NEURAL ALPHA

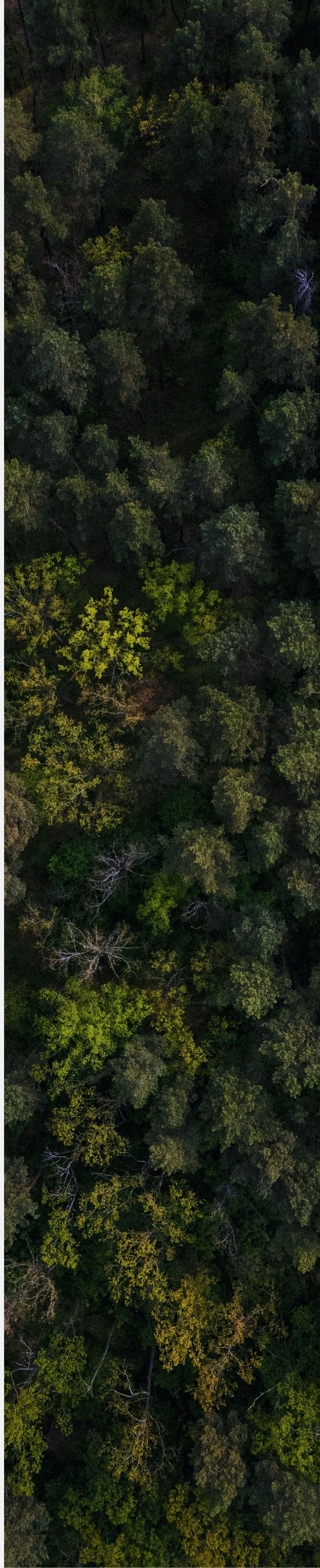
REPORT

Scaling Sustainable Value Creation across BGF’s portfolio with AI

How BGF automated ESG analysis and reporting across around 200 portfolio companies with Neural Alpha, and turned it into Sustainable Value Creation advice that CEOs and CFOs can act on.

FEATURING

BGF



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Executive summary

This report looks at how BGF, the most active equity investor in the UK and Ireland, expanded its annual portfolio ESG programme with AI-powered analysis, and what that made possible for its team and its portfolio companies.

Key findings

01

Manual data gathering and traditional tools limited the breadth and depth of the insights BGF could draw from its annual portfolio assessment.

02

An automated pipeline, built on Neural Alpha's reporting templates with materiality analysis and peer benchmarking, now produces every company report and can be re-run annually with no manual steps.

03

Recommended actions come with financial business cases (NPV and payback periods), making sustainability analysis useful to every CEO and CFO in the portfolio.

04

Time and cost savings free the sustainability team to focus on value creation conversations, and open the door to due diligence and exit preparation use cases.

Inside this report

003 The challenge

004 The approach

005 Results and what's next



003

The challenge

BGF is the most active equity investor in the UK and Ireland, and has backed more than 650 growing businesses. Its ESG programme is led by a dedicated team focused on driving Value Creation across the portfolio.

An annual assessment with manual steps

BGF conducts an annual ESG assessment across its portfolio, providing benchmarking data for around 200 portfolio companies each year. Historically, the insights from the assessment included some manual data gathering and traditional tools, limiting the breadth and depth of analysis.

Value Creation at scale

In 2026, the ESG team wanted to continue to expand its ambitious ESG programme by leveraging AI to deliver Value Creation at scale.

“Neural Alpha's AI capabilities for deep sustainable value creation, benchmarking, portfolio company monitoring and engagement is market leading”

Roshni Bandesha
Head of ESG & Sustainability, BGF

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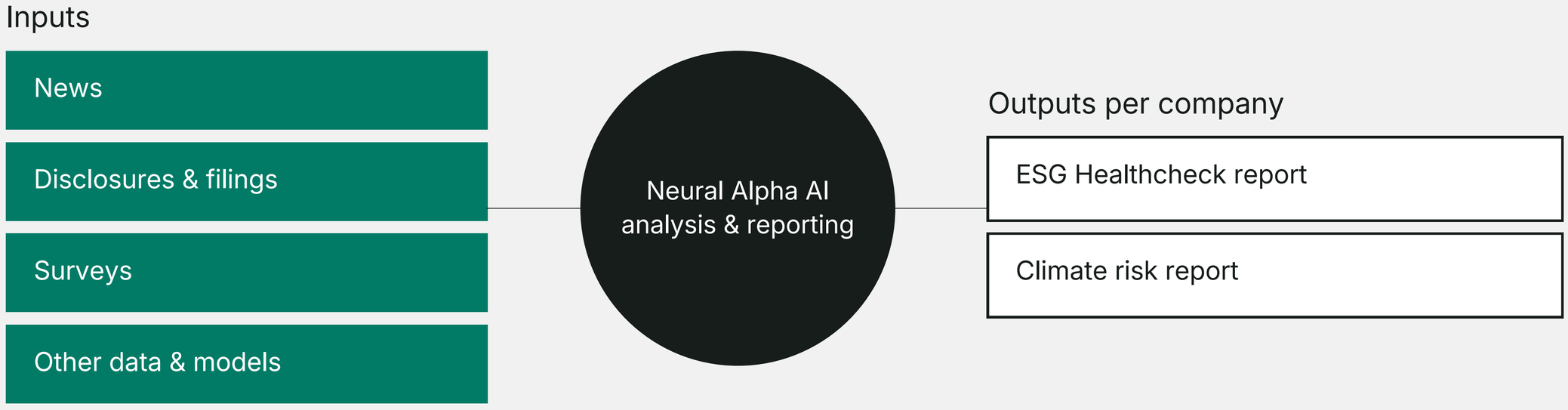
The approach

An automated analysis and reporting process across the full portfolio, built on Neural Alpha's AI-powered due diligence, research and report generation.



A structured assessment framework was built using Neural Alpha's reporting module templates, complemented by materiality analysis and peer benchmarking. Each ESG Healthcheck report consolidates multiple historical outputs and is tailored to the opportunities and challenges faced by each portfolio company.

01

Peer benchmarking

Each company is benchmarked against comparable companies in the same sector.

Part of the ESG Healthcheck report

02

Double materiality

Identifies the issues most relevant to each company's specific stage of growth.

Part of the ESG Healthcheck report

03

Prioritised actions

Financial business cases for each action, using NPV and payback periods.

Part of the ESG Healthcheck report

04

Climate risk

Physical and transition risks specific to each company's asset locations across the UK.

Separate climate risk report

005

Results and what's next

The outcome is a scalable, repeatable reporting pipeline that can be re-run annually with no manual steps.

194
Company ESG reports generated

7+ yrs
Of data analysed for trends and opportunities for each portco

1000+
Portco peer group companies analysed

The process was deeply collaborative. BGF's sustainability team worked closely with Neural Alpha to design the outputs, align on structure and refine the methodology, ensuring the reports reflected both the rigour of BGF's existing methodology and the depth AI-powered analysis makes possible.

The pipeline generates around 200 individual company ESG and Physical Climate risk reports. Portfolio companies now receive a single, concise, peer-benchmarked report that spotlights exactly where to focus and why, useful not just to sustainability professionals but to every CEO and CFO across the portfolio.

> The AI-powered process also enabled BGF's sustainability team to focus on what matters most: sustainable value creation insights that drive meaningful conversations with portfolio companies.

What's next?

With significant cost and time savings achieved within annual reporting workflows, BGF is exploring how the platform can support additional use cases across the investment lifecycle, including ESG due diligence on new investments, exit preparation analysis and other forms of financial analysis using scenario planning and other tools.