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EIRIS Financial Adviser Bulletin

Latest EIRIS research finds that companies are not doing enough to protect rights of indigenous people

['Indigenous rights, indigenous wrongs: risks for resource sectors'](#) explores the challenges and opportunities faced by companies operating in areas where they may threaten the rights of indigenous people. The report finds that whilst some companies are addressing indigenous rights issues, none of the companies researched are going far enough. "Indigenous rights are a human rights issue that both companies and their investors are waking up to" said Stephanie Maier, Head of Research at EIRIS. See www.eiris.org

Aberdeen to launch Responsible World Equity Fund

Aberdeen Asset Management's new fund will utilise negative screens (including production and/or sale of alcohol, tobacco or pornographic products, gambling, military and weapons). The fund will also use an ethical engagement overlay in the areas of corporate governance, the environment and labour/human rights, to make up its positive screening process. Investors will be able to access the new Sicav via US dollar and Euro denominated share classes. See www.aberdeen-asset.com

HSBC announces launch of new Climate Change Fund

HSBC Investments Global Climate Change Fund aims to invest in companies that benefit from addressing, combating, or developing solutions to, climate change. The fund will use the group's recently launched Global Climate Change index as a benchmark. Subject to regulatory approval, the fund will launch on 9 November as part of HSBS'c Sicav range – with UK distributor status. See www.hsbc.com

Allianz to launch Environmental Technology Fund

Allianz Global Investors RCM Global Eco Trends Fund aims to invest a minimum of 75% of its assets in shares of international companies involved in the provision of green energy, pollution control and clean water. Subject to FSA approval, the UK OEIC will be launched on 14 February 2008. See www.allianzglobalinvestors.com

Virgin Money to launch new Climate Change Fund

Virgin Money's Climate Change Leaders Fund will focus on companies 'at the forefront of reducing their environmental footprint'. Launched in January 2008, the fund will be benchmarked against the MSCI Europe Index and will focus mainly on holdings in the

UK and Continental Europe although managers will be free to look further overseas. See www.virginmoney.com

Catalyst Investments and Stargate Capital Management launches Green EIS Fund

Launched on 15 October, the Catalyst Stargate EIS Green Fund will target EIS qualifying growth companies whose activities are compatible with sustainable development. Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is a government initiative which encourages investment in small, unquoted companies. See www.catalystinvestment.co.uk

ABN AMRO makes sustainability information available to the public

Investors can now access the ABN AMRO website to see how 400 listed companies score on the group's specially designed sustainability indicator. The sustainability indicator is a relative measure designed to illustrate the extent to which a company's activities are sustainable in comparison with the average for its sector. See www.abnamro.com

FairPensions survey reveals lack of transparency on green and social issues

FairPension's Fund Manager Responsibility Survey reveals that 75% of the top 20 fund managers do not disclose responsible investor policies that address environmental and social issues, such as climate change and human rights, as well as corporate governance matters. Of those surveyed, only 5 fund management companies publicly disclosed a detailed policy covering environmental, social and governance issues. The companies included in the survey together manage 7 trillion pounds on behalf of clients including individual investors, occupational pension funds and charities. See www.fairpensions.org.uk

New economics foundation (nef) publishes report on ethical financial services

[*Going Green? How financial services are failing ethical consumers*](#) examines how effectively the financial services industry is catering to the ever-increasing demand for ethical financial services. The report finds that ethical financial services are failing to keep pace with rising consumer demand; the sector is yet to overcome the key challenges needed to become mainstream; and the ambition of ethical finance initiatives stills falls far short of achieving the kind of impact most ethical consumers would like. See www.neweconomics.org

Triodos publishes report on consumer attitudes to green finance

[*How Green is Your Money?*](#) suggests that despite record levels of ethical spending, choosing to bank ethically 'has become the gap in the green consumer's armoury'. The research set out to investigate why those people who hold deeply green attitudes and values, who live ethical lifestyles and who are aware that they can bank ethically, choose not to do so. Despite recognising that saving green had the potential to make positive change happen, participants in the study blamed a lack of services, inadequate information, and apathy for their decision not to bank ethically. See www.activatemoney.com

And finally.....

BBC's Working Lunch features ethical finance

Aired on 4 October, the programme featured an item on ethical current account and investment options currently available to consumers. Mark Robertson of EIRIS was interviewed with regard to ethical investment funds. The piece can be downloaded from the BBC website. See www.bbc.co.uk

EIRIS is recruiting

EIRIS is looking for two Client Relationship Managers to join its growing client team to assist with winning new business and managing existing and new client accounts. One post will focus primarily on Scandinavian accounts but also some in the UK and the other post will focus on dealing with UK accounts but assisting with non-UK accounts as required. See www.eiris.org or email jobs@eiris.org for further information and details of how to apply.

Disclaimer: EIRIS is pleased to publish news of new products & services in the ethical/SRI field, however it does not make any recommendations about them and does not verify the claims they make. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this bulletin, EIRIS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.