and rivers as 'outdoor classrooms', engaging adults and children in education about their natural history.



2 ZERO HUNGER



## Dine with the planet in mind

Food production carries environmental footprints, and it is now widely known that diets high in animal products are associated

with more severe levels of carbon emissions and natural resource use.

The [largest driver of tropical deforestation is land clearance for cattle ranches](#), and [14.5% of all global greenhouse gas emissions are related to animal farming](#).

There are differences between the carbon footprint of different animal protein sources. Cattle, raised both for meat and dairy, present the greatest emissions driver – [with about 65% of the livestock sector's emissions](#). Behavioural changes at the consumer level, including a move to more plant-based diets, are seen as the most powerful drivers to reduce the environmental harm from animal farming.

### FUND IN FOCUS

## Baillie Gifford Worldwide Positive Change Fund



Beyond Meat received investments from the Baillie Gifford Positive Change fund, which focuses on identifying companies with strong long term growth opportunities through solving pressing social or environmental challenges.

Other companies in the fund that benefit climate mitigation are Tesla, leading electric vehicle manufacturer, and Orsted, global leader in offshore wind energy.

### EXAMPLE HOLDING

## Beyond Meat



## BEYOND MEAT®

Beyond Meat is a US-based consumer product company that is disrupting food as we know it, by providing plant-based patties and mince - designed to look, cook and taste like fresh ground beef. Their Beyond Meat burgers and mince are based on pea protein and is considered nutritionally and functionally similar to beef – but pack just a fraction of the associated environmental footprints in production.

Based on [thorough academic research](#), the Beyond Burger generates 90% less greenhouse gas emissions, has over 99% less impact on water scarcity and 93% less impact on land-use compared to a quarter pound of U.S. beef. The company wants to appeal to all consumers, and makes it easier to choose a more environmental way of eating.

As a pioneer in the food tech space, the company is rapidly expanding its global footprint and increasing accessibility – with products now readily available in UK supermarkets.





## Helping Africa tackle its digital divide

Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are falling behind targets to develop basic telecom infrastructure necessary to enable long-term prosperity for its citizens. As a result, the digital divide separating more rural areas from the African metropolises is a real challenge towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The lack of internet access is a significant barrier to social inclusion and economic empowerment, making everything from education to business innovation to financial services more difficult to attain. Additionally, internet access can help economies leapfrog certain technologies all together – skipping digitally ahead. For example, [digital/mobile banking is one of the first types of formalised financial services](#) for a large proportion of the current population.

### EXAMPLE HOLDING

#### MTN



MTN is an emerging market mobile products and services provider, covering geographies across Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. [Lower-income and/or rural customers make up around 70% of the company's 251 million subscribers.](#) Through corporate bonds, the company is raising proceeds to build telecommunications infrastructure across the African continent, and to invest in breaking other barriers of access. MTN's [corporate strategy to enhance digital connectivity and reduce digital divides](#) includes coverage, affordability of physical handsets and data-plans, as well as education on the technology's applications.

The company has demonstrated progress on all of these themes, including training [3 million people in digital literacy and reducing the cost of entry-level data packages by 60% in 2 years.](#) The investment in new infrastructure from the bond proceeds will contribute to the expected doubling of its customer base by 2025 and narrowing Africa's digital divide.

### FUND IN FOCUS

#### Wellington Global Impact Bond Fund

#### WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT®

MTN received investments in their bond issue from the Wellington Impact Bond fund, which is a global fixed income strategy targeting 'impact bonds'. These are bonds raised by corporates, governments and organisations to contribute additional positive solutions to the greatest societal and environmental challenges. Another investment in the fund that is tackling the digital divide is the Indian telecommunications company [Bharti Airtel.](#)



Want to learn more about the UN Goals, and why we use them? Take a look at our annual Impact Report – and calculate the impact of your own portfolio online – at: [eqinvestors.co.uk](http://eqinvestors.co.uk)

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Risk warning

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The Positive Impact Portfolios are available in seven different risk profiles, of which three are shown here. Inception dates may vary: please see factsheets for full details.

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