AA Botswana Global Allocation Fund



30 April 2021

General Fund Information

Fund Structure Region Currency Asset Class Portfolio Manager Headline Fee Initial Fee Distribution Frequency Launch Date Minimum Lump Sum Investment

Risk Rating Net Asset Value (NAV)

Assets Under Management (AUM)

CIS Botswana

BWP Balanced Nlume Modise

1.0% 5.0%

Semi-annually December 14, 1998

1000 Medium 4.22

49,356,545

Fund Objective

The primary objective of this Fund is to provide long-term capital growth with moderate investment risk and a reasonable level of current income. It aims to consistently outperform the market and to offer investors diversification out of the pula.

Risk Rating

Low	Medium	High

Gross Performance (%)

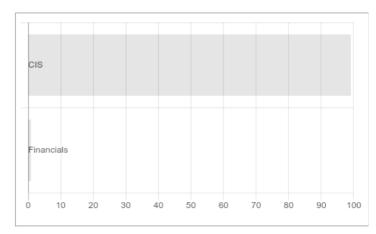
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years*	3 Years*	5 Years*
Fund	1.08	3.62	10.05	12.95	11.93	10.00	6.40
Benchmark**	1.72	4.93	12.17	14.48	14.20	14.07	10.47
Value Add	-0.64	-1.31	-2.12	-1.54	-2.27	-4.07	-4.07

^{*}Annualised **MSCI World (65%), Citi WGBI (25%), USD LIBID (10%)

Issuer Exposure (%)

HR Mauritius Global Managed Fund	99.1
Stanbic Bank Botswana	0.9
AA Botswana Liquidity Fund	0.0

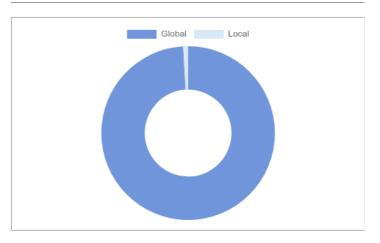
Sector Allocations (%)



Asset Class Breakdown (%)

Equity Cash Fixed Income

Region Breakdown (%)



Portfolio Manager Commentary

Global equity markets made further headway during April with the MSCI World Net Total Return Index adding 4.65% in USD, leading to a year to date gain of 9.80%. Investor sentiment remains supported by the post-COVID-19 economic rebound, ongoing accommodative Monetary Policy and ever more expansive US Fiscal policy. In addition, the first quarter earnings season has started with a flurry of strong results. Among the 162 US companies that have reported, earnings have been 27% greater than what was expected at the start of April. The Q1 earnings surprise is shaping up to be stronger than the previous 3 quarters. Earnings are now set to finish this season considerably higher than initially estimated. As a general rule of thumb, the first 100 or so stocks to report provides a fairly accurate picture for the rest of the season. As such, the early results point to earnings being approximately 20% larger in Q1 than what was initially estimated, both globally and for the US.

In the commodity space, the green transition could see a significant rise in copper consumption from its current c.25mn tonnes per year, underinvestment over the past decade suggests supply could struggle to keep pace. According to S&P Global, copper exploration spending reached a 10-year low of \$1.8 billion in 2020, down from \$4.7 billion in 2012. Financing has become more readily available over the past year as the copper price has risen, but projects can take years to develop. Moreover, there have been no major discoveries in recent years according to a recent Mining Journal report. Copper deposits are getting older, lower grade and more expensive to operate, and current exploration is largely about resuscitating old marginal projects.

On the economic front, the strong growth narrative continues with the flash US composite PMI (which tracks business sentiment across both manufacturing and service sectors) reaching a record high of 62.2 in April, up from 59.7 a month earlier. Although the outlook for demand remains exceptionally supportive, businesses voiced growing concerns about the ability of supply chains to meet this demand. Underpinning the survey data was an indication of a continued rise in input prices and anecdotal evidence that firms are now seeking to pass on higher prices to customers.

Our outlook remains unchanged from the start of the year, we remain modestly overweight equities and prefer sectors that are biased to the reflation trade. This reflects our greater confidence in both the timing and the scale of the post-pandemic recovery in both economic activity and earnings. A tipping point of higher real yields, a greater stretch in valuations and an eventual change in the second derivative of fiscal policy and liquidity will ultimately be reached, but unless the Fed loses control of the back end of the curve, this now appears unlikely before 2022.

Disclaimer

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