

## **FUND DETAILS AT 30 APRIL 2010**

Domestic AA - Targeted Absolute Return Sector: 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

R 16.06
R 3 128 m
R20 000
R5 000
R 500
R 500
55

Income distribution: 01/04/09 - 31/03/10 (cents per unit)

Total 34.06

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.

### 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, the Fund's return comprises of 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 100.4%, outperforming the benchmark's return of 79.3%. For the past 12 months the Fund has kept pace with its benchmark. Following a strong absolute return in March 2010, the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) ended the month of April slightly lower. For the month of May to date we continue to see this kind of volatility as a prominent feature of our local market, which given the global uncertainties particularly emanating from the Eurozone region, is not entirely surprising to us.

Trading on a historic price/earnings close to 17 and a dividend yield of approximately 2%, the ALSI as a whole is firmly in expensive territory in our view. Regular readers and investors will be aware that we have been sceptical about the sustainability of current market pricing given our more bearish assessment of the underlying fundamentals. Accordingly, the Fund has been defensively positioned both in terms of net equity exposure and in share composition.

With an explicit 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. Given our view that the risk of loss from the equity market as a whole is now higher than average, and especially in this broader environment of heightened uncertainty, volatility and extended valuations, we are particularly confident about the relevance of this Fund as a component of an investor's overall portfolio.

# OPTIMAL FUND

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

Company	% of portfolio
BHP Billiton	13.6
SABMiller	10.4
Anglo American	9.6
Sasol	6.9
Anglogold Ashanti	5.6
MTN	4.8
Compagnie Fin Richemont SA	3.5
Standard Bank	3.4
Impala Platinum	3.0
Sanlam	2.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Top 10 share holdings at 31 March 2010. Updated quarterly.

## TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010 2

		Include	ed in TER	
Total expense ratio	Trading costs	Performance component	Fee at benchmark	Other expenses
1.39%	0.24%	0.00%	1.14%	0.01%

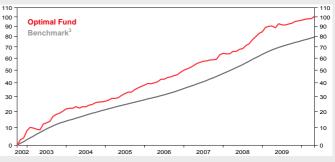
<sup>2</sup> A Total Expense Ratio (TER) is a measure of a portfolio's assets that are relinquished as operating expenses. The total operating expenses are expressed as a percentage of the average value of the portfolio, calculated for the year to the end of March 2010. Included in the TER is the proportion of costs that are incurred by the performance component, fee at benchmark, trading costs (including brokerage, VAT, STR, 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 APRIL 2010**

	% of portfolio	
Asset class	Total	
Net SA Equities	3.3	
Foreign Inward Listing on the JSE	0.2	
Hedged SA Equities	82.0	
Property	0.3	
Money Market and Bank Deposits	14.2	
Total	100.0	

## **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)	100.4	79.3
Latest 5 years (annualised)	9.2	7.8
Latest 3 years (annualised)	8.8	8.8
Latest 1 year	6.4	6.3
Risk measures (Since inception month end prices)		
Maximum drawdown <sup>4</sup>	-2.2	n/a
Percentage positive months	85.7	100.0
Annualised monthly volatility	2.9	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 as at 30 April 2010.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Maximum percentage decline over any period.