

CEO Message.

Vincent Hamelink

Chief Executive Officer,
Candriam

The current global economic and geopolitical landscape remains as uncertain as ever. While the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic are fading into memory, the Russia-Ukraine war tragically continues and new conflicts have emerged in the Middle East. Even the stabilisation of leading economies and the retreat of inflation, though positive, leave many uncertainties about the next phase of global development. Additionally, the signs of destructive climate change continue to mount.

To build a secure and sustainable future for the global community, it is imperative that we maintain our commitment to ambitious environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals.

Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report details Candriam's progress in 2023 towards these objectives, reflected in our operational standards, investment approach and commitment to our clients, employees and society as a whole.

Our long-term vision 'Investing for Tomorrow', places these goals at the heart of our organisation, not merely as an added extra but as guiding principles for our business.

The climate agenda remains one of the most pressing challenges facing our planet. In 2023, we continued our progress towards our target of reducing the carbon intensity of our SFDR article 9 and a subset of our article 8 strategies by 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050, guided by our Climate Policy. However, the environmental challenges extend far beyond climate. We also joined the Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and delivered our first report demonstrating our compliance with the UK Financial Reporting Council's Stewardship Code. These efforts underscore our commitment to working alongside other industry leaders and regulatory bodies to enhance ESG standards.

The standards we apply to our investment portfolios are ones we strive to match within our business. While comparing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from 2020–2022 is complicated by the unprecedented economic lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report that our GHG emissions across our full value chain are substantially lower than their pre-pandemic levels, as is our waste output.

Our employees' talent, career progression and wellbeing are vital to our CSR strategy, and we continue to invest in their development and ensure a healthy and supportive working environment. Our commitment to nurturing a new generation of responsible investment



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professionals also extends beyond our business. The Candriam Academy offers free accredited training in ESG, and its membership continued to expand in 2023, reaching 14,500 members across 79 countries.

Through our philanthropic activities, we aim to make a positive contribution to solving challenges far beyond our own industry. The Candriam Institute for Sustainable Development, funded by a portion of the net management fees from some of our key sustainable strategies, supports projects that restore fragile ecosystems, foster education and social inclusion and advance innovative cancer research. One significant

project completed in 2023 was the restoration of over 500 hectares of mangroves in Casamance, Senegal, equivalent to planting two million seedlings.

Corporate social responsibility takes many forms – action on climate change, social inclusion and good corporate stewardship, to name but a few. Tackling these issues is essential if we are to ensure a future for our planet and communities that is sustainable, resilient and that delivers opportunity and prosperity for tomorrow.

As this report demonstrates, it is a responsibility that Candriam embraces and fights for in every aspect of our business and beyond.