

## **FUND DETAILS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2009**

Sector: Domestic AA - Targeted Absolute Return Inception date: 1 October 2002 Fund manager: Delphine Govender

Fund objective:

The Fund aims to exceed the return of the Daily Call Rate of FirstRand Bank.

### Suitable for those investors who:

- Seek absolute (i.e. positive) returns regardless of stock market trends.
- Are risk-averse and require a high degree of capital stability.
- Are retired or nearing retirement.
- Seek the diversification benefits of uncorrelated returns relative to shares or bonds.
- Wish to diversify a portfolio of shares or bonds.
- Wish to add a product with an alternative investment strategy to their overall portfolio.

Price: R 15.78 Size: R 2 645 m Minimum lump sum per investor account: R 20 000 Minimum lump sum per fund: R 5 000 R 500 Minimum debit order per fund: Additional lump sum per fund: R 500 No. of share holdings: 57 Income distribution: 01/07/08 - 30/09/09 (cents per unit) Total 119.08

Distributes bi-annually. To the extent that the total expenses exceed the income earned in the form of dividends and interest, the Fund will not make a distribution. Income distributions are higher than normal because the Fund was a shareholder of

Remoro and Richemont when they unbundled in October 2008. For more information about this, please contact our Client Service Centre or refer to our website, details of which are below.

Annual management fee:
The annual management fee rate is dependent on the return of the Fund relative to its benchmark. The benchmark is the return on call deposits with FirstRand Bank Limited (for amounts in excess of R5m). The fee hurdle (above which a fee greater than the minimum fee of 1% is charged) is performance equal to the benchmark. The manager's sharing rate is 20% of the outperformance of the benchmark. The fee is uncapped, however a high watermark principle applies which means that should the Fund underperform it would first be required to recover the underperformance before any further performance fees are payable.

# COMMENTARY

The Fund invests in a portfolio of equities and substantially reduces stock market risk and exposure by selling equity derivatives against the equity portfolio. As a result, the Fund's return should not be correlated with equity markets, but it is dependent rather on the level of short-term interest rates and the ability of the Fund's equity portfolio to outperform the underlying benchmark equity index. In essence, therefore, the Fund's return comprises two components: (1) the cash return implicit in the pricing of the sold futures contracts +/- (2) the out/underperformance of the equity portfolio versus the index (i.e. the alpha).

Since inception the Fund has returned 95.4%, outperforming the benchmark return of 75%. For the 12 months ended 30 November 2009, the Fund has delivered 7.0%, below the benchmark return of 8.1%

We have seen a sharp rally in the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) since bottoming at the beginning of March 2009 with the ALSI up greater than 40% to the end of November 2009. The Optimal Fund, with its very low net equity exposure, would as a result naturally tend to lag in the context of rapidly rising equity prices. In addition, the equity component of the Fund is invested in more defensive shares which have underperformed the market as a whole since the first quarter of this year. We are of the opinion that current broader equity prices are presently discounting very optimistic expectations in terms of the earnings outlook for several companies, especially cyclical companies. We, on the other hand, are more cautious in terms of our expectations for the scale and pace of recovery of both economic activity and company profits and are decidedly more circumspect on the sustainability of current equity prices

With a mandate to minimise volatility; preserve capital (i.e. limit loss) and deliver uncorrelated returns versus equity markets, we feel the Optimal Fund is appropriately positioned to meet its objectives over the long term. We would be particularly confident about the relevance of this Fund as a component of an investor's overall portfolio given our view that the risk of loss from the equity market as a whole is now higher than average.

Tel 0860 000 654 or +27 (0)21 415 2301 Fax 0860 000 655 or +27 (0)21 415 2492 info@allangray.co.za www.allangray.co.za

# OPTIMAL FUND

### TOP 10 SHARE HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup>

Company	% of portfolio
BHP Billiton	11.6
SABMiller	10.0
Anglo American	7.7
Sasol	6.9
MTN Group	6.0
Anglogold Ashanti	6.0
Compagnie Fin Richemont SA	4.2
Standard Bank Group	3.2
Sanlam	2.6
Remgro	2.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Top 10 share holdings at 30 September 2009. Updated quarterly.

### TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 20092

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	Included in TER					
Total expense ratio	Trading costs	Performance component	Fee at benchmark	Other expenses		
1.85%	0.36%	0.34%	1.14%	0.01%		

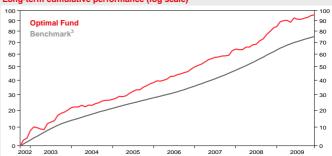
<sup>2</sup>A Total Expense Ratio (TER) is a measure of a portfolio's assets that are relinquished as operating expenses. The total operating expenses are expressed as a percentage of the average value of the portfolio, calculated for the year to the end of September 2009. Included in the TER is the proportion of costs that are incurred by the performance component, fee at benchmark, trading costs (including brokerage, VAT, STT, STRATE and insider trading levy) and other expenses. These are disclosed separately as percentages of the net asset value. A higher TER ratio does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TERs. The information provided is applicable to class A units

### **ASSET ALLOCATION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2009**

Asset class	% of portfolio
Net SA equities	2.7
Hedged SA equities	83.3
Listed property	0.4
Foreign	0.3
Money market and cash	13.3
Total	100

# **PERFORMANCE**

Fund performance shown net of all fees and expenses as per the TER disclosure. Long-term cumulative performance (log scale)



% Returns	Fund	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Since inception (unannualised)	95.4	75.0
Latest 5 years (annualised)	9.1	7.7
Latest 3 years (annualised)	9.7	9.0
Latest 1 year	7.0	8.1
Risk measures (Since inception month end prices)		
Maximum drawdown <sup>4</sup>	-2.2	n/a
Percentage positive months	84.9	100.0
Annualised monthly volatility	3.0	0.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The return on call deposits with FirstRand Bank Limited (for amounts in excess of R5m). Source: FirstRand Bank, performance as calculated by Allan Gray 30 November 2009.

Maximum percentage decline over any period

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (unit trusts) are generally medium-to long-term investments. The value of units may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. Unit trust prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the portfolio divided by the number of units in issue. Declarations of income accruals are made biannually. Purchase and redemption requests must be received by the manager by 14:00 each business day and fund valuations take place at approximately 16:00 each business day. Forward pricing is therefore used. Performance figures are from Allan Gray Limited (GIPS compliant) and are for the protection in the state of the protection of the protect When investing, costs are only a part of an investment decision. The investment objective of the Fund should be compared with the investor's objective and then the performance of the investment and whether it represents value for money should be valuated as part of the financial planning process. All Allan Gray performance figures and values are quoted after the deduction of costs incurred within the Fund so the TER is not a new cost. The FTSE/JSE All Share Index is calculated by FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") in conjunction with the JSE Limited ("JSE") in accordance with standard criteria. The FTSE/JSE Africa Series is the proprietary information of FTSE and the JSE. All copyright subsisting in the FTSE/JSE All Share Index values and constituent lists vests in FTSE and the JSE jointly. All their rights are reserved.