

SYNOPSIS

PERFORMANCE (TOTAL RETURN – IN US DOLLARS)

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Peer Group</u> ¹	<u>US Inflation</u>	<u>MSCI World Equities</u>	<u>World Bonds</u> ²
Last 3 months	9.0%	7.8%	0.2%	14.0%	2.8%
Last 12 months	7.1%	6.8%	0.9%	15.9%	10.1%
Since inception (10/03/1997)	6.7%	4.1%	2.1%	6.9%	4.6%

Notes:

¹ USD Flexible Allocation Morningstar category average

² FTSE World Government Bond Index. Source: Bloomberg L.P.

FUND VALUE

\$1.5 billion (30/09/2020: \$1.4 billion)

INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

Global growth and corporate earnings recovery dependent on pace of vaccine rollout
 Resultant growth acceleration may lead to higher inflation and/or rates
 Government COVID-19 relief and infrastructure spending to increase markedly
 Gold price underpinned by safe-haven appeal
 US bourses expensive versus global peers
 China to stimulate growth with targeted stimulus
 European and Japanese export sector challenges to persist
 Geopolitical risks elevated
 US tax increases increasingly probable
 Growth stocks at extremes vs value stocks

FUND CONSTRUCTION

Equities largest asset class
 Low risk, high yield corporate bond investment retained
 Global sovereign and corporate debt expensive
 US dollar cash position affords optionality
 Gold ETF is an uncorrelated hedge

1. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Peer Group</u> ¹	<u>US Inflation</u>	<u>MSCI World Equities</u>	<u>World Bonds</u> ²
Last 3 months	9.0%	7.8%	0.2%	14.0%	2.8%
Last 12 months	7.1%	6.8%	0.9%	15.9%	10.1%
Last 3 years	4.5%	3.7%	1.7%	10.5%	5.0%
Last 5 years	6.1%	4.9%	1.9%	12.2%	4.8%
Last 10 years	5.5%	2.6%	1.7%	9.9%	2.3%
Last 15 years	6.1%	2.3%	1.9%	7.3%	3.9%
Last 20 years	6.4%	3.4%	2.0%	6.0%	4.6%
Since inception (10/03/1997)	6.7%	4.3%	2.1%	6.9%	4.6%

Notes:

¹ USD Flexible Allocation Morningstar category average

² FTSE World Government Bond Index. Source: Bloomberg L.P.

Quarterly Performance Comment

- A combination of asset allocation and strong stock selection drove investment returns as the fund's largest asset class, equities (+14.2%), outperformed alternative assets classes — additionally, the fund's equity holdings outperformed the MSCI World Equities
- Within equities, UK utility SSE Plc (+31.3%), contributed the most to performance, while Wheaton Precious Metals (-14.7%), a leading precious metals streamer, detracted
- The fund's credit positions contributed positively to performance, led by NagaCorp (+2.21%), holder of a monopoly casino gaming license in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Derivative positions, primarily S&P 500 hedges, and precious metals exposure including gold (-0.5%) detracted

2. PORTFOLIO STRUCTURE

	Fund		MSCI World Equity Index
	<u>30/09/2020</u>	<u>31/12/2020</u>	<u>31/12/2020</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Communication Services	6	9	7
Consumer Discretionary	3	3	9
Consumer Staples	5	6	5
Energy	1	1	2
Financials	7	9	9
Healthcare	15	18	9
Industrials	1	2	8
Information Technology	1	1	16
Materials	14	17	3
Utilities	4	6	2
Equities	57	72	70
Hedged Equities	9	-	-
Properties/ Real Estate	4	5	2
Commodities	8	7	-
Corporate Bonds	6	6	-
Sovereign Bonds	5	-	-
Cash	11	10	-
	100	100	72
Total Fund	\$1.4 billion	\$1.5 billion	

3. MARKET BACKGROUND AND OUTLOOK

- Global equities (+14.0%) continued rallying through the quarter following positive COVID-19 vaccine trial results and subsequent rollout across multiple countries—despite new waves of COVID-19 infection, optimism is rising that hard-hit sectors will continue seeing normalisation through 2021 and supportive stimulus from governments will drive economic recovery
- US equities (+13.0%) rose as we moved past US election uncertainty and the passing of a new COVID-19 relief bill could mark the start of further stimulus in a Biden administration in 2021, supported by the House and Senate — this will support further consumption and spending rotation into hard-hit sectors including travel, offline-retail and restaurants in later half of 2021 assuming no hiccups in vaccine rollout
- European equities (+15.6%) benefited from positive sentiments around Brexit deal, avoiding potential trade friction and other negative headwinds to the UK economy if it had been a no-deal Brexit — countries with heavy exposure tourism including Spain (+27.7%) and Italy (+22.4%) rebounded strongly on vaccine news and will see further support from EU's US\$2.2trillion stimulus plan
- Emerging markets (+19.7%) gained, led by Brazil (+37.0%) and Russia (+21.6%), as risk-on sentiments and rally in commodity prices benefited commodity exporters — China (+11.2%) was a laggard, driven by increased antitrust scrutiny on dominant domestic tech companies and continued US tension with Trump signing bill that could delist Chinese companies from US exchanges
- Sector gains were led by hardest hit cyclicals with financials (+24.0%), energy (+26.7%) and industrials (+15.3%) — while defensive sectors including healthcare (+6.8%) and consumer staples (+6.4%) lagged

3. MARKET BACKGROUND AND OUTLOOK (CONTINUED)

- The US dollar continued to weaken against major currencies including the euro (+4.3%), British pound (+5.7%) and yen (+2.2%) —vaccine developments portend a global economic recovery and market participants rotated away from safety of US assets
- Developed market bond yields diverged — European sovereign yields declined on reaccelerating COVID-19 infections, while US yields rose strongly on a modest improvement in US employment and COVID-19 vaccine approvals

4. FUND CONSTRUCTION

- Equities remain the fund managers’ preferred asset class—though expensive, equity valuations are likely to continue to be supported not only by low interest rates but also by the recently passed \$900 billion US COVID-19 relief bill
- Asian equities, especially those geared to China, are more attractive than US peers—long-term structural growth of the region exceeds that of western economies and has been further cemented by a superior response to COVID-19 relative to Western peers
- The healthcare sector is the fund’s largest sector exposure—structural growth provided by a backdrop of aging global populations will drive healthcare companies’ earnings additionally these firms’ earnings streams tend to exhibit relative resilience during an economic slowdown
- Global sovereign and corporate credit markets are expensive—the valuations of these asset classes do not accurately reflect the potential risk of inflation meaningfully exceeding what are extremely benign expectations
- The fund’s holding in gold and precious metals miners offers diversification amid volatility and geopolitical risk—further gold offers a level of protection against the currency debasement possible with continued excessive government spending
- Cash and term deposits are available to take advantage of market dislocation—held in US dollars and other major developed markets currencies
- Below is our effective asset allocation target—equities remain the most attractive asset class in this low-yield environment

	<u>Foord Target</u>		<u>Fund</u>	
	<u>31/12/2020</u>	<u>30/09/2020</u>	<u>31/12/2020</u>	<u>30/09/2020</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Equities including hedged equities	65	65	72	66
Property	3	3	5	4
Commodities	6	6	7	8
Corporate bonds	6	6	6	6
Sovereign bonds	6	6	-	5
Cash	14	14	10	11
	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	

5. TOP 5 EQUITY POSITIONS

	<u>% of portfolio</u>
FMC Corp	8.6
SSE Plc	5.6
Nestle	5.6
Roche Holding	4.4
CVS Health Corp	4.2

B ARCESE / D FOORD
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