# **TUNDRA SUSTAINABLE FRONTIER FUND**

## MONTHLY UPDATE JANUARY 2025

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#### **BREATHER AFTER SEVERAL STRONG MONTHS**

In USD the fund declined by 0.9% (EUR: -0.5%) in January, compared to the MSCI FMxGCC Net TR (USD), which rose by 3.3% (EUR: +3.7%), and the MSCI EM Net TR (USD), which increased by 1.5% (EUR: 1.9%). In absolute terms, Morocco (+0.4% portfolio contribution), along with Egypt (+0.4%), Nigeria (+0.3%), and Sri Lanka (+0.3%), contributed positively, while the Philippines (-1.1%), Indonesia (-0.6%), and Pakistan (-0.5%) were the markets that detracted the most. Relative to the index, our overweight positions in Egypt (+0.4% relative portfolio contribution), Nigeria (+0.3%), and Sri Lanka (+0.3%) provided positive relative returns during the month, while our overweight in the Philippines (-1.1%), underweight in Morocco (-1.1%), underweight in Slovenia (-0.9%), and overweight in Indonesia (-0.6%) were the largest detractors.



Dar al-Makhzen, Fez, Marocco. Source: Unsplash

The strongest individual contribution came from Moroccan payments company Hightech Payments (2.5% of the portfolio), which rose by 18% in a robust Moroccan stock market. The second-largest individual contributor was Pakistan's National Bank of Pakistan (5% of the portfolio), which rose by 8%. The rise came after speculation emerged that the company might resume its dividend, a theory we share. The largest negative contribution came from Indonesian healthcare company Hermina Hospitals (3% of the portfolio), which fell by 15% during the month as the company slightly adjusted their margin guidance downwards for the full year. The second-largest negative contribution came from Century Pacific (4% of the fund), which dropped by 13% without any specific corporate events.

### **KEY NEWS**

Emerging markets experienced turbulence as Trump appeared to proceed with his threat to impose tariffs on both Mexico and Canada. A compromise was reached just before the tariffs were due to take effect, leading to a market rebound. This aligns with our theory that Trump primarily uses tariff threats as a negotiating tool in his international relations. However, caution is advised in assuming

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that his administration's actions will always be based on rational economic reasoning. Trump (at least temporarily) proceeded with the imposition of 10% import tariffs on Chinese goods. The US imports over USD 400 billion annually from China, representing approximately 15% of total US imports. China responded immediately by imposing equivalent tariffs on USD 14 billion worth of US imports (out of a total of approximately USD 160 billion). Additionally, China launched an antitrust investigation into Google and imposed restrictions on the export of certain critical minerals to the US. Negotiations are reportedly ongoing, and it remains to be seen whether this issue will also be resolved through diplomacy. There is market concern that Europe could be the next target for such "negotiations".



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. Source: Unsplash

In January, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the country's central bank, cut its policy rate by another 100 basis points to 12%, in line with market expectations. Since the summer of 2024, the central bank has reduced its policy rate by a total of 10 percentage points. This monetary easing was supported by a disinflationary trend, with January's CPI recorded at 2.4%, the lowest level in nine years, primarily due to base effects. Our base scenario is that inflation will gradually rise to 8–9% by the summer of 2025, as favourable base effects dissipate. This suggests that Pakistan's monetary easing cycle is nearing its end. In its monetary policy report, the central bank revised its inflation and current account forecasts for the 2025 fiscal year while maintaining its GDP growth forecast. The bank now expects inflation to range between 5.5% and 7.5%, a significant revision from the previous estimate of 11.5% to 13.5% at the start of the fiscal year. Similarly, the current account balance is now projected to be between +0.5% and -0.5% of GDP, compared to the earlier forecast of 0% to -1.0% of GDP. At the same time, the central bank has maintained its GDP growth projection of 2.5% to 3.5%. We note that both the pace of rate cuts and the decline in inflation have so far been faster than we had anticipated. Additionally, the current account balance has been unexpectedly strong, allowing the central bank to make net foreign exchange purchases. While we maintain our base case for monetary policy, we acknowledge room for positive surprises. The stock market is now trading at approximately 6.0x on 2025 earnings, compared to the ten-year average of

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around 8.0x. The sharp decline in interest rates since the summer of 2024 initiated some buying from local institutions during the autumn, but volumes have been relatively modest, and since the beginning of the year, both local equity funds and foreign investors have been net sellers. The market has been consolidating since mid-November, but we believe that the rate decline observed so far has not yet been fully priced in. Provided there are no unexpected political developments or complications arise in discussions with the IMF we estimate that there is still a significant distance to go before earnings growth and reform ambitions become the primary driving factors.



Shahra-e-Faisal, Karachi, Pakistan. Source: Unsplash

### **COMPANY-SPECIFIC NEWS**

Square Pharmaceuticals published its results for the October–December period. Despite a challenging environment for the pharmaceutical sector, where drug prices are regulated and have yet to be adjusted to compensate for rising costs, the company reported strong earnings growth. In Q2 of the 2025 fiscal year, Square Pharma posted revenue growth of 12.6%, driven by double-digit growth in both the domestic market and export sales. However, operating profit growth lagged at 8.1% year-on-year due to increasing cost pressures. Nevertheless, the company reported net profit growth of 25.9% year-on-year, primarily due to a substantial increase in financial income on its USD 467 million cash balance and higher dividend income from its associated companies. Square Pharma is currently trading at just under 9.0x of annual earnings, compared to its ten-year average of 15.1x. In terms of P/B, the company is valued at 1.5x, which is roughly half its ten-year average.

Our Pakistani portfolio holding, Airlink, the country's largest assembler and distributor of mobile phones, officially announced the launch of smart TVs in partnership with Xiaomi, marking its entry into a market valued at over USD 160 million, with an annual demand of approximately 0.9 million units. Leveraging its expertise in mobile assembly and distribution, Airlink aims to establish amarket-leading position in smart TVs by capitalising on Xiaomi's strong brand equity and technology. Additionally, Airlink announced the acquisition of additional land in an economic zone that offers a

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ten-year tax holiday. The company plans to shift a significant portion of its production from its existing facility to the new plant, which is expected to reduce its effective tax rate and enhance earnings by at least 20% compared to previous estimates. Beyond business expansion, Airlink is playing a crucial role in technology transfer through its partnerships with global brands while also benefiting from Pakistan's competitive labour costs to create employment opportunities for the country's youth. As Pakistan formulates a mobile device manufacturing and export policy, any favourable developments in this regard could unlock substantial export earnings and job creation. We believe Airlink is well-positioned to be at the forefront of this opportunity.

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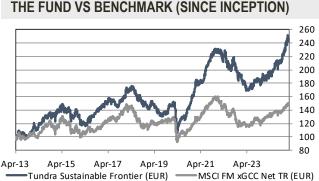
#### **ABOUT THE FUND**

Tundra Sustainable Frontier Fund focuses on the next generation of emerging markets such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Egypt and Nigeria. Featuring strong population growth, rapid urbanisation, investments in infrastructure, growing middle classes and stabilising political environments, a vast majority of international investors are yet to discover these markets.

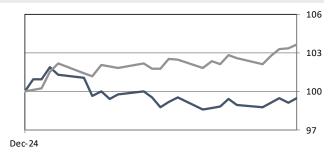
The fund is managed according to Tundra's active stock picking philosophy and backed by local research offices in Asia. Investments are based on an ESG approach where each investment has to comply with the UN Global Compact with regards to human rights, labour rights, corporate governance and environmental impacts. The fund is registered in Sweden and is fully UCITS compliant. Read more about latest developments <u>here</u>.

RETURN*	NAV (EUR)	1M	YTD	1Y	3Y	Inception
Tundra Sustainable Frontier (EUR)	29.46	-0.5%	-0.5%	33.2%	7.3%	144.9%
Benchmark	734.46	3.7%	3.7%	18.0%	-1.1%	51.5%
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\* Fund returns calculated on SEK class converted to EUR in order to provide the longest possible data set.



#### THE FUND VS BENCHMARK (YTD)



Tundra Sustainable Frontier (EUR) — MSCI FM xGCC Net TR (EUR)

#### FUND MONTHLY PERFORMANCE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2013				0.3%	7.9%	-6.5%	4.6%	-4.6%	-0.7%	1.7%	4.0%	4.1%	8.7%
2014	4.6%	-4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	5.6%	0.6%	3.4%	-0.9%	4.5%	-2.6%	-0.2%	0.6%	22.3%
2015	4.3%	0.5%	1.3%	0.6%	-0.3%	-2.5%	-0.5%	-4.1%	-3.0%	5.6%	1.6%	-4.7%	-1.7%
2016	-5.1%	-2.8%	-2.8%	0.9%	7.1%	0.3%	2.4%	4.3%	1.4%	1.1%	2.6%	0.9%	10.1%
2017	0.2%	3.9%	2.2%	0.4%	-0.7%	0.2%	-3.6%	-0.2%	3.6%	1.9%	2.2%	0.4%	10.7%
2018	6.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.3%	-4.9%	-2.3%	-2.6%	-0.4%	-1.8%	-1.9%	-2.4%	-4.6%	-11.6%
2019	3.2%	2.4%	-0.7%	-2.5%	-3.1%	-4.7%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	-0.6%	9.3%	-2.2%	3.2%
2020	1.6%	-6.1%	-22.9%	13.8%	4.0%	2.3%	-2.2%	7.4%	5.7%	4.6%	7.6%	5.0%	16.8%
2021	5.2%	0.7%	2.6%	-1.8%	5.5%	6.9%	2.2%	2.5%	3.9%	1.4%	1.4%	0.1%	34.7%
2022	-0.1%	-1.8%	-4.1%	5.4%	-6.7%	-4.1%	-1.2%	8.4%	-5.6%	-3.4%	-2.1%	-2.6%	-17.4%
2023	-4.5%	-0.1%	-5.4%	0.3%	3.4%	-1.7%	6.8%	-1.5%	0.6%	-3.8%	5.2%	-0.8%	-2.3%
2024	-0.3%	4.1%	3.6%	-2.8%	4.4%	3.4%	0.8%	2.2%	-1.1%	4.8%	5.2%	5.4%	33.5%
2025	-0.5%												-0.5%

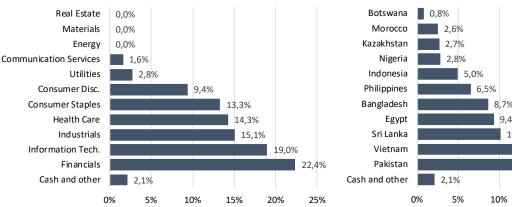
Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, Tundra Fonder

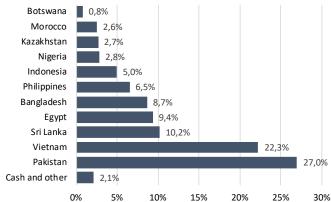
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**COUNTRY ALLOCATION** 

### SECTOR ALLOCATION





LARGEST HOLDINGS	WEIGHT	COUNTRY	P/E 25E	P/E 26E	YIELD	RETURN 1M (EUR)
Systems Ltd	8.5%	Pakistan	16.6	13.4	1.7%	-3.8%
Ree	6.9%	Vietnam	13.8	11.6	1.6%	-2.5%
FPT Corp	6.6%	Vietnam	23.3	19.1	1.8%	2.4%
Square Phar Ltd-Ord	5.5%	Bangladesh	8.7	7.6	5.8%	-2.5%
National Bank of Pakistan	5.2%	Pakistan	3.0	3.2	12.7%	7.5%
GB Corp	4.8%	Egypt	5.6	4.5	2.8%	0.0%
Meezan Bank Ltd	4.1%	Pakistan	5.8	5.7	10.5%	-1.5%
Airports Corp Of Vietnam	4.0%	Vietnam	23.0	18.7	0.0%	-3.0%
Century Pacific Food	3.8%	Philippines	17.3	15.4	1.6%	-13.4%
Medikaloka Hermina TBK	3.4%	Indonesia	28.8	24.2	0.9%	-15.4%

BEST PERFORMERS	RETURN (EUR)	WORST PERFORMERS	<b>RETURN (EUR)</b>
Hightech Payment	18.2%	Puregold Price Club	-20.6%
Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc	14.7%	Medikaloka Hermina TBK	-15.4%
Zenith Bank Plc	13.0%	Century Pacific Food	-13.4%
Access Bank Plc	11.2%	Air Link Communication	-10.0%
Hemas Holdings Plc	10.2%	Interloop Ltd	-9.7%

#### FACTS **RISKS AND COSTS\*** Inception date 2013-04-02 Active risk (Tracking error) 8.2% Pricing Daily Active share 91.8% Tundra Fonder AB Standard deviation 11.3% Manager Benchmark index MSCI FM xGCC Net TR (EUR) Standard deviation, benchmark 8.8% ISIN SE0006789897 Beta 0.89 Bloomberg **TUNDFRF SS** Information ratio 0.53 IBAN Holdings 38 SE445000000058648209218 BIC ESSESESS **Risk level** 5 of 7 (refer to KIID for more info) Management fee/year (all inclusive \*\*) Custodian SEB 2.5% Auditor PWC AuM 209.9 MEUR **EU SFDR Classification** Article 8

\* Risk indicators are based on monthly rolling 24 months of return data.

\*\* The management fee includes variable custody fees, audit, legal and marketing expenses.

Source: Bloomberg, MSCI, Tundra Fonder

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