**ESG Investing Awards 2023 – Polar Capital – Best ESG Investment Fund (Emerging markets)**

**Please describe in not more than 300 words why your company is deserving of your chosen award category.**

The Polar Capital Emerging Market Stars Fund is founded on a strong belief that investing in sustainable companies will generate long-term alpha and outperformance. ESG analysis is fully integrated into the team’s distinct investment process, developed since April 2011, and shown to generate alpha in vastly different environments.

Their approach considers the strategic (impact on progress), operational (material ESG) and moral (business ethics) ways a company manages sustainability alongside long-term risks and opportunities they may represent.

**Impact on progress**: They ascribe to the truism ‘the best way to predict the future is to create it’, seeking to understand companies’ strategic direction and how they invest for the betterment of economic, environment and social development.

**Material ESG**: Taking the perspective of all stakeholders, and using a proprietary model that maps material ESG factors to each industry, they score companies on a consideration of unmanaged risk and opportunity exposures for business operations.

**Business ethics**: looks at the moral aspects of business risk which can have a significant impact.

Integrating ESG and sustainability allows them to consider which companies are best positioned to both enable and benefit from future development. This means ESG, fundamental and financial analysis are conducted by the same members of the investment team who have expert company and domain knowledge.

They believe this level of expertise and interaction, together with an unencumbered information flow to a single team makes them best placed to integrate thoughtful appraisals of material ESG risks and opportunities and the impact on an investment case, with conviction.

The lead manager, Jorry Nøddekær, has been investing in emerging markets for two decades, having worked on one of the first emerging market funds to apply ESG-based exclusions.