

# Stewardship Highlights



# Overview

2020 will go down as the year in which environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters came into focus for the investment industry. Stewardship and sustainable investment practices are now mainstream requirements in the global financial services sector. It is no longer sufficient for investment managers to solely consider the two dimensions of risk and return. The consideration of the impact that companies have on their external environment has become a key factor in the investment decision-making and engagement processes.

For us at Coronation, this is nothing new, as the imperative to act as responsible stewards of our clients' capital has long been part of our investment DNA.

This report provides a summary of Coronation's stewardship activities during 2020.

Access our full 2020 Stewardship Report here.

## **ENGAGEMENT AND VOTING**

Our active ownership activities included investee company engagements, proxy voting and collaboration on a variety of ESG themes.

A year of intense engagement



# Voting in line with our principles



## KEY THEMES TACKLED



THE INVESTMENT IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMPANIES AND SOCIETY



#### RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP IN A TIME OF CRISIS



DRIVING GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE



SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING





# **Stewardship at Coronation**



# OUR PURPOSE

To deliver superior long-term investment outcomes to our clients as responsible stewards of their capital.

# **ACTING AS FIDUCIARIES**

We have been fulfilling our fiduciary duty to act as responsible stewards of our clients' capital for nearly 30 years. Investing in a responsible and sustainable manner is embedded in our DNA.



# **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

We are an active, valuation driven investor with a primary focus on the long-term prospects of the assets in which we invest. We believe that responsible corporate behaviour drives long-term success and that companies that manage their ESG exposure effectively are more likely to create sustainable value for stakeholders. Therefore, the integration of ESG factors into our investment process leads to more informed investment decisions and better long-term outcomes.



# OUR STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

We are active owners that aim to influence positive change through meaningful engagement on important ESG issues. This approach is fully aligned to our long-term investment philosophy. Our approach extends across all asset classes, including equities and fixed income, and across all geographies in which we invest.

# **OUR APPROACH TO ESG**

Our approach to ESG is underpinned by three core pillars of integration, engagement and collaboration.





# **Diversity and inclusion**

2020 was a watershed year for many reasons, including the enhanced focus on diversity and inclusion. This has become one of the most pressing topics in the asset management industry, both within our own sector and for the companies in which we invest.

There are numerous research studies that continue to show the benefits of diverse and well-balanced workforces and the manner in which they positively contribute to a company's long-term success. An inclusive culture that leverages diverse views effectively will be an important element in determining a firm's success.

Coronation's diverse community of individuals and our integrated culture have always been a key part of who we are. We are proud that our representations across all categories score well above global averages. The work is never done and we continue to push for progress.



# Our diversity in numbers\*

\* South African-based employees as at end-December 2020



# **Engagement activity**

\* \* \*

Meaningful engagement with investee companies is one of the most effective ways of driving positive change. Effective engagement drives responsible corporate behaviour, which, in turn, leads to greater sustainability and, ultimately, higher long-term returns for our clients.

As a research-driven, fundamental manager, we regularly interact with all of the companies in our investment universe. In 2020, we had 256 engagements with 121 companies covering 25 themes. Interactions with companies on material issues often require ongoing dialogue and almost half of our current engagements are ongoing. For those engagements that did reach resolution during the year, more than 75% were positive. Not surprisingly, Covid-19 was a priority focus area, with engagements covering over 360 companies across the full spectrum of related issues.

# Key engagement themes

**Response to Covid-19:** Reassessed and engaged every full-coverage stock in our universe to understand the business impact of the pandemic and the nature of their crisis response strategies. This included assessing the financial and operational measures taken to protect their businesses, as well as stakeholder management.



**Carbon disclosures:** Advocated for reliable and consistent climaterelated disclosure. We sent letters to 89 JSE-listed companies urging them to adopt the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework.



**Board composition:** Engaged investee companies on matters such as board independence and the diversity, competence, skills and effectiveness of directors.



**Remuneration:** Assessed the adequacy of remuneration policies in order to ensure an appropriate balance between short- and long-term incentives, and alignment between the interests of management and stakeholders.



**Corporate governance practices:** Advocated for improved corporate governance practices and addressed areas of material concern.



**Shareholder value:** Identified areas where action is required by investee companies to unlock or enhance shareholder value. This included capital allocation strategies, dividend policies, corporate actions and other drivers of shareholder value.







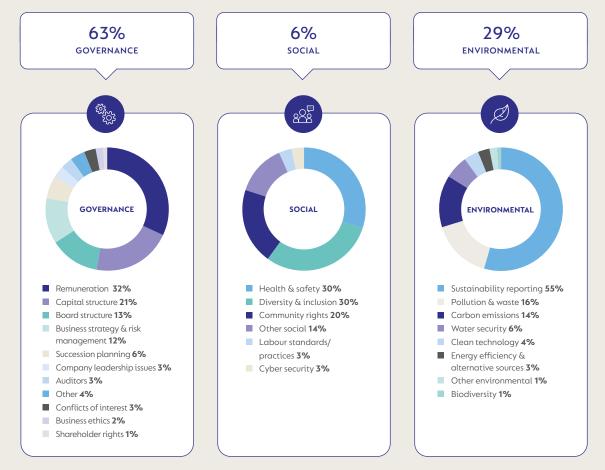


Increase in engagements on environmental matters

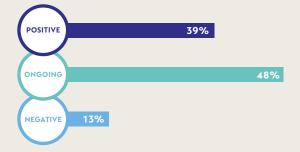




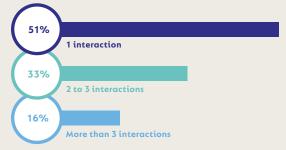
# **ENGAGEMENTS BY THEME**



# ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



# NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH A COMPANY





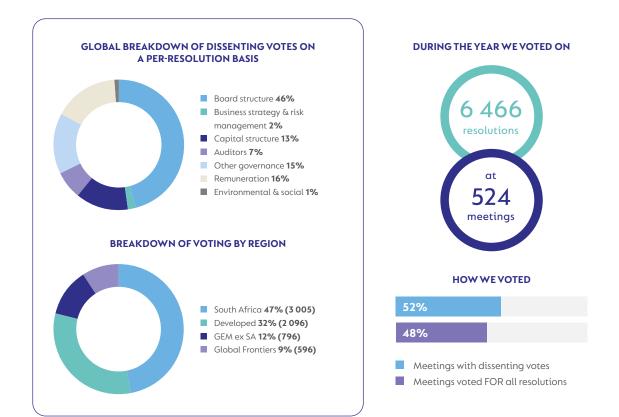
# Voting activity in 2020

#### **Active ownership**

Proxy voting is an integral part of our stewardship responsibilities and an important way in which we are able to exercise our ownership rights. We have been voting on behalf of our clients' portfolios since our inception in 1993.

Constructive, pre-emptive engagement and resolution are preferable to formulaic voting at general meetings. We believe that exercising a proxy without prior engagement is contrary to the company's, and, therefore, our investors' best interests. In general, voting against resolutions is a last resort and not something that we do lightly.

Last year, we voted at 524 meetings covering 6 466 resolutions. We recorded at least one dissenting vote at 52% of these meetings.





# **VOTING STATISTICS PER REGION**

# **SOUTH AFRICA**

In 2020, we made voting recommendations on 3 005 resolutions at 195 meetings, of which 109 meetings contained dissenting votes.

#### HOW WE VOTED:



Meetings with dissenting votes 56% Meetings voted FOR all resolutions 44%

#### **BREAKDOWN OF DISSENTING VOTES ON A PER-RESOLUTION BASIS**

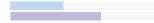




# **EMERGING MARKETS (EX-SOUTH AFRICA)**

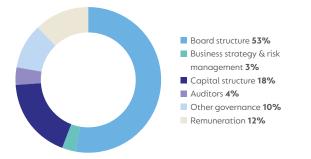
In 2020, we made voting recommendations on 796 resolutions at 97 meetings, of which 36 meetings contained dissenting votes.

#### HOW WE VOTED:



Meetings with dissenting votes 37% Meetings voted FOR all resolutions 63%

#### BREAKDOWN OF DISSENTING VOTES ON A PER-RESOLUTION BASIS



# **DEVELOPED MARKETS**

In 2020, we made voting recommendations on 2 096 resolutions at 158 meetings, of which 81 meetings contained dissenting votes.

BREAKDOWN OF DISSENTING VOTES ON A PER-RESOLUTION BASIS

#### HOW WE VOTED:



Meetings with dissenting votes 51% Meetings voted FOR all resolutions 49%

> Board structure **39%** Business strategy & risk

management 2%

Auditors 3%

Capital structure 18%

Other governance 8%

Remuneration 22% Environmental & social 8%

# **GLOBAL FRONTIER MARKETS**

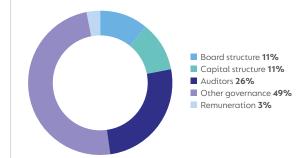
In 2020, we made voting recommendations on 569 resolutions at 74 meetings, of which 25 meetings contained dissenting votes.

#### HOW WE VOTED:



Meetings with dissenting votes 34% Meetings voted FOR all resolutions 66%

## BREAKDOWN OF DISSENTING VOTES ON A PER-RESOLUTION BASIS





# **Tackling climate change**

Climate change is a material investment risk that we factor into our investment process. We use our three-pronged approach of integration, engagement and collaboration to tackle climate-related risks in our portfolios.

Real progress toward emissions reduction is only made when companies change the way in which they operate on the ground. We aim to drive decarbonisation through active engagement with investee companies to help drive real-world change. When we engage on important environmental issues, we do so by carefully considering the possible unintended consequences.

#### Disclosure

The lack of reliable and consistent climate-related data is a key area of concern for investors around the world. Robust, comparable and reliable climate-related disclosure is essential for company analysis and to provide portfolio-level views of climate-related risks and exposures.

We use the Task Force on Climate-related Disclosures (TCFD) framework to help manage information. We encourage investee companies to adopt disclosure practices that are in line with the TCFD's recommendations.



We supported proposals	that encouraged improve	d climate disclosures tal	oled by other investors:
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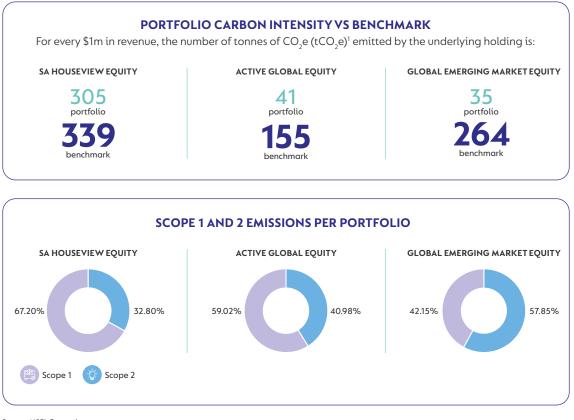
#### **CLIMATE SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS**

Company	Shareholder proposal
YUM Brands Inc.	Report on supply chain impact on deforestation
ABSA Group Ltd.	Provide shareholders with an initial assessment of the company's exposure to climate risk
Nedbank Group	Adopt and publicly disclose an energy policy

#### Carbon reporting on our portfolios

We reported on the carbon intensity of our strategies for the first time in 2020. This is the estimated number of tonnes of carbon emitted for every \$1 million in revenue generated by the portfolio's underlying holdings. This calculation includes Scope 1 emissions (produced directly by a company's activities) as well as Scope 2 emissions (relating to the electricity that a company consumes). All strategies, at present, have carbon exposure levels below that of their respective benchmarks. These values should be looked at in tandem with the regular engagements we have to understand how companies plan to reduce their emissions.



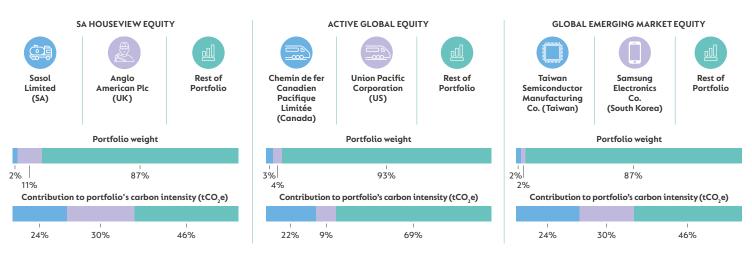


Sources: MSCI, Coronation

Within these portfolios, we do have exposure to businesses that would be considered to be carbon intensive. We are comfortable with these holdings as we have engaged with them in a proactive manner about the path forward in reducing their carbon emissions in a just and responsible manner.

## LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS TO PORTFOLIO CARBON INTENSITY

Contribution to total portfolio intensity



Sources: MSCI, Coronation

<sup>1</sup> Carbon dioxide equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e is the number of metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions with the same global warming potential as one metric tonne of another greenhouse gas



# **Collaborating with others**

As an active investor, we believe in proactively participating in shaping an environment that:

- protects the long-term interests of asset owners, and
- promotes collaboration in support of a sustainable and diverse investment industry that serves the best interests of the societies in which we operate.

We are key contributors to the activities of the Association of Savings and Investments South Africa (ASISA), whose role is to ensure the sustainability and relevance of the investment industry for the benefit of the country and its citizens.

In addition, we are a member/signatory of a number of local and global organisations that are driving for positive change in the asset management arena to the benefit of investors and society.



## **CORONATION'S 2020 PRI ASSESSMENT REPORT CARD**

	2020	
Module name	Coronation	Median
Strategy & Governance	A+	А
Listed Equity - Incorporations	A+	А
Listed Equity – Active Ownership	A+	В
Fixed Income – Sovereign, Supranational and Agency	A+	В
Fixed Income – Corporate Financial	A+	В
Fixed Income – Corporate Non-Financial	A+	В

Sources: PRI, Coronation



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