

#### Finance Companies | India | May 07, 2021

## India

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: B	uy 13	Hold 2	Sell 0
Current price:			Rs608
Target price:			Rs765
Previous target:			Rs850
Up/downside:			25.8%
EIP Research / Consens	sus:		-10.9%
Reuters:		CI	RDE.NS
Bloomberg:		CRE	DAG IN
Market cap:		US	51,283m
		Rss	94,664m
Average daily turnover:		U	S\$1.5m
		Rs	108.1m
Current shares o/s:		7	,780.0m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg			21.3%

## Key changes in this note

FY22F/23F EPS cut by 38.8%/2.1%



Major shareholders	% held
CreditAccess Asia NV	73.4
Nippon Life India Trustee Ltd.	3.9
Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd	1.4

#### Analyst(s)



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# CreditAccess Grameen Ltd

## Resilient model to help tide uncertainty

- 4QFY3/21 PAT stood at Rs0.56bn up 83% yoy, driven by strong NII growth of 28% yoy and contained opex (up 25% yoy). Cost to income stood at 32.7%.
- AUM grew 13% yoy with strong disbursements growth of 42%. Collections in Mar improved to 94%, but witnessed a 4-5% drop in the latter half of Apr.
- We cut our FY22F/23F EPS estimates by 39/2% to factor in higher credit costs given the current uncertainty on the relapse of lockdown. Maintain Add.

## Strong 4Q; watch out for FY22F recovery

Overall 4QFY21 performance was strong with both PAT and PPoP increasing by 83% yoy. This was largely driven by strong NII growth (28% yoy) on the back of recovery in disbursements up 42% yoy and contained opex grew 25% yoy. The cost-to-income ratio was 32.7% from 46.6% in 3Q. Provisions formed 76% of PPoP. Gross NPLs for CREDAG stood at 4.38%, down 246bp gog, while net NPLs remained nil, Provisions stood at 5% vs. 5.9% in 3Q. Collection efficiencies improved gog to 94% with a sharp improvement in nonpaving customers which now stands at 1.9%.

## Conservative recognition policy to provide resilience in uncertainty

CREDAG GNPLs (on 60dpd) stood at 4.38% vs. 6.84% in 3Q; NPLs were zero. Provisioning (expected credit losses [ECL]) stood at 5%. PAR 60 and 90 saw sharp qoq reductions from 7%/5.2% to 3.5%/2.9% respectively. Additional COVID buffer stood at Rs1.03bn (1% of ECL) created for FY22. Total restructured book was 0.73% which was less than 30dpd and 74% of it is provided for. Non-paying customers improved gog from 5.1% to 1.9% in 4Q. Collection efficiency improved to 94% (up 3% gog). Write-offs made during the guarter stood at Rs2.78bn. However, due to the second wave of COVID, collections in the second half of Apr were down by 4-5% as highlighted by management.

## Growth revival strong, largely from new geographies

Consolidated AUM for the quarter stood at ~Rs136bn, growing 13% yoy and 10% qoq. 4Q disbursements were strong, up 42% yoy. Disbursal growth from branches opened in FY20 stood at 61% yoy. New disbursals from Jun 2020 to Mar 2021 formed 69% of total AUM. Management highlighted that the overall share of state of Maharashtra and Karnataka reduced sequentially. This will aid reduction of concentration risk and overall stressed book, in our view. Margins expanded 260bp gog to 11.3% in 4Q. We believe the company's liquidity is at a comfortable level with 16.5% of total assets held in cash and cash equivalent as on 4Q. Also, it has an undrawn sanction line of Rs23.8bn.

## Resilient business model to help tide through uncertainty

We expect asset quality for 1HFY22 to be under pressure due to the second wave of COVID. However, CREDAG's resilient business model, given conservative asset recognition policy and constant diversification efforts as showcased in the first COVID wave, will ensure faster-than-industry recovery. We cut our FY22F/23F EPS by 39%/2% due to higher provisions (credit costs of 330/150bp for FY22F/23F) and lower AUM growth due to tough macros. Our TP of Rs765 (previously Rs850) implies 2.4x FY23F book value. We reiterate Add. Key risks are a fall in asset quality due to the second wave of COVID.

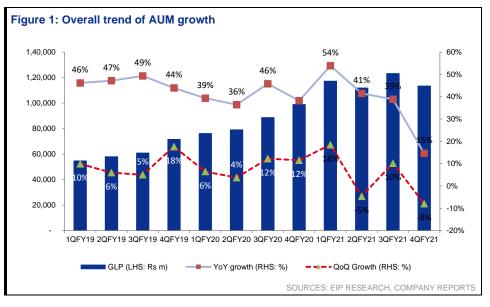
Financial Summary	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Net Interest Income (Rsm)	7,464	10,207	13,484	15,534	22,015
Total Non-Interest Income (Rsm)	1,202	1,048	1,889	1,766	1,709
Operating Revenue (Rsm)	8,666	11,255	15,373	17,300	23,723
Total Provision Charges (Rsm)	(749)	(2,373)	(7,713)	(4,450)	(2,687)
Net Profit (Rsm)	3,218	3,355	1,314	4,120	8,579
Core EPS (Rs)	22.41	23.30	8.44	26.48	55.14
Core EPS Growth	35%	4%	(64%)	214%	108%
FD Core P/E (x)	27.15	26.11	72.05	22.98	11.04
DPS (Rs)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dividend Yield	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
BVPS (Rs)	164.8	189.9	237.2	263.7	318.9
P/BV (x)	3.69	3.20	2.56	2.31	1.91
ROE	16.9%	13.2%	4.1%	10.6%	18.9%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates				(38.8%)	(2.1%)
EIP Research/Consensus EPS (x)				0.61	0.94

SOURCES: EIP RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



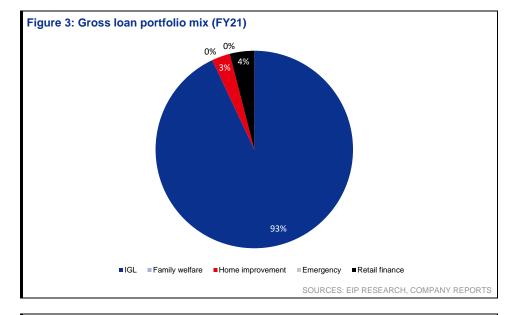


## Key charts



Of the new disbursals (from Jun 2020 to Mar 2021), 99% were for regular customers. PAR 0/30/60/90 for the total disbursals stood at 1%/ 0.4%/0.2%/0.1% respectively. Total new disbursals formed 72% of gross loan portfolio.

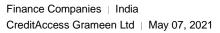
Figure 2: Trend of portfolio at risk (PAR) for CREDAG since the onset of COVID								
Portfolio at risk	Mar-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
PAR 0	1.9%	18.1%	18.8%	16.1%	11.8%	10.3%	8.9%	5.2%
PAR 30	1.7%	1.8%	11.5%	11.5%	8.9%	8.1%	7.4%	4.1%
PAR 60	1.5%	1.6%	2.5%	8.2%	7.0%	6.9%	6.5%	3.5%
PAR 90	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	2.2%	5.2%	5.7%	5.7%	2.9%
				SOUF	RCES: EIP R	ESEARCH,	COMPANY	REPORTS



Particulars	1QFY20	2QFY20	3QFY20	4QFY20	1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21
Yields on Loans	19.7%	19.5%	19.7%	19.6%	20.5%	19.7%	16.3%	18.6%
Cost of funds	10.3%	10.2%	10.0%	9.6%	9.4%	9.6%	9.3%	8.9%
NIMs	12.6%	12.3%	12.4%	12.1%	12.6%	11.1%	8.7%	11.3%
Cost\income ratio	35.4%	39.8%	34.8%	36.8%	31.0%	39.2%	43.7%	29.2%
Gross NPAs	0.55%	0.52%	0.85%	1.57%	1.62%	1.82%	6.84%	4.38%
Net NPAs	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%



Credag had a total of 929 branches in India as on FY21. Of the 259 branches opened in FY20, the disbursals grew 61% yoy. On a consolidated basis, Karnataka contributed 38.2%, Maharashtra 23.4% and Tamil Nadu 18.9%.



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Figure 5: Statewise s	hare of gross loan pr	ofit			
States	4QFY20	1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21
Karnataka	40%	0%	40%	38%	38%
Maharashtra	24%	0%	25%	25%	23%
Tamil Nadu	20%	0%	20%	20%	19%
Others	16%	0%	16%	17%	19%
		SO	URCES: EIP RES	EARCH, COMPA	VY REPORTS

## Figure 6: Quarterly summary

Particulars (Rs m)	4QFY20	1QFY21	2QFY21	3QFY21	4QFY21
Interest income	4,651	5,911	5,630	5,100	6,109
Interest Expenses	1,740	2,310	2,352	2,233	2,369
Net interest income	2,911	3,601	3,278	2,867	3,740
YoY growth (%)	29%	52%	34%	7%	28%
Operating Expenses	1,283	1,316	1,436	1,486	1,599
Operating Profit	1,796	2,557	1,969	1,702	3,291
YoY growth (%)	19%	56%	27%	-15%	83%
Provisions	1,390	1,551	902	2,757	2,504
Provisions to Operating Profits	77%	61%	46%	162%	76%
Profit Before Tax	406	1,006	1,067	(1,055)	787
Tax Rate (%)	24%	26%	25%	25%	28%
Profit After Tax	309	747	796	(792)	564
YoY growth (%)	-52%	-19%	-21%	-171%	83%
Yields on Loans (%)	19.6%	20.5%	19.7%	16.3%	18.6%
Cost of funds (%)	9.6%	9.4%	9.6%	9.3%	8.9%
NIMs (%)	12.1%	12.6%	11.1%	8.7%	11.3%
Gross NPAs (%)	1.57%	1.62%	1.82%	6.84%	4.38%
CAR (%)	23.6	23.7	26.4	31.4	31.8
Tier 1 (%)	22.3	22.4	25.6	30.7	30.5
Tier 2 (%)	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.7	1.3
Branches	929	929	929	929	964
Employees	10,824	10,576	10,698	10,912	10,625
		S	OURCES: EIP RE	SEARCH, COMPA	NY REPORTS

#### Figure 2: ROE tree

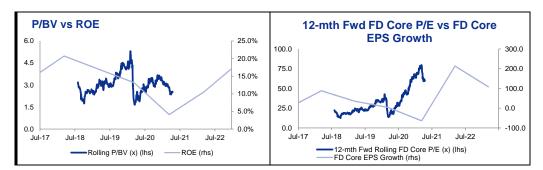
Figure 2: ROE free							
Particulars	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22F	FY23F
Interest income	39.7%	20.3%	18.7%	16.1%	16.5%	17.2%	18.2%
Interest expended	19.4%	8.4%	6.7%	5.8%	6.7%	6.6%	7.3%
Net Interest Income	20.3%	12.0%	12.0%	10.2%	9.8%	10.6%	10.9%
Securitisation income	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other Income (Treasury / others) / Avg. Assets	2.8%	0.3%	1.0%	0.8%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%
Income Yield / Avg. Assets	23.1%	12.3%	13.9%	11.3%	11.1%	11.7%	11.7%
Op. Cost (Staff cost) / Avg Assets	6.3%	3.1%	3.0%	2.6%	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%
Op. Cost (Other costs) / Avg Assets	3.3%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%
Operating profit / Avg Assets	13.5%	7.4%	9.2%	7.0%	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%
Provisions / Avg. assets	6.5%	-0.3%	1.2%	2.4%	5.6%	1.7%	1.3%
Pre-Tax ROA	7.0%	7.8%	8.0%	4.6%	1.3%	5.4%	5.6%
Tax Retention Rate	64.5%	64.7%	64.6%	72.7%	72.8%	74.8%	74.8%
Post Tax ROA	4.5%	5.0%	5.2%	3.4%	1.0%	4.0%	4.2%
Leverage = Avg. Assets / Avg. Equity	5.45	4.12	3.28	3.83	4.16	4.09	4.38
ROE (Leverage * ROA)	24.6%	20.7%	16.9%	12.9%	4.0%	16.5%	18.2%
	SOU	RCES: EIF	RESEAR	CH ESTIN	IATES. CO	MPANY R	EPORTS

Particulars	Old est	imates	New estir	nates	Change	e (%)
Rsm	FY22F	FY23F	FY22F	FY23F	FY22F	FY23F
NII (incl. securitisation income)	18,939	24,196	15,784	22,235	-16.7%	-8.1%
PPoP	11,924	14,684	9,956	14,152	-16.5%	-3.6%
PAT	6,716	8,744	4,120	8,579	-38.6%	-1.9%
EPS (Rs.) RoE	43.2	56.3	26.5	55.1	-38.8%	-2.1%
RoE	16.2%	17.8%	10.4%	18.9%	-5.8%	1.2%
		SOURCES: EIP	RESEARCH	STIMATES,	COMPANY R	EPORTS

We acknowledge the contribution of Gaushal Gandhi (trainee) in writing this note.



## **BY THE NUMBERS**



## Profit & Loss

(Rsm)	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Net Interest Income	7,464	10,207	13,484	15,534	22,015
Total Non-Interest Income	1,202	1,048	1,889	1,766	1,709
Operating Revenue	8,666	11,255	15,373	17,300	23,723
Total Non-Interest Expenses	(2,940)	(4,266)	(5,856)	(7,344)	(9,571)
Pre-provision Operating Profit	5,726	6,989	9,517	9,956	14,152
Total Provision Charges	(749)	(2,373)	(7,713)	(4,450)	(2,687)
Operating Profit After Provisions	4,977	4,616	1,804	5,506	11,465
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.					
Operating EBIT (incl Associates)	4,977	4,616	1,804	5,506	11,465
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)					
Profit Before Tax (pre-EI)	4,977	4,616	1,804	5,506	11,465
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	4,977	4,616	1,804	5,506	11,465
Taxation	(1,760)	(1,261)	(490)	(1,386)	(2,886)
Consolidation Adjustments & Others					
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	3,218	3,355	1,314	4,120	8,579
Minority Interests					
Pref. & Special Div					
FX And Other Adj.					
Net Profit	3,218	3,355	1,314	4,120	8,579
Recurring Net Profit					

(Rsm)	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Gross Loans/Cust Deposits					
Avg Loans/Avg Deposits					
Avg Liquid Assets/Avg Assets	6.6%	7.4%	13.0%	15.4%	9.7%
Avg Liquid Assets/Avg IEAs	7.1%	8.3%	15.4%	18.7%	10.9%
Net Cust Loans/Assets	89.7%	88.2%	77.8%	83.7%	89.9%
Net Cust Loans/Broad Deposits	160.5%	129.4%	128.0%	134.3%	140.6%
Equity & Provns/Gross Cust Loans	35.8%	24.6%	31.5%	28.0%	24.2%
Asset Risk Weighting	91.0%	93.9%	81.6%	87.1%	92.8%
Provision Charge/Avg Cust Loans	1.30%	2.68%	6.76%	3.37%	1.53%
Provision Charge/Avg Assets	1.20%	2.38%	5.58%	2.73%	1.33%

SOURCES: EIP RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



## BY THE NUMBERS...cont'd

(Rsm)	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Total Gross Loans	66,029	1,10,989	1,17,205	1,46,506	2,05,109
Liquid Assets & Invst. (Current)	2	456			
Other Int. Earning Assets	467	555	2,810	3,147	3,525
Total Gross Int. Earning Assets	66,498	1,12,000	1,20,015	1,49,653	2,08,634
Total Provisions/Loan Loss Reserve					
Total Net Interest Earning Assets	66,498	1,12,000	1,20,015	1,49,653	2,08,634
Intangible Assets					
Other Non-Interest Earning Assets	302	5,827	5,492	5,667	6,242
Total Non-Interest Earning Assets	921	6,718	5,734	5,957	6,620
Cash And Marketable Securities	6,156	7,179	24,844	19,514	12,957
Long-term Investments					
Total Assets	73,574	1,25,896	1,50,593	1,75,124	2,28,210
Customer Interest-Bearing Liabilities					
Bank Deposits	41,145	85,800	91,545	1,09,096	1,45,870
Interest Bearing Liabilities: Others	7,150	8,567	16,842	20,268	27,446
Total Interest-Bearing Liabilities	48,666	95,397	1,09,414	1,30,391	1,74,342
Banks Liabilities Under Acceptances					
Total Non-Interest Bearing Liabilities	1,257	2,068	3,215	3,697	4,252
Total Liabilities	49,923	97,464	1,12,629	1,34,088	1,78,594
Shareholders Equity	23,651	27,342	36,916	41,036	49,616
Minority Interests					
Total Equity	23,651	27,342	36,916	41,036	49,616

	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Total Income Growth	47.5%	36.8%	32.1%	15.2%	41.7%
Operating Profit Growth	81.9%	22.1%	36.2%	4.6%	42.2%
Pretax Profit Growth	52%	(7%)	(61%)	205%	108%
Net Interest To Total Income	86.1%	90.7%	87.7%	89.8%	92.8%
Cost Of Funds	9.82%	8.07%	9.07%	9.00%	9.70%
Return On Interest Earning Assets	20.1%	17.9%	19.6%	19.5%	20.5%
Net Interest Spread	10.31%	9.88%	10.56%	10.52%	10.84%
Net Interest Margin (Avg Deposits)					
Net Interest Margin (Avg RWA)	12.81%	11.03%	11.19%	11.28%	12.09%
Provisions to Pre Prov. Operating Profit	13%	34%	81%	45%	19%
Interest Return On Average Assets	11.97%	10.23%	9.75%	9.54%	10.92%
Effective Tax Rate	35.4%	27.3%	27.2%	25.2%	25.2%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio					
Return On Average Assets	5.16%	3.36%	0.95%	2.53%	4.25%

	Mar-19A	Mar-20A	Mar-21A	Mar-22F	Mar-23F
Loan Growth (%)	34.9%	68.1%	5.6%	25.0%	40.0%
Net Interest Margin (%)	12.9%	11.4%	11.6%	11.5%	12.3%
Non Interest Income Growth (%)	915.2%	(12.8%)	80.2%	(6.5%)	(3.2%)
Cost-income Ratio (%)	33.9%	37.9%	38.1%	42.5%	40.3%
Total CAR (%)	36.1%	25.3%	32.6%	28.3%	24.4%

SOURCES: EIP RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

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# Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2019, Anti-Corruption 2019

ADVANC - Excellent, Certified, AEONTS - Good, n/a, AH - Very Good, n/a, AMATA - Excellent, Declared, ANAN - Excellent, Declared, AOT -Excellent, n/a, AP - Excellent, Certified, ASP - Very Good, Certified, BAM - not available, n/a, BANPU - Excellent, Certified, BAY - Excellent, Certified, BBL - Very Good, Certified, BCH - Good, Certified, BCP - Excellent, Certified, BCPG - Excellent, Certified, BDMS - Very Good, n/a, BEAUTY - Good, n/a, BEC - Very Good, n/a, BGRIM - Very Good, Declared, BH - Good, n/a, BJC - Very Good, n/a, BJCHI - Very Good, Certified, BLA - Very Good, Certified, BPP - Very Good, Declared, BR - Good, n/a, BTS - Excellent, Certified, CBG - Very Good, n/a, CCET - Good, n/a, CENTEL - Very Good, Certified, CHAYO - Good, n/a, CHG - Very Good, Declared, CK - Excellent, n/a, COL - Excellent, Declared, CPALL -Excellent, Certified, CPF - Excellent, Certified, CPN - Excellent, Certified, CPNREIT - not available, n/a, CRC - not available, n/a, DELTA - Excellent, Declared, DEMCO - Excellent, Certified, DDD - Very Good, n/a, DIF - not available, n/a, DREIT - not available, n/a, DTAC - Excellent, Certified, EA - Excellent, n/a, ECL - Very Good, Certified, EGCO - Excellent, Certified, EPG - Very Good, n/a, ERW - Very Good, n/a, GFPT - Excellent, Certified, GGC - Excellent, Certified, GLOBAL - Very Good, n/a, GLOW - Very Good, Certified, GPSC - Excellent, Certified, GULF - Very Good, n/a, GUNKUL - Excellent, Certified, HANA - Excellent, Certified, HMPRO - Excellent, Certified, HUMAN - Good, n/a, ICHI - Excellent, Declared, III - Excellent, n/a, INTUCH - Excellent, Certified, IRPC - Excellent, Certified, ITD - Very Good, n/a, IVL - Excellent, Certified, JASIF - not available, n/a, BJC - Very Good, n/a, JMT - Very Good, n/a, KBANK - Excellent, Certified, KCE - Excellent, Certified, KKP - Excellent, Certified, KSL - Excellent, Certified, KTB - Excellent, Certified, KTC - Excellent, Certified, LH - Excellent, n/a, LPN - Excellent, Certified, M - Very Good, Certified, MACO - Very Good, n/a, MAJOR - Very Good, n/a, MAKRO - Excellent, Certified, MALEE - Excellent, Certified, MC - Excellent, Certified, MCOT - Excellent, Certified, MEGA - Very Good, n/a, MINT - Excellent, Certified, MK - Very Good, n/a, MTC - Excellent, n/a, NETBAY - Very Good, n/a, OSP - Very Good, n/a, PLANB - Excellent, Certified, PLAT - Very Good, Certified, PR9 - Excellent, n/a, PSH - Excellent, Certified, PSTC - Very Good, Certified, PTT -Excellent, Certified, PTTEP - Excellent, Certified, PTTGC - Excellent, Certified, QH - Excellent, Certified, RATCH - Excellent, Certified, ROBINS -Excellent, Certified, RS - Excellent, n/a, RSP - not available, n/a, S - Excellent, n/a, SAPPE - Very Good, Declared, SAT - Excellent, Certified, SAWAD - Very Good, n/a, SC - Excellent, Certified, SCB - Excellent, Certified, SCC - Excellent, Certified, SCN - Excellent, Certified, SF - Good, n/a, SHR - not available, n/a, SIRI - Very Good, Certified, SPA - Good, n/a, SPALI - Excellent, n/a, SPRC - Excellent, Certified, STA - Very Good, Certified, STEC - Excellent, n/a, SVI - Excellent, Certified, SYNEX - Excellent, Certified, TASCO - Excellent, Certified, TCAP - Excellent, Certified, THANI - Excellent, Certified, TIPCO - Very Good, Certified, TISCO - Excellent, Certified, TKN - Very Good, n/a, TMB - Excellent, Certified, TNR -Very Good, Certified, TOP - Excellent, Certified, TPCH - Good, n/a, TPIPP - Good, n/a, TRUE - Excellent, Certified, TU - Excellent, Certified, TVO -Excellent, Declared, UNIQ - not available, n/a, VGI - Excellent, Certified, WHA - Excellent, Certified, WHART - not available, n/a, WICE - Excellent, Certified, WORK - Good, n/a.

1 CG Score 2019 from Thai Institute of Directors Association (IOD)

2 AGM Level 2018 from Thai Investors Association

Underweight

3 Companies participating in Thailand's Private Sector Collective Action Coalition Against Corruption programme (Thai CAC) under Thai Institute of Directors (as of November 30, 2018) are categorised into:

companies that have declared their intention to join CAC, and companies certified by CAC.

4 The Stock Exchange of Thailand : the record of listed companies with corporate sustainable development "Thai sustainability Investment 2018" included:

SET and mai listed companies passed the assessment conducted by the Stock Exchange of Thailand: THSI (SET) and THSI (mai)

SET listed companies passed the assessment conducted by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI)

<b>Recommendation Fran</b>	nework
Stock Ratings	Definition:
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	n of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net ock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
Country Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means investors should be positioned with a neutral weight in this country relative to benchmark.

An Underweight rating means investors should be positioned with a below-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.