

# MINIMUM DISCLOSURE



## **ABAX RCIS VEGA RETAIL HEDGE FUND**

### 31 JULY 2025

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Management Company RealFin Collective Investments Schemes (RF) Proprietary Limited ("RCIS") Inception Date CIS Establishment Date Fund Class Class E1 NAV Price (cpu)* Fee Class Units CIS Retail Investor Hedge Fund Structure Registered SA CIS in Hedge Funds Minimum Investment R 100,000 Additional Lump Sum R 10,000 Risk Profile Benchmark Strefile Benchmark STefil Subscriptions Redemptions 1 calendar month notice Portfolio Currency Portfolio Currency Portfolio Valuation Transaction Cut-Off Time Initial Fee Annual Management Fee Annual Management Fee Annual Performance Fee Value Distributed Administrator Prime Broker R Rand Merchant Bank Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee Services Division) Auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers	In a section and Management	Al colored Dentile 11 %
Inception Date 02 July 2018 CIS Establishment Date 06 June 2018 Fund Class Class E1 NAV Price (cpu)* 16 033.1794 Fee Class Units 225 843.29 Fund AUM R191.460 Million Fund Category CIS Retail Investor Hedge Fund Structure Registered SA CIS in Hedge Funds Minimum Investment R 100,000 Additional Lump Sum R 10,000 Risk Profile Medium Benchmark STeFI Subscriptions Monthly Redemptions 1 calendar month notice Portfolio Currency ZAR Portfolio Valuation 23h00 of the last day of each month Transaction Cut-Off Time 12h00 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> last business day of the month Initial Fee - Annual Management Fee 1.00% (ex VAT) Income Distribution First day of March each year Value Distributed 359.5965 cents (1 March 2025) Administrator Apex Fund Services, South Africa Prime Broker Rand Merchant Bank Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee Services Division)	Investment Manager	Abax Investments Proprietary Limited
CIS Establishment Date Fund Class Class E1 NAV Price (cpu)* Fee Class Units CIS Retail Investor Hedge Fund Registered SA CIS in Hedge Fund Structure Registered SA CIS in Hedge Funds Minimum Investment R 100,000 Additional Lump Sum R 10,000 Risk Profile Benchmark STeFI Subscriptions Monthly Redemptions 1 calendar month notice Portfolio Currency Portfolio Valuation Transaction Cut-Off Time Initial Fee Annual Management Fee Annual Management Fee Annual Performance Fee Income Distribution Value Distributed Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee) FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee) FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee)	Management Company	
Fund Class  NAV Price (cpu)*  Fee Class Units  Class E1  NAV Price (cpu)*  Fee Class Units  Class E1  Registered SA CIS in Hedge Fund  Registered SA CIS in Hedge Funds  Minimum Investment  Registered SA CIS in Hedge Funds  Redium  Redium  Benchmark  STeFI  Subscriptions  Monthly  Redemptions  1 calendar month notice  Portfolio Currency  ZAR  Portfolio Valuation  Transaction Cut-Off Time  12h00 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> last business day of the month  Initial Fee  Annual Management Fee  Annual Management Fee  1.00% (ex VAT)  Income Distribution  First day of March each year  Value Distributed  359.5965 cents (1 March 2025)  Administrator  Apex Fund Services, South Africa  Prime Broker  Rand Merchant Bank  Trustee  FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB  Trustee Services Division)	Inception Date	02 July 2018
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Redemptions 1 calendar month notice Portfolio Currency ZAR Portfolio Valuation 23h00 of the last day of each month Transaction Cut-Off Time 12h00 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> last business day of the month Initial Fee - Annual Management Fee 1.00% (ex VAT) Annual Performance Fee 20.00% (ex VAT) Income Distribution First day of March each year Value Distributed 359.5965 cents (1 March 2025) Administrator Apex Fund Services, South Africa Prime Broker Rand Merchant Bank Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee Services Division)	Benchmark	STeFI
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Prime Broker Rand Merchant Bank  Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee Services Division)	Value Distributed	359.5965 cents (1 March 2025)
Trustee FirstRand Bank Limited (acting through its RMB Trustee Services Division)	Administrator	Apex Fund Services, South Africa
Trustee Services Division)	Prime Broker	Rand Merchant Bank
<b>Auditor</b> PricewaterhouseCoopers	Trustee	
	Auditor	PricewaterhouseCoopers

<sup>\*</sup> Prices are available monthly via RCIS website.

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RISK ANALYSIS	FUND	STEFI	ALBI	ALSI		
Gain Periods	70	85	61	50		
Loss Periods	15	0	24	35		
Best Month	3.40%	0.74%	7.01%	13.98%		
Worst Month	-1.02%	0.28%	-9.73%	-12.13%		
Standard Deviation	0.94%	0.14%	2.31%	4.41%		
Annualised Standard Deviation	3.26%	0.48%	8.02%	15.28%		
12 month return	9.80%	7.96%	16.97%	23.20%		

### MONTHLY RETURNS (NET OF FEES)\*

#### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

The portfolio aims to deliver absolute returns in excess of the return of the Short Term Fixed Interest ("STeFI") Composite Index on a rolling 12 month basis.

#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MANDATE**

The portfolio will consist of investments in various financial instruments including without limitation; derivatives instruments based on fixed income or equity securities and/ or currencies. The portfolio may create leverage in the portfolio by borrowing funds, using short positions or engaging in derivative transactions, repurchase transactions and securities lending transactions. The portfolio is entitled to lend or borrow script.

#### **INVESTMENT COMMENTARY**

The global economic environment in July was characterized by cautious optimism amid persistent uncertainties, with trade policy developments and their impact on global growth remaining central concerns for policymakers and markets worldwide. According to the IMF's July Economic Outlook, projected global growth was revised upward and is expected to print at 3.0% for 2025 and 3.1% for 2026. The US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) kept interest rates unchanged; however, the decision was not unanimous as two governors dissented and preferred a 25bps cut in rates. The market is expecting at least 4 cuts by the Fed for the next 12 months. Fed chairman Jerome H Powell's term ends in May 2026, and, although President Trump threatens to fire him, he is expected to finish his term.

The Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) decided to keep policy rates unchanged as inflation is now at its target of 2.0%. The Bank of Japan (BOJ) unanimously kept rates unchanged, in line with market consensus. The BOJ did, however, upwardly revise its CPI forecasts for the medium term, as widely expected, indicating that the BOJ still sees underlying inflation pressure. The 30y Japan Bond yield rose to an all-time high of 3.075% by month-end, up 80bps from mid-April.

In South Africa, the Monetary Police committee cut its repo rate by 25bps as expected by most economists. The SARB made itself open to criticism when it announced that an inflation target of 3% would be used going forward, without consultation or approval from government. Officially the SA cabinet needs to decide on the target, which was last changed in 2002, to a 3% to 6% range. The announcement was made at the MTBPS in 2002 when it communicated that the cabinet approved the change from the previous 3% to 5% range to the existing range. The minister of Finance has not yet decided on the matter. Although CPI is currently at 3%, the expectation is that it will gradually rise to above 4% by year-end. SARB Governor Lesetja Kganyago's expectation is that the rise in inflation will be temporary. Although the possibility of another cut is priced in, the SARB will find it difficult to cut more, when inflation rises. The spread between SA rates and US rates remain at tight levels compared to the last 15 years and managing risk appetite with lower rates might become a challenge.

RETURN ANALYSIS (NET OF FEES)**	FUND	STEFI
1 Month Return	2.08%	0.60%
12 Month Return	9.80%	7.96%
2 Year Return	24.28%	17.20%
3 Year Return	37.42%	25.48%
Since Inception (Cumulative)	98.96%	56.57%
Since Inception (Annualised)*	10.20%	6.53%
Highest Annual Return (since inception)	19.56%	8.57%
Lowest Annual Return (since inception)	3.96%	3.77%

<sup>\*</sup> Annualised Return - The average rate earned by the investment over a year in the period measured.
\*\* Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	YTD	ВМ
2025	0.32%	0.45%	0.86%	0.87%	1.46%	1.39%	2.08%						7.64%	4.41%
2024	0.38%	-0.24%	-0.47%	1.62%	0.84%	2.69%	2.56%	1.46%	1.66%	-1.02%	0.81%	-0.89%	9.72%	8.51%
2023	2.65%	-0.55%	1.80%	-0.20%	0.43%	0.95%	1.27%	1.08%	-1.01%	1.14%	3.31%	0.64%	12.06%	8.03%
2022	0.49%	0.60%	0.62%	-0.18%	0.88%	0.04%	0.96%	1.53%	-0.58%	0.83%	1.98%	0.05%	7.42%	5.19%
2021	0.16%	-0.05%	0.34%	-0.06%	0.84%	0.15%	0.87%	0.45%	-0.49%	0.31%	1.02%	0.38%	3.96%	3.81%
2020	1.41%	0.34%	3.17%	3.40%	2.92%	1.47%	-0.14%	0.52%	0.56%	0.37%	0.81%	0.98%	16.92%	5.39%
2019	2.12%	0.43%	0.29%	1.03%	0.40%	2.06%	0.82%	0.82%	0.86%	0.53%	0.83%	0.91%	11.66%	7.29%
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.23%	-0.15%	0.48%	-0.04%	1.62%	0.94%	3.11%	3.60%



# MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



# **ABAX RCIS VEGA RETAIL HEDGE FUND**

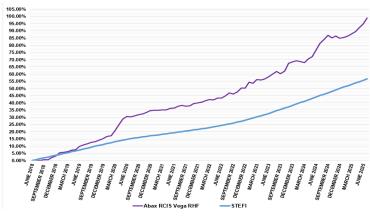
31 JULY 2025

#### **ASSET ALLOCATION**



COUNTERPARTY EXPOSURE   TOP 5	%
Republic Of South Africa	88.00%
The Standard Bank Of South Africa Limited	9.40%
Firstrand Bank Limited	2.61%

#### **CUMULATIVE RETURN (SINCE INCEPTION)**



FEE BREAKDOWN	%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)*	2.26
Transaction Costs (TC)**	0.46
Total Investment Charge (TIC)**	2.71

<sup>\*</sup> TER Includes a performance fee of 0.73%

#### INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

- Interest Rate Risk Limit The change in net asset value ("NAV") due to a parallel change of the yield curve by 1 basis point, excluding all resets prior to the next meeting of the SA Reserve Bank's MPC, should not exceed 0.10% of NAV.
- Vega Risk Limit The change in NAV due to a move of 10% in yield volatility, shall not be more than 0.30% of NAV for a short Vega position and 1% for a long Vega position.
- Bucket Risk Limit Individual buckets will be identified in the internal risk calculations. The change in NAV due to 1 basis point move in any semi-annual bucket shall not exceed 0.30% of NAV, notwithstanding the Interest Rate Risk Limit.
- The Value At Risk approach will be used to determine the Portfolio's total exposure, at a 99% confidence level and potential loss over the following month will not exceed 20% of the Portfolio's net asset value.
- The Portfolio may not invest in crypto currencies (derivatives on crypto currencies), crowdfunding and/or loan platforms.

#### **RISK PROFILE**

#### Medium

- These portfolios generally hold more equity exposure than low risk portfolios but less than high risk portfolios.
- In turn the expected volatility is higher than low risk portfolios, but less than high risk portfolios.
- The probability of losses are higher than that of the low risk portfolios, but less than the high risk portfolios.
- Expected potential long term investment returns could therefore be lower than high risk portfolios due to lower equity exposure, but higher than low risk portfolios.

#### ADDITIONAL RISK DISCLOSURES - AS AT QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

As required in terms of Section 27 of Board Notice 52. Any questions pertaining to the technical nature of the disclosures may be directed to clientservices@realfin.co.za

Leverage:	The providers of leverage are the fund's prime broker(s).
VAR (limit 20%):	3.47%
Max VAR for quarter:	10.21%
Assets encumbered as collateral:	100.00%
Re-hypothecated assets:	Re-hypothecation of the fund's assets is prohibited.
Changes in liquidity:	The fund's redemption period remained unchanged.
Stress testing:	Stress testing was conducted to assess the fund's sensitivity to stressed market conditions
	stressed market condition

#### DEFINITIONS & METHODOLOGIES

Collateral - Collateral is the placement of an asset with a counterparty in order to secure an obligation.

Counterparty exposure - Counterparty (credit) exposure represents the potential loss the Fund would experience in the event a counterparty defaults on its obligations.

Leverage - Leverage is a strategy used to increase the Fund's exposure beyond the capital employed.

Re-hypothecated assets - Re-hypothecation is the re-use of collateral by the prime broker.

Stress Testing - To assess the Fund's sensitivity to various market conditions, stress scenarios are created by simulating the impact of historic financial crises, increasing investor repurchase levels and decreasing liquidity of the fund's underlying assets.

VAR - Value at risk (VAR) is a statistical measure of a fund's financial risk over a specific period. VAR is calculated using historical data to determine the maximum potential loss over a month, 99% of the time, and is expressed as a percentage of the Fund's net asset value.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

MANAGEMENT COMPANY		INVESTMENT MAN	AGER	TRUSTEE		
RealFin Collective Investment Scho	emes (RF) Proprietary Limited	mited Abax Investments Proprietary Limited FirstRand Bank Limited (RMB Trustee Servi		B Trustee Services Division)		
Registration Number	2013/170284/07	2013/170284/07 Registration Number 2000/008606/07		Physical Address	3 Merchant Place, Ground Floor, Cnr Fredman & Gwen Streets,	
Physical Address	347 Main Road, Kenilworth Cape Town, 7708	Physical Address	2nd Floor, Colinton House, The Oval, 1 Oakdale Road, Newlands	•	Johannesburg, 2001	
Telephone Number	+27 21 701 3777	Telephone Number	+27 21 670 8960	Telephone Number	+27 87 577 8730	
rereptione Number	127 21 701 3777	Email Address	linda@abax.co.za	Email Address	trusteeservices@rmb.co.za	
Email Address	clientservices@realfin.co.za	Website	www.abax.co.za	Website	www.rmb.co.za	
Website	www.realfin.co.za	FSP Number	856	TTODSILO	www.mb.co.za	

<sup>\*\*</sup> TER,TC and TIC calculations as at quarter-end: 30 June 2025.



# MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



# ABAX RCIS VEGA RETAIL HEDGE FUND

31 JULY 2025

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF) Proprietary Limited ("RCIS") is registered and approved by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) as a manager of Collective Investment Schemes approved in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act. This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute or form part of any offer to issue or sell or any solicitation of any offer to subscribe for or purchase any particular investments. The information contained in the MDD does not constitute financial advice as contemplated in terms of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, and should be read in conjunction with the RCIS Fund Fund Information Document which can be found on the RCIS website www.realfin.co.za. Opinions expressed in this document may be changed without notice at any time after publication. We therefore disclaim any liability for any loss, liability, damage (whether direct or consequential) or expense of any nature whatsoever which may be suffered as a result of or which may be attributable directly or indirectly to the use of or reliance upon the information.

#### DISCLOSURES

- Collective Investment Schemes are generally medium-to long-term investments. The **Abax RCIS Vega Retail Hedge Fund** should be considered an investment with a time horizon of Onger than a year.

  The value of participatory interests (units) may go down as well as up.

  Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

  Where different classes of participatory interests apply to certain Portfolio's, they would be subject to different

- Collective investments are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions, is available on request from RCIS

- A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions, is available on request from RCIS. RCIS does not provide any guarantee in respect to the capital or the return of the portfolio. RCIS may suspend repurchases for a period, subject to regulatory approval, to await liquidity. RCIS may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio where insufficient liquidity exists in a portfolio, or where assets cannot be released to withdraw or cancel participatory interests. RCIS reserves the right to close the fund to new investors if we deem it necessary to limit further inflows in
- 11. order for it to be managed in accordance with its mandate.
- Forward pricing is used.

  In terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act. No.45 of 2002 (CISCA). RMB Trustee Services A division of FirstRand Bank Limited) has been appointed by RCIS as the Trustee of Abax RCIS Vega
- Retail Hedge Fund
  The portfolio is valued at 23H00 on the last day of each month.
  Investment and Redemption Instructions will be processed according to: The transaction cut-off time as well as the Subscription and Redemption guidance stipulated within the General Information section of the Minimum Disclosure Document.
- Any capital gain realised on the disposal of a participatory interest in a collective investment scheme is 16.
- Any capital gain realised on the disposal of a participatory interest in a conecure investment content is subject to Capital Gain Tax (CGT).

  A money market portfolio is not a bank deposit account. The price of a participatory interest is a marked-to-market value. The total return to the investor is made up of interest received and any gain or loss made on any particular instrument, in most cases the return will merely have an effect of increasing or decreasing the daily yield. In the case of abnormal losses it can have the effect of reducing the capital value of the portfolio. Excessive withdrawals from a money market portfolio may place the portfolio under liquidity pressure and in such circumstances a process of ring-fencing of withdrawal instructions and managed nau-onits over time may be followed.
- pressure and in such circumstances a process of ring-tencing of witndrawai instructions and managed pay-outs over time may be followed.

  Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio, this may impose potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds. The portfolio can be impacted by macroeconomic risks, political risks, foreign exchange risks, tax risks, settlement risks and potential limitations on the availability of the market information. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying offshore investments to
- go up or down. A Fund of Funds Portfolio only invests in other portfolio's of collective investment schemes which levies its 19.
- own charges, which could result in a higher cost structure for these portfolios.

  RealFin Collective Investment Schemes (RF) Proprietary Limited has entered into a co-naming agreement with and delegated the investment management function to **Abax Investments Proprietary Limited (FSP** 20
- will all delegated the infostmental and 886) 886) RCIS retains full legal responsibility for **Abax RCIS Vega Retail Hedge Fund Fund** and performs Risk Management oversight.
- Application forms can be obtained via the RCIS website www.realfin.co.za and any additional information 22.
- Application forms can be obtained via the RCIS website www.realfin.co.za and any additional information can be requested from RCIS at manco@realfin.co.za

  The RCIS complaints policy is available on the RCIS website www.realfin.co.za

  Should you have any complaints, please send an email to complaints@realfin.co.za. Our Complaints Policy is available on our website: www.realfin.co.za.

  Annual report is available upon request.

#### TRANSACTION CUT-OFF TIMES

In order for a monthly Investment Instruction to be processed, your Investment form must to be sent before In order for a monthly investment instruction to be processed, your investment form must to be sent before 12h00 on the 2nd last business day of the month ("Cut Off Date") for your Investment application to be processed on the 1st business day of the following month. Your funds need to be reflecting in our bank account before 12h00 ("Cut off") on the 1st business day of the commencing month and proof of payment sent to clientservices@realfin.co.za. Any funds received after the Cut Off shall be retained by the Manager in a separate account and shall be invested (together with any interest which has accrued thereon) on the next available Investment Date.

In order for your participatory interests in the Portfolio to be redeemed at the relevant request date ("Redemption Date"), your Redemption instruction must be submitted to RCIS before 12h00 on the 2nd last business day of the month for processing at the end of the following calender month (For Hedge Funds which have a Calender month's notice period) such date being the Redemption Date.

Hedge fund redemptions are processed at the end of each month. All redemptions must be submitted in writing and will be executed following receipt and acceptance of such instruction. Please note in the case of Monthly traded Hedge Fund redemptions, settlement may take up to 15 business days.

#### PERFORMANCE CALCULATION

CIS prices are calculated on a net asset basis, which is the total value of all the assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions (brokerage, STT, VAT, auditor's fees, bank charges, trustee and custodian fees and the annual management fee) from the portfolio divided by the number of participatory interests (units) in issue. Performance has been calculated using NAV to NAV figures with actual portfolio ongoing fees taken into account. Income is reinvested at the reinvestment date. Different classes of participatory interests apply to these portfolio's and are subject to different fees and charges. Actual Investment performance will differ based on the initial advice fee, ongoing advice fee, investment date, the date of reinvestment of distributions and dividend withholding tax. Initial advice fees have not been taken into account. Cumulative performance figures are calculated using lump sum investment amounts. Income distributions, prior to the deduction of applicable taxes, are included in the performance calculation. Performance calculations are available on request from RCIS

#### PERFORMANCE FEES

Performance fees shall be calculated separately for each class at each Valuation Point. Performance fees are accrued and are payable at the end of the relevant Performance Fee Measurement Period. The calculation is based on whether the respective Class has achieved a return greater than the Fee Hurdle and where applicable above the high watermark. A detailed description of how performance fees are calculated and applied for this portfolio is available on request from RCIS.

#### TER

The Fund's Total Expense Ratio (TER) reflects the percentage of the average Net Asset Value (NAV) of the portfolio that was incurred as charges, levies and fees related to the management of the portfolio. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Calculations are based on actual data where possible and best estimates where actual data is not available

#### TC

Transaction Costs are a necessary cost in administering the Financial Product and impacts Financial Product returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many factors over time including market returns, the type of Financial Product, the investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

#### HEDGE FUND RISK DISCLOSURE

The risks and characteristics within represent some of the more general risks and characteristics prevalent in hedge fund portfolios. The list below should not be seen as exhaustive. As more risks and characteristics are identified that were not initially mentioned, these will, as they become more prevalent, be included herein.

Investment strategies may be inherently risky - Hedge fund strategies may include leverage, short-selling and short-term investments. In addition, hedge fund portfolios often invest in unlisted instruments, low-grade debt, foreign currency and other exotic instruments. All of these expose investors to additional risk. However, not all hedge fund managers employ any or all of these strategies and it is recommended that investors consult their additional risks and the strategies and it is recommended that investors consult. their advisors in order to determine which strategies are being employed by the relevant manager and which consequent risks arise.

Leverage usually means higher volatility - Hedge fund managers may use leverage. This means that the hedge fund manager borrows additional funds, or trades on margin, in order to amplify his investment decisions. This means that the volatility of the hedge fund portfolio can be many times that of the underlying investments. The degree to which leverage may be employed in any given hedge fund portfolio will be limited by the mandate the client has with the manager. The limits laid down by the mandate should be carefully reviewed in making an investment decision.

Short-selling can lead to significant losses - Hedge fund managers may borrow securities in order to sell them short, in the hope that the price of the underlying instrument will fall. Where the price of the underlying instrument rises, the client can be exposed to significant losses, given that the manager is forced to buy securities (to deliver to the purchaser under the short sale) at high prices.

Unlisted instruments might be valued incorrectly - Hedge fund managers may invest in unlisted instruments

where a market value is not determined by willing buyers and sellers. The hedge fund manager may have to estimate the value of such instruments, and these estimates may be inaccurate, leading to an incorrect impression of the fund's value. Investors should ensure that objective valuations are performed for all instruments in a portfolio and that the manager utilises the services of a competent administrator.

Fixed income instruments may be low-grade - Hedge fund managers may invest in low-grade bonds and other fixed interest investments. These investments are more likely to suffer from defaults on interest or capital. They are also more likely to have volatile valuations when the market changes its view on credit risk. The mandate should also limit the extent (i.e. lowest acceptable rating and maximum percentage exposure) to which low-grade debt can be acquired by the client. Investors should review the mandate to gain an appreciation of the maximum possible exposure applicable to the relevant mandate.

Exchange rates could turn against the fund - A hedge fund manager might invest in currencies other than the base currency. For example, a South African hedge fund manager might invest in UK or US shares. The portfolio is therefore exposed to the risk of the rand strengthening or the foreign currency weakening.

Other complex investments might be misunderstood - In addition to the above, hedge fund managers might invest in complex instruments such as, but not limited to, futures, forwards, swaps, options and contracts for difference. Many of these will be derivatives, which could increase volatility. Many will be "over-the-counter", which could increase counterparty risk. Many exotic instruments may also be challenging for the manager to administer and account for properly. Investors should inquire into how these instruments are objectively and

The client may be caught in a liquidity squeeze - Given their often short-term nature, hedge fund managers need to be able to disinvest from or close certain positions quickly and efficiently. But market liquidity is not always stable, and if liquidity were to decrease suddenly, the hedge fund manager might be unable to disinvest from or close such positions rapidly or at a good price, which may lead to losses.

The prime broker or custodian may default - Hedge fund managers often have special relationships with so-called "prime" brokers. These are stockbrokers that provide the required leveraging and shorting facilities. Prime brokers usually require collateral for these facilities, which collateral is typically provided using assets of the relevant client, and consequently such collateral might be at risk if the prime broker were to default in some way A similar situation could occur with the custodian of the client's funds.

Regulations could change - Legal, tax and regulatory changes could occur during the term of the investment in a hedge fund portfolio that may adversely affect it. The effect of any future legal, tax and regulatory change or any future court decision on a hedge fund portfolio could be substantial and adverse. Past performance might be theoretical - Hedge fund portfolios are on occasion marketed using theoretical or paper track records. Past performance is seldom a reliable indicator of future performance. Theoretical past performance is

often an even less reliable indicator, and investors should place a lower significance on these.

The manager may be conflicted - The hedge fund manager might be managing other hedge fund portfolios or other traditional investment funds. The investor should ensure that sufficient controls are in place to manage any conflicts of interest between the different funds.

Hedge fund structures are often complex - As mentioned above, hedge fund structures are not fully regulated and they are often housed in legal structures not originally meant for pooled hedge funds, for example partnerships and companies. Given the many risks listed above, investors need to ensure that any structure is robust enough to contain any unlimited losses

Manager accountability may be vague - Hedge fund portfolios are often managed by specific individuals and investors should ensure that sufficient controls are in place for the times when the manager is being covered for by colleagues. In addition, a hedge fund structure (for example, a fund of funds) and its managers or advisors may rely on the trading and/or investing expertise and experience of third-party managers or advisors, the identity of which may not be disclosed to investors. This constitutes an additional risk for investors, which they must take

Fees might be high - Hedge fund structures' fees may be significantly higher than the fees charged on traditional

investment hedge funds. Investments should be made only where the potential returns justify the higher fees. Fees might be performance-based - Hedge fund manager's fees are usually performance-based. This means that the managers typically get a higher fee when their portfolios outperform specified performance targets, which might lead to riskier positions being taken. Investors need to ensure that performance fees allow

Transaction costs might be high - Given the often short-term nature of investment positions, hedge fund portfolios are often traded more aggressively. This implies more stockbroking commission and charges being paid from the portfolio, which is ultimately for the client's account. Again, investments should be made only where the potential returns make up for the costs.

Transparency might be low - A hedge fund manager's performance is often the result of unique proprietary strategies or contrarian investment positions. For obvious reasons, managers will want to keep these confidential. Managers are therefore less likely to disclose trades to their investors, and holdings might be disclosed only in part or with a significant delay.

Dealing and reporting might be infrequent - A hedge fund manager's performance can often be disturbed by irregular cash flows into or out of the hedge fund structure. For this reason, hedge fund managers often limit the frequency of investments and withdrawals. Similarly, the manager may choose to report infrequently on performance and other statistics. Investors should ascertain, prior to investing, the nature and frequency of reporting Withdrawals might not be easy - As mentioned above, the frequency of withdrawals might be limited to monthly or quarterly dates. In addition, the manager may impose notice periods or lock-ins in order to ensure that they have the necessary time for their investment positions to deliver their desired returns.