# THE CAPCO INSTITUTE JOURNAL OF FINANCIAL TRANSFORMATION

ESG

Prudential treatment of ESG risk
GUILLAUME CAMPAGNE | LEA RIZK

# CRISIS MANAGEMENT

#57 APRIL 2023



# THE CAPCO INSTITUTE

# JOURNAL OF FINANCIAL TRANSFORMATION

# RECIPIENT OF THE APEX AWARD FOR PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE

## **Editor**

Shahin Shojai, Global Head, Capco Institute

# **Advisory Board**

Michael Ethelston, Partner, Capco Farzine Fazel, Partner, Capco Anne-Marie Rowland, Partner, Capco

# **Editorial Board**

**Franklin Allen,** Professor of Finance and Economics and Executive Director of the Brevan Howard Centre, Imperial College London and Professor Emeritus of Finance and Economics, the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Philippe d'Arvisenet, Advisor and former Group Chief Economist, BNP Paribas

Rudi Bogni, former Chief Executive Officer, UBS Private Banking

Bruno Bonati, Former Chairman of the Non-Executive Board, Zuger Kantonalbank, and President, Landis & Gyr Foundation

Dan Breznitz, Munk Chair of Innovation Studies, University of Toronto

Urs Birchler, Professor Emeritus of Banking, University of Zurich

Elena Carletti, Professor of Finance and Dean for Research, Bocconi University, Non-Executive Director, Unicredit Spa

Lara Cathcart, Associate Professor of Finance, Imperial College Business School

Géry Daeninck, former CEO, Robeco

Jean Dermine, Professor of Banking and Finance, INSEAD

Douglas W. Diamond, Merton H. Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance, University of Chicago

Elroy Dimson, Emeritus Professor of Finance, London Business School

Nicholas Economides, Professor of Economics, New York University

Michael Enthoven, Chairman, NL Financial Investments

José Luis Escrivá, President, The Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF), Spain

George Feiger, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Aston Business School

Gregorio de Felice, Head of Research and Chief Economist, Intesa Sanpaolo

Maribel Fernandez, Professor of Computer Science, King's College London

Allen Ferrell, Greenfield Professor of Securities Law, Harvard Law School

Peter Gomber, Full Professor, Chair of e-Finance, Goethe University Frankfurt

Wilfried Hauck, Managing Director, Statera Financial Management GmbH

Pierre Hillion, The de Picciotto Professor of Alternative Investments, INSEAD

Andrei A. Kirilenko, Reader in Finance, Cambridge Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

Katja Langenbucher, Professor of Banking and Corporate Law, House of Finance, Goethe University Frankfurt

Mitchel Lenson, Former Group Chief Information Officer, Deutsche Bank

David T. Llewellyn, Professor Emeritus of Money and Banking, Loughborough University

Eva Lomnicka, Professor of Law, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London

Donald A. Marchand, Professor Emeritus of Strategy and Information Management, IMD

Colin Mayer, Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies, Oxford University

Francesca Medda, Professor of Applied Economics and Finance, and Director of UCL Institute of Finance

& Technology, University College London

Pierpaolo Montana, Group Chief Risk Officer, Mediobanca

John Taysom, Visiting Professor of Computer Science, UCL

D. Sykes Wilford, W. Frank Hipp Distinguished Chair in Business, The Citadel

# CONTENTS

# FINANCIAL

08 Managing the uncertainties of cybersecurity

Martijn Dekker, Visiting Professor of Information Security, University of Amsterdam, Global Chief Information Security Officer, ABN AMRO Bank N.V.

14 Finance in revolutionary times

Paul Donovan, Chief Economist, UBS Global Wealth Management

20 Fostering digital operational resilience in the financial sector in Europe (DORA compliance)

Alexandre Vandeput, Principal Consultant, Capco

28 Do AI+VR surveillance technologies improve inclusion or make us boiling frogs?

Christine Chow, Head of Stewardship, HSBC Asset Management
Nicholas Dowell, Global Equity Portfolio Manager, HSBC Asset Management

36 Personal Identity Insurance: Coverage and pricing in the U.S.

Daniel W. Woods, Lecturer in Cyber Security, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

# REGULATION

# 48 Sustainable finance regulation – authoritative governance or market-based governance for fund management?

Iris H-Y Chiu, Professor of Corporate Law and Financial Regulation, University College London

# 62 The danger of linear thinking in regulatory oversight: Financial regulators must improve risk-detection systems amid digital transformation

Jo Ann S. Barefoot, CEO, Alliance for Innovative Regulation

### 70 Understanding beneficial ownership disclosure

Paul M. Gilmour, Lecturer in Criminal Justice and Policing, University of Portsmouth

### 78 Regulatory reporting - the road ahead

Tei Patel, Partner, Capco

Mehak Nagpal, Principal Consultant, Capco

# 84 Did insurers become risk-loving during "low-for-long"? The role of returns, ratings, and regulation

Jeroen Brinkhoff, Senior Economist, De Nederlandsche Bank, The Netherlands

Juan Solé, Principal Economist, European Stability Mechanism (ESM)

### 94 Open Finance in Europe: What is coming and why it matters

Emanuel van Praag, Professor of Financial Technology and Law, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and attorney-at-law, Kennedy Van der Laan

Eugerta Muçi, PhD Candidate - Open Finance, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam

# ESG

### 110 The fundamental problem with ESG? Conflicting letters

Christos Cabolis, Chief Economist, IMD World Competitiveness Center

Maude Lavanchy, Research Fellow, IMD

Karl Schmedders, Professor of Finance, IMD

# 118 Transitioning to a low carbon economy – (re)insuring climate change and potential business risks and opportunities

Jonathan Gale, Chief Underwriting Officer, Reinsurance, AXA XL

Andrew MacFarlane, Head of Climate, AXA XL

### 124 Prudential treatment of ESG risk

Guillaume Campagne, Executive Director and Financial Risk Practice Lead, Capco

Lea Rizk, Consultant, Capco

# 130 ESG commitment, social impact, and a strong focus on climate: The Business Plan formula sets out Intesa Sanpaolo's new strategy

Elena Flor, Group Head of ESG and Sustainability, Intesa Sanpaolo

### 138 Is climate change another obstacle to economic development?

Marion Amiot, Head of Climate Economics, S&P Global Ratings

Satyam Panday, Chief Emerging Market Economist, S&P Global Ratings



DEAR READER,

Recent events in the U.S. banking sector, and broader concerns around instability and contagion within the global financial services industry, have meant that crisis management is once more front of mind for many institutions.

In addition, the world of business and finance is facing broader geopolitical and socioeconomic challenges, ranging from conflict, climate change, inflationary pressures, and precarious energy resources. Factor in heightened regulatory and competitive pressures, and it becomes clear that financial institutions must prioritize risk management, within their own organizations and with their counterparties.

The papers in this edition of the Journal address the theme of crisis management through various lenses, including regulatory compliance and traditional risk management, as well ESG, the low carbon economy, and sustainable finance. Our authors also explore topics such as the impact of social change on the world of finance, the rise of artificial intelligence and virtual reality technologies, and cybersecurity.

Contributions in this edition come from a range of world-class experts across industry and academia, and showcase some of the very best expertise, independent thinking, and strategic insights within the financial services sector.

As ever, I hope that you find the latest edition of the Capco Journal to be engaging and informative. Thank you to all our contributors, and thank you for reading.

1

Lance Levy, Capco CEO

# PRUDENTIAL TREATMENT OF ESG RISK

GUILLAUME CAMPAGNE | Executive Director and Financial Risk Practice Lead, Capco

LEA RIZK | Consultant. Capco

# **ARSTRACT**

In May 2022, the European Banking Authority (EBA) published a discussion paper with the aim of evaluating the appropriateness of the current prudential framework to accurately assess the rising risks resulting from environmental issues. A key question the discussion paper seeks to address is: does the current Pillar 1 framework adequately cover new risks, such as environmental risk, or should they be subjected to a new dedicated treatment? In this article, we present the key concepts of environmental risk and examine the EBA's analysis of the interaction between environmental risks and the traditional prudential risk categories — such as credit, market, operational, and concentration risks — in order to determine whether the tools used for the latter could be modified to manage the former. We further outline the key actions firms need to take to prepare themselves for a potentially binding Pillar 1 treatment, while awaiting further regulatory guidance.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In May 2022, the European Banking Authority (EBA) published a discussion paper¹ with the aim of evaluating whether the current Pillar 1 framework adequately covers new risks, such as environmental risk, or whether they should be subjected to a dedicated treatment. This article presents the key concepts of environmental risk and examines the EBA's analysis of the interaction between environmental risks and the traditional prudential risk categories – such as credit, market, operational, and concentration – in order to determine whether the tools used for the latter could be modified to manage the former.

# 1.1 Environmental risk – overview and key challenges

Environmental risks are by nature multidimensional, non-linear, uncertain, and forward-looking. Despite the uncertainties, environmental risks could be linked to the classic categories of financial risk through a range of transmission channels (Figure 1), and as such, they should not be considered as a separate category of financial risks.

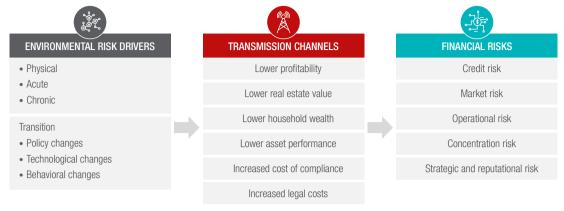
The main challenges in measuring environmental risks revolve around three major axes:

- Data availability: the risk classification and analysis
  are limited by the lack of data that is relevant, consistent,
  of high quality, and sufficiently granular. With time, data
  will become less of an issue as the E.U. taxonomy, the
  Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and
  other disclosure requirements are rolled out.
- Estimation of losses: the prudential framework is calibrated based on historical data, which is unlikely to fully reflect environmental risks, given the lack of sufficient or comparable information about losses due to climaterelated events or transition trends.
- Nature of most environmental risks: there is a mismatch between the time horizon of the Pillar 1 framework (designed to capture the possible extent of cyclical economic fluctuations) and the long-term time horizon over which environmental risks are likely to fully materialize.

One of the key messages from the discussion paper is that to make the necessary adaptations to capture environmental risks within the structure of the prudential framework, it is important to keep in mind that the framework's sole objective is to strengthen institutions' resilience to all risks. The purpose of the prudential framework should not be to incentivize

<sup>1</sup> https://bit.ly/3D1i5XE

Figure 1: How environmental risks affect financial risks through various (non-exhaustive) transmission channels



Source: EBA, 2022, "The role of environmental risks in the prudential framework," EBA discussion paper no. 2022/02

Figure 2: How to integrate environmental risks within the standardized approach of the credit risk framework

	T00L	ACTIONABILITY	LIMITATIONS / POTENTIAL UPSIDE
factors are one o	assessment (ECA) — ESG if the criteria taken into the rating assessment	+	<ul> <li>Ambiguity over the methodology and analysis adopted by credit rating agencies (CRA) to capture environmental factors</li> <li>Covering environmental aspects is not compulsory under CRA regulation leading to discrepancies</li> <li>Ongoing initiatives to enhance environmental disclosure requirements and ensure transparency on ESG rating methodologies</li> </ul>
ESG factors to valuation particu     secured by imm	gation (CRM) techniques be captured via collaterals' larly for exposures novable properties can be impacted by ition risks	++	• Valuation methodologies and monitoring do not explicitly integrate environmental aspects     • CRR3 proposal clarifies that energy efficiency improvements unequivocally increase the property value     • Valuations will get better over time with data, standards and methodologies improvements
corporate and re factors to be cap sub-exposure cla	weights (focus on tail exposures) – ESG tured via a specific ass. Any adjustment a should be risk-based	-	<ul> <li>Lack of empirical evidence on risk differentials.</li> <li>Adaptation of risk weight for retail exposures would be particularly challenging</li> <li>Collecting further evidence (historical data, empirical research, etc.) on the risk differentials to be applied</li> </ul>

institutions to redirect capital and lending, as this could negatively impact the framework's efficiency and undermine its credibility.

For that reason, the EBA adopted a risk-based approach to assess whether prudential requirements adequately reflect environmental risks and ultimately support institutions' resilience to such risks. It must also be noted that Pillar 1 is only one component of the prudential framework, which relies on the Pillar 2 entity-specific own-fund requirements, macroprudential capital buffers, and provision requirements from the accounting framework.

# 2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRADITIONAL RISKS

Focusing on credit and market risks, the EBA discussion paper examines the different mechanisms (depending on whether the standard or internal model approach is used) through which environmental risk drivers could be captured within the current Pillar 1 framework and what adjustments may be necessary. Below, we examine each risk type in turn, summarizing the suitability of tools that could be activated to integrate environmental risk.

# 2.1 Credit risk

Credit risk is by far the most significant risk-weighted asset (RWA) component of the prudential framework. Mechanisms to integrate environmental risks into the framework depend on whether institutions apply the standardized or internal ratings-based approach.

The standardized approach is prescriptive and more simplified, thus any adjustments to integrate environmental risk drivers should avoid undue complexity. The EBA recognizes that environmental risks should be better reflected in the framework, which may be achieved through the following existing tools: external credit assessment, credit risk mitigation (collateral valuation), and prescribed risk weights (Figure 2).

Even if some modifications might need to be applied to credit risk mitigation techniques, they may be the least complex tool to use, as environmental risks may already be captured by collateral valuation.

External credit assessment is more of a mid- to long-term tool, as some improvements are necessary to guarantee the robustness and transparency of credit assessments. In its response to the EBA's discussion paper, the European Banking Federation (EBF)<sup>2</sup> suggested that improvements in ESG-related data quality is a priority. Improved data quality would allow credit rating agencies (CRAs) to better challenge their credit risk analyses, which in turn could lead to enhanced due diligence. Enhanced and robust methodologies should also prevent institutions from cherry-picking the most favourable credit rating, which may be based on less sound guidelines (where ESG factors are not adequately taken into account).

Figure 3: How to integrate environmental risks within the "internal rating-based" approach of the credit risk framework

	T00L	ACTIONABILITY	LIMITATIONS / POTENTIAL UPSIDE
INTERNAL RATINGS-BASED APPROACH	Adding additional risk drivers to the <b>risk</b> <b>differentiation</b> step	-	Model performance could be hindered if environmental risks not materialized yet via historical credit losses are integrated     Future defaults/losses may not be predicted by models entirely based on historical data     Ad-hoc conservatism doesn't easily tackle the uncertainty on risk differentiation as it could impede homogeneity within grades and pools     Model's design allows to capture environmental risks through expert-based qualitative variables as the IRB model is not based exclusively on optimization of quantitative performance metrics
	Adding environmental considerations to the <b>risk quantification</b> step through add-ons or margin of conservatism (due to data/ model deficiencies)	+	<ul> <li>Calibration of MoC usually based on existing data</li> <li>Any adjustment will apply to all exposures in a grade or pool including those not impacted by environmental drivers</li> <li>Introduction of "calibration segments": separation of risk quantification between exposures impacted by environmental risk drivers and unimpacted exposures.</li> </ul>
	Applying further adjustments either as ad-hoc conservatism or as overrides during the rating application step	-	Overrides are not intended to be a substitute for the model in general     Overrides do not require changes in the risk quantification and could be used as a temporary tool to address specific cases
	Amending the <b>RW formula</b> (change of correlation or systemic risk factors for PD, change of calibration for LGD and CCF in IRB-F approach)	-	<ul> <li>Difficulties defining common and impartial differentiation factors</li> <li>Difficulties calibrating the adjustments and thus ensuring the framework's robustness</li> <li>Double counting may arise as a result of potential adjustments and estimates.</li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://bit.ly/3I1W6BX

Prescribed risk weights are the most complex tool, as incorporating further differentiation is subject to numerous limitations. EBF stated that using risk differentiation in the corporate exposure class may be justified, but that implementation is still unclear and will need to go beyond just the sector level. As for the retail class, EBF acknowledged that risk differentiation may be too complex to establish.

The internal ratings-based approach is by nature much more risk sensitive and thus can embed environmental risks, thanks to its capacity to account for multiple risk drivers and its reliance on expert judgment. The main pitfall would be in how to manage the integration of environmental risk drivers without deterioration in the performance of the current model. The EBA highlights four tools in the credit risk modeling path where

adjustments can be made, emphasizing the institutions' ability to establish a complete "reference dataset" as a prerequisite for ensuring good modeling (Figure 3). Whichever tool is activated, the EBF warns of the reliance of credit risk parameters on observed data and the great complexity of modifying related quantitative formula, such that expert judgment should be recognized to a greater extent to facilitate environmental risk integration.

### 2.2 Market risk

Market risk is typically characterized by a much shorter time horizon than credit risk and makes the integration of environmental risks even more complicated. Both standardized and internal model approaches are relying on the use of

Figure 4: How to integrate environmental risks within the market risk framework

	TOOL	ACTIONABILITY	LIMITATIONS / POTENTIAL UPSIDE
00	Risk weights adjustment through complementing projections or refined buckets (incorporating environmental risk dimension)	-	Using projections based on forward-looking scenarios would be a significant divergence from the existing approach     CRR3 proposal introduces a lower risk weight for the commodity delta risk factor related to carbon emissions trading
SENSITIVITIES-BASED METHOD	Creating a specific risk class or "risk factor type" on top of delta, vega and curvature, or adjust correlations	-	
SENSITIVI	Residual risk add-on (RRAO) framework could be used to capitalize environmental risk without amending the two main building blocks of the framework (SbM and JTD)	+	RRAO is not risk sensitive and its scope would need to be enlarged to comprise simple trading book instruments (currently addresses complex payoffs or exotic underlying only)
	Adjusting historical data to reflect potential future dynamics	-	Such a solution would be intrinsically difficult. It will likely be at the cost of affecting the accuracy of the traditional risk factors' measure
INTERNAL MODEL APPROACH	Dedicated add-on outside the existing framework thus avoid adjusting historical data and avoid adapting regulatory tests	++	<ul> <li>Such a solution will require changes in the regulatory requirements for internal models as they are intended to capture all material risk</li> <li>Similar existing treatment for the case of capturing unpegging event risk (not historically observed) for material FX exposure</li> </ul>
INTERNAL M	Integrating environmental risks into a capital adequacy stress testing program, which is part of the internal model approach's qualitative requirements	+	According to stress test results, institutions would have to implement appropriate actions
	Very complex and/or long-term perspective	+ Complex and	I/or mid- to long-term perspective ++ Not complex and/or short-term perspective

historical data, such that complementing current measures with forward-looking data (adjusting the risk weights for the "sensitivities-based method" (SBM) or historical data for the "internal models approach" (IMA)) would represent a significant divergence from the existing approaches and would likely come at the cost of affecting their accuracy. To overcome this difficulty, as well as the fact that environmental risks are only likely to increase, the EBA is contemplating the use of add-on tools (Figure 4). This might be achieved through either the existing "residual risk add-on" (although it would imply a review of its scope of application) or the calibration of a dedicated add-on.

Regarding the default risk charge, in both standardized and internal ratings-based approaches, the EBA considers that, hypothetically, to capture default risk in the trading book, institutions must replicate the relevant/proposed credit risk solutions.

# 2.3 Operational and concentration risks

Operational risk covers losses of a diverse nature, and all loss types can be triggered by the environmental risks factors (e.g., damage to physical properties and liabilities arising from environmental factors and resulting in legal and conduct risks). The new standard framework for operational

risk relies on two components: internal loss multiplier and business indicator component, although the former is likely to be neutralized in the European framework. Both components are based on historical losses and do not include any forward-looking elements. Such elements could be integrated in the framework in the future once clear evidence of the impact of environmental factors on banks' operational risk and robust data become available. In the meantime, the EBA advocates that institutions should identify environmental factors as triggers of operational risk losses on top of the existing risk taxonomy, in order to assess the materiality and the trend of the operational risks linked to environmental factors.

The Pillar 1 framework does not currently explicitly capture concentration risks resulting from environmental factors. Such integration could rely on the large exposure framework (concentration risk resulting from exposures to an individual client or group of connected clients), although it would need to be revamped to include sectorial and/or geographic dimensions. Alternatively, a new concentration limit for clients significantly exposed to environmental risks could be designed (e.g., limiting the exposure to counterparties subject to high transition risk as a percentage of a bank's Tier 1 total RWAs), but in a very careful manner to avoid undesirable side effects (e.g., decrease of financing for transitioning to environmentally sustainable activities).



# 3. CONCLUSION

So far, the European regulator is logically focusing on Pillars 2 and 3 (through stress testing exercises) to tackle the integration of environmental factors into the prudential framework. Academic research and preliminary regulatory proposals (highlighted by the EBA discussion paper) on the appropriateness of the Pillar 1 framework and its potential adjustments are inconclusive and nothing is set in stone (although the EBA excludes the use of supporting or penalizing factors).

While awaiting further regulatory guidance (as reaffirmed by the ECB in September 2022 at the 9th Banking Union conference),<sup>3</sup> financial institutions should nevertheless prepare themselves for a potentially binding Pillar 1 treatment and initiate the following actions:

 Design a robust environmental data framework and actively work on the data collection and quality, as a necessary (although only partial) prerequisite for any Pillar 1 integration.

- Engage in academic, regulatory, and industry discussions to raise awareness and be up to date with the latest developments.
- Begin exploratory work internally on prioritized items
   (e.g., assessing the relevance of additional risk drivers
   for credit risk differentiation, defining a methodology for
   calibrating overrides, etc.) to accelerate the learning curve
   and prepare the organization for a future implementation.
- Identify opportunities for partnership with other market players, both from within and without the financial services sector (data providers, regtech, fintech, greentech, etc.), in order to benefit from mutual efforts, best practices, and solutions.

<sup>3</sup> https://bit.ly/3D1qo5S

 $\ @$  2023 The Capital Markets Company (UK) Limited. All rights reserved.

This document was produced for information purposes only and is for the exclusive use of the recipient.

This publication has been prepared for general guidance purposes, and is indicative and subject to change. It does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representation or warranty (whether express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication and The Capital Markets Company BVBA and its affiliated companies globally (collectively "Capco") does not, to the extent permissible by law, assume any liability or duty of care for any consequences of the acts or omissions of those relying on information contained in this publication, or for any decision taken based upon it.

# ABOUT CAPCO

Capco, a Wipro company, is a global technology and management consultancy focused in the financial services industry. Capco operates at the intersection of business and technology by combining innovative thinking with unrivalled industry knowledge to fast-track digital initiatives for banking and payments, capital markets, wealth and asset management, insurance, and the energy sector. Capco's cutting-edge ingenuity is brought to life through its award-winning Be Yourself At Work culture and diverse talent.

To learn more, visit www.capco.com or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram.

# WORLDWIDE OFFICES

APAC
Bangalore
Bangkok
Dubai
Gurgaon
Hong Kong
Kuala Lumpur
Mumbai
Pune

Singapore

# **EUROPE** Berlin Bratislava Brussels Dusseldorf Edinburgh Frankfurt Geneva London Munich Paris Vienna Warsaw Zurich

# **NORTH AMERICA** Charlotte Chicago Dallas Hartford Houston **New York** Orlando Toronto Washington, DC **SOUTH AMERICA** São Paulo





