INVESTMENT AND RETURN OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to achieve significant real returns over the long term and to outperform the ASISA category average of the South African - Multi-Asset - High Equity funds over a full market cycle by maintaining meaningful exposure to growth assets like equities.

INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Fund invests across a range of assets including equities and interest bearing instruments, both domestically and offshore. The asset allocation is anchored at the long-term strategic allocation, but can be varied tactically to target outperformance of the benchmark by capitalising on signals of significant market mispricing. Where possible, a process of enhanced indexation is utilised within asset classes to deliver stable incremental alpha.

WHO SHOULD INVEST

Investors seeking significant real returns over the long term but who are cost conscious. The Fund is suitable for investors with a medium to long-term investment horizon and is Regulation 28 compliant.

RISK INDICATOR DEFINITION

These portfolios typically exhibit more volatility and potential for capital losses due to higher exposure to equities and exposure to offshore markets where currency fluctuations may result in capital losses. These portfolios typically target returns in the region of 5% - 6% above inflation over the long term.
September has proved to be another bear market for investors. US 10-year Treasury Yields hit their decade highs, the dollar rallied strongly and most equity markets across the globe sold off. This signals an environment that is more risk-averse, as investors grapple with surging input costs and volatile markets. Asset classes sold off in lockstep to the worst calendar year so far – although South African assets remained partially protected by the weakening Rand and increased resource prices. In the United States, headline CPI increased by 0.1% on a monthly basis and by 8.3% compared to August a year before. If we exclude volatile food and energy prices, core CPI also increased by 0.6% on a monthly basis, and 6.3% compared to the previous year’s August.

Although consumers may have felt some sense of relief as the gas prices fell 10.6%, it was short-lived as rising food, shelter and healthcare costs offset this decline. The increase in CPI was higher than market expectations, and major indexes such as the S&P and tech-heavy Nasdaq fell over 4% as investors reacted negatively to the news. A Fed hike of at least 75 basis points (bps) was an almost certainty at their September meeting, and they duly delivered. This brings the Federal Fund’s rate to a range of 3.0%-3.25%. Powell indicated that it is unlikely that rate cuts would happen next year, and the intention is to continue hiking rates until the fed funds rate reaches an end-point of 4.6% in 2023 (six 25bp hikes, or just two more 75bp hikes). The FOMC is aware of the negative impacts the rate hikes can have on economic growth, and in their quarterly estimates expect the unemployment rate in the US to increase to 4.4% next year and GDP growth to slow to 2.0% in 2022. Overseas volatility in capital markets will likely continue as the combination of rising interest rates, a European energy crisis and a UK gilt and pension funds crisis increase the cost of living across the board. South African inflation dropped to 7.6% on an annual basis, compared to 7.8% in July. This is still above the SARB’s target range of 3-6%. On a monthly basis, headline CPI increased 0.2%, compared to 1.5% in July and core CPI increased 0.2% compared to 0.7% in July. The main contributors to inflation are still food and energy prices. Fuel prices eased by 3.8% in August on a monthly basis, which reduced the annual fuel price increase to 43.2%. Food inflation has risen 11.5% annually.

The South African Central Bank also announced another round of rate hikes of 75 bps immediately after the Fed in an attempt to control the falling Rand and rein in inflation. Interestingly, three members had voted for 75bps and two members for a whopping 100bps hike. The repo rate now sits at 6.25%, and now sits at pre-pandemic levels, in other words “back to normal”. The Fed on the other hand has hiked rates to double the levels they were at pre-pandemic, a 1.5% net increase. Why is this relevant? The carry trade purely from base rates between the Dollar and the Rand is narrower, putting more pressure on the SARB to hike to bring the exchange rate back in by making SA yields attractive again from a base rate perspective.

The Top 40 index ended the month down 4.4% while the Capped Swix Index lost 3.8%, listed property lost 6.3%, inflation linked bonds lost 2.3% and the All Bond index was down 2.1%. Preference Shares gained 4.7% over the course of the month and the Stefi Index was up 0.5%. On the global side the Rand sold off by 5.7% against the USD while the global equity markets were mostly down, with the S&P500 losing -9.2%, the MSCI World declining -9.3% and the MSCI Emerging Equity Market losing -11.7%.

Over the course of the quarter the Top40 Index lost 2.7% and the Capped Swix 2.4%, listed property was down 3.5% and Inflation linked bonds were declined by 1.0%. Preference Shares gained 11.2% for the quarter, while the ALBI was up 0.6% and the Stefi returned 1.4%. The Rand lost 11.2% over the course of the quarter, while global markets were also down over the course of the quarter with the S&P500 losing 4.9%, the MSCI World declining -6.2% and the MSCI Emerging Equity Market losing -11.6%.

Contributors to performance:
The major contributor to the Fund’s performance was the depreciating currency.

Detractors from performance:
The major detractors to performance were the Fund’s local and global equity exposure, where the poor performance of the global indices was partially offset by the depreciating currency. From a benchmark perspective the Fund is overweight offshore emerging market equity exposure at the expense of local equity exposure which has detracted from benchmark performance.
**GLOSSARY**

**Annualised performance:** Annualised performance shows longer term performance rescaled to a 1 year period. Annualised performance is the average return per year over the period. Actual annual figures are available to the investor on request.

**Highest & Lowest performance:** The highest and lowest performance for any 1 year over the period since inception have been shown.

**NAV:** The net asset value represents the assets of a Fund less its liabilities.

**Current Yield:** Annual income (interest or dividends) divided by the current price of the security.

**CPU:** Cents Per Unit to the Glossary

**Alpha:** Denotes the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

**Sharpe Ratio:** The Sharpe ratio is used to indicate the excess return the portfolio delivers over the risk free rate per unit of risk adopted by the fund.

**Standard Deviation:** The deviation of the return stream relative to its own average.

**Max Drawdown:** The maximum peak to trough loss suffered by the Fund since inception.

**% Positive Month:** The percentage of months since inception where the Fund has delivered positive return.

**Fund Specific Risks**

**Default Risk:** The risk that the issuers of fixed income instruments may not be able to meet interest payments nor repay the money they have borrowed. The issuers credit quality is vital. The worse the credit quality, the greater the risk of default and therefore investment loss.

**Derivatives risk:** The use of derivatives could increase overall risk by magnifying the effect of both gains and losses in a Fund. As such, large changes in value and potentially large financial losses could result.

**Developing Market (excluding SA) risk:** Some of the countries invested in may have less developed legal, political, economic and/or other systems. These markets carry a higher risk of financial loss than those in countries generally regarded as being more developed.

**Foreign Investment risk:** Foreign securities investments may be subject to risks pertaining to overseas jurisdictions and markets, including (but not limited to) local liquidity, macroeconomic, political, tax, settlement risks and currency fluctuations.

**Interest rate risk:** The value of fixed income investments (e.g. bonds) tends to be inversely related to interest and inflation rates. Hence their value decreases when interest rates and/or inflation rises.

**% Property risk:** Investments in real estate securities can carry the same risks as investing directly in real estate itself. Real estate prices move in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic and political conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.

**Currency exchange risk:** Changes in the relative values of individual currencies may adversely affect the value of investments and any related income.

**Geographic / Sector risk:** For investments primarily concentrated in specific countries, geographical regions and/or industry sectors, their resulting value may decrease whilst portfolios more broadly invested might grow.

**Derivative counterparty risk:** A counterparty to a derivative transaction may experience a breakdown in meeting its obligations thereby leading to financial loss.

**Liquidity risk:** If there are insufficient buyers or sellers of particular investments, the result may lead to delays in trading and being able to make settlements, and/or large fluctuations in value. This may lead to larger financial losses than expected.

**Equity investment risk:** Value of equities (e.g. shares) and equity-related investments may vary according to company profits and future prospects as well as more general market factors. In the event of a company default (e.g. bankruptcy), the owners of their equity rank last in terms of any financial payment from that company.

**Information Disclosure**

The portfolio has adhered to its policy objective and there were no material changes to the composition of the Fund portfolio during the quarter.
DISCLAIMER

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (CIS) should be considered as medium to long-term investments. The value may go up as well as down and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. CIS’s are traded at the ruling price and can engage in scrip lending and borrowing. The collective investment scheme may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager. There is no guarantee in respect of capital or returns in a portfolio. A CIS may be closed to new investors in order for it to be managed more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. 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. Forward pricing is used. 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. The current TER cannot be regarded as an indication of future TERs. During the phase in period TERs do not include information gathered over a full year. Transaction Costs (TC) is the percentage of the value of the Fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the Fund's underlying assets. Transaction cost is a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of Fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

Where a yield has been included for Funds that derive its income primarily from interest bearing income, the yield is a weighted average yield of all underlying interest bearing instruments as at the last day of the month. This yield is subject to change as market rates and underlying investments change.

The Manager retains full legal responsibility for any third-party-named portfolio. Where foreign securities are included in a portfolio there may be potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macroeconomic risks, political risks, foreign exchange risks, tax risks, settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with the selected investments and that there are no guarantees. Please note that all documents, notifications of deposit, investment, redemption and switch applications must be received by Prescient by or before 13:00 (SA), to be transacted at the net asset value price for that day. Where all required documentation is not received before the stated cut-off time, Prescient shall not be obliged to transact at the net asset value price as agreed to. Funds are priced at either 3pm or 5pm depending on the nature of the Fund. Prices are published daily and are available on the Prescient website.

Performance has been calculated using net NAV to NAV numbers, including actual initial and all ongoing fees, with income reinvested on the reinvestment date. The performance for each period shown reflects the return for investors who have been fully invested for that period. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date, the date of reinvestments and dividend withholding tax. Full performance calculations are available from the manager on request.

This portfolio operates as a white label fund under the Prescient Unit Trust Scheme, which is governed by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act.

For any additional information such as fund prices, brochures and application forms please go to www.prescient.co.za

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The Management Company and Trustee are registered and approved under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act (No.45 of 2002). Prescient is a member of the Association for Savings and Investments SA.

Investment Manager:
Prescient Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, Registration number: 1998/023640/07 is an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP 612) under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002), to act in the capacity as investment manager. This information is not advice, as defined in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (No.37 of 2002). Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision. Physical address: Block B, Silverwood, Silverwood Lane, Steenberg Office Park, Tokai, 7945 Postal address: PO Box 31142, Tokai 7966 Telephone number: +27 21 700 3600 Website: www.prescient.co.za

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