

mandate

Driving the deals for asset management

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Living Planet forges ecological alliance with UBS

UBS Global Asset Management in Zurich has been appointed by the Living Planet Fund Management Company to manage global large-cap equities using environmental, social and ethical criteria for a new Luxembourg-based investment fund.

The Living Planet Fund was launched in July with €9m under licence from the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), which provides the investment guidelines, but

does not select any securities.

Mr Chiew Chong, director of WWF International, said that UBS won the mandate for its "experience in running environmental investments".

He added: "The benchmark is the MSCI World Equity Index rather than a sustainability index because of the belief that in the long run investments with environmental and social screens will perform as well, if not better, than 'normal' investments."

While UK-based Franklin Templeton Investment Management was appointed as a second portfolio manager to the Living Planet Fund, Mr Chong said: "Franklin got delayed, so we went ahead with UBS while Franklin is in the pending-if-we-can mode."

UBS in Luxembourg will provide custody, administration and transfer agency services to the Living Planet Fund.

Mr Chong said the fund will be distributed first in Germany and later in France.

He pointed to plans to launch a complementary fixed income sub-fund in the near future, followed by separate water and energy sub-funds over the coming years.

The fund, which will be quoted on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, has retail and institutional share classes, with minimums of €1000 and €500,000 respectively.