

# Benelux: Nature integration with a focus on opportunities and positive contributions

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**Benelux respondents integrate nature and biodiversity objectives into a higher proportion of their AUM relative to the reported EMEA average**

The proportion of Benelux respondents in our survey\* that have integrated nature or biodiversity objectives into their investment processes (78%) is similar to the reported EMEA average (77%). However Benelux respondents are integrating a higher proportion of their assets under management (AUM), according to survey results. Nearly 50% of Benelux respondents say that nature and biodiversity objectives apply to at least 6% of their AUM, compared with almost 40% of EMEA respondents. More than half of Benelux respondents say that this proportion will increase over the next 12 to 24 months.

## On the hunt for opportunity

When it comes to nature and biodiversity, Benelux respondents seem to be focusing on opportunities in investment. This contrasts with the more risk-driven approach elsewhere in EMEA. Capturing new opportunities presented by innovative solutions is ranked among top three drivers by 71% of Benelux respondents who already integrate nature and biodiversity (compared with 54% across EMEA). Regulatory compliance is also more likely to be a key

**71%**

of Benelux respondents cite capturing new opportunities as one of their top three reasons to integrate nature and biodiversity.

**59%**

of Benelux respondents who currently integrate nature and biodiversity in their investments say sustainable aquaculture and marine ecosystems are a top three priority area for investment.

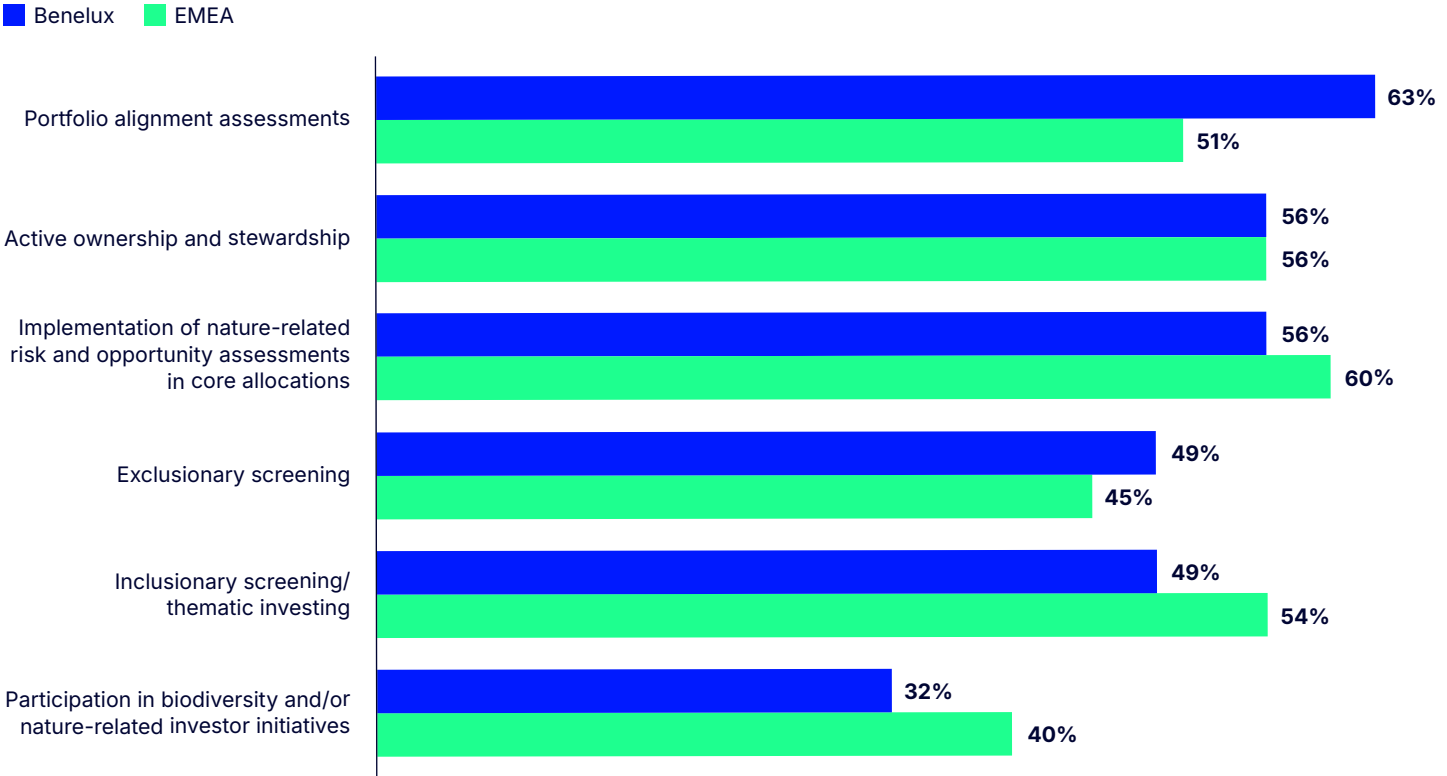
driver for Benelux respondents, with 63% citing this, compared with 53% across EMEA.

For Benelux respondents who already integrate nature and biodiversity in their investments, the areas that attract the most interest are sustainable aquaculture and marine ecosystems (cited by 59%) sustainable forestry and land use (46%) and nature- and biodiversity-linked financial instruments (46%). However, Benelux respondents also note the limited availability of nature- and biodiversity-related investment products; they are most likely to cite this as their top three barriers to integrating nature and biodiversity (49%).

## Focusing on positive contribution

Benelux respondents' focus on opportunity is also reflected in the indicators they choose to incorporate; 76% of those who currently integrate nature and biodiversity cite the incorporation of positive contribution indicators (such as companies aligning

**Figure 1: Nearly two-thirds of Benelux respondents use portfolio alignment assessments as one of their primary tools for incorporating nature and biodiversity**



Source: FT Longitude survey.  
Percentage of survey respondents currently integrating nature and/or biodiversity who cite these as their strategies to integrate nature and/or biodiversity in the investment process.

with UN Sustainable Development Goals, or companies generating revenue from products that have a positive impact on nature). This represents a higher proportion than the reported EMEA average (64%).

To that end, Benelux respondents’ nature-related strategies mainly rely on portfolio alignment assessments, such as measuring how well a portfolio aligns with nature-related targets (Figure 1). This may indicate why Benelux respondents are the most likely across EMEA (78%, compared with a 68% average) to integrate the Science Based Targets Network framework.

**The bottom line**

Many Benelux respondents are integrating nature and biodiversity considerations into investments, driven by opportunities and allocating a higher proportion of their AUM than the reported EMEA average, with a focus on positive contributions indicators.

**\*About the survey**

In May 2025, State Street Investment Management, in collaboration with FT Longitude, surveyed 330 senior investment decision-makers working at asset owners (including pension funds, insurance firms, endowments, and sovereign wealth funds) across the EMEA region (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom). There were 45 Benelux asset owners who participated in this survey. The survey explored how these investors are approaching the challenges and opportunities of integrating nature and biodiversity objectives into their investment portfolios.

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