

## AT SHARE CLASS

## STONEHAGE FLEMING

# **GROWTH PRESCIENT FUND**

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT & GENERAL INVESTOR REPORT











TO PRESERVE CAPITAL IN THE MEDIUM TERM AND TO ACHIEVE CAPITAL GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OVER THE LONGER TERM.

#### **INVESTMENT POLICY**

A portfolio of domestic and global long-term investment opportunities, including talented active managers, passive strategies, and direct securities. The fund may invest in other funds as well as listed and unlisted securities, both domestically and offshore. Allowable investments as well as position size and asset allocation will conform to the parameters of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act and Regulation 28 of the Pension Fund Act.

#### SINCE INCEPTION PERFORMANCE



**18.87% Fund** 20.71% Benchmark

#### HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

0/		2	,	VTD		2	-		12-montl	n return
%	Im	3m	6m	לוז	Тy	39	5у	Inception	ı™ax	l⁴lin
Fund	1.58	3.07	5.27	1.58	12.25	-	-	10.37	18.42	8.71
Benchmark	1.15	3.03	6.38	1.15	14.89	9.25	10.08	11.34	21.05	9.71

Performance for periods longer than 1-year are annualised.

### IMPLEMENTATION



CONSERVATIVE	MODERATE	AGGRESSIVE

Generally, moderate-aggressive portfolios hold more equity exposure than lower risk profiled portfolios. These portfolios therefore tend to carry more volatility. Expected potential long-term returns could be higher than other risk profiles, in turn potential losses of capital could be higher.

#### **DISCLOSURE**

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The portfolio has adhered to its investment policy and there were no material changes to the composition of the portfolio.

## FUND INFORMATION

Portfolio manager	Stonehage Fleming Investment Management (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd
Fund classification	ASISA South Africa Multi Asset High Equity
Benchmark	ASISA SA MA High Equity Category Average
Fund size (ZAR m)	692.13
Valuation time	17:00
Transaction time	13:00
Portfolio currency	ZAR

#### SHARE CLASS INFORMATION

ISIN	ZAE000321238
Ticker	LMAPA1
Inception date	2 May 2023
Number of units	60,235,289.07
Unit price (ZAc)	116.40
Minimum lump sum	R 10,000.00
Minimum monthly debit order	R 500.00
Distribution frequency	Annually
Distribution date	31 March
Latest distribution (cpu)*	1.18

#### FEE BREAKDOWN

Management fee	0.98% (ex VAT)
Total expense ratio (TER)	1.88%
Transaction cost (TC)	0.13%
Total investment charge (TIC)	2.01%

### TOP LOOK THROUGH EQUITIES

Fund	% of Portfolio
Naspers Ltd	2.3
Firstrand Ltd	2.0
Standard Bank Group Ltd	1.6
Prosus NV	1.6
Anglo American PLC	1.3
Discovery Ltd	1.2
British American Tobacco PLC	1.1
Microsoft Corp	1.1
Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV	1.0
Capitec Bank Holdings Ltd	1.0
Compagnie Financiere Richemont SA	1.0
UnitedHealth Group Inc	0.9
Amazon.com Inc	0.9
Reinet Investments SCA	0.9
Remgro Ltd	0.9
Total	18.57

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#### **EQUITY SECTOR EXPOSURE (%)**

Financial Services	24.3
Consumer Cyclical	12.8
Basic Materials	10.9
Communication Services	10.9
Industrials	10.2
Consumer Defensive	9.4
Technology	9.2
Healthcare	7.6
Energy	2.6
Real Estate	1.5
Utilities	0.6

### **EQUITY REGIONAL EXPOSURE (%)**

Africa/Middle East	40.1
North America	26.5
Europe Developed	13.9
United Kingdom	8.7
Japan	3.6
Asia Developed	2.8
Australasia	1.7
Asia Emerging	1.6
Latin America	0.6
Europe Emerging	0.5

#### **EQUITY STYLE EXPOSURE (%)**

Large Core	19.9
Large Value	16.9
Large Growth	13.3
Small Value	12.9
Mid Core	12.8
Small Core	9.3
Mid Value	7.4
Mid Growth	5.0
Small Growth	2.5

### QUARTERLY FUND COMMENTARY (AS OF Q4 2024)

The outcome of the December meeting of the US Federal Reserve Bank's Federal Open Market Committee's ("FOMC") exerted pressure on domestic assets, reminding us of the sensitivities of South African asset prices to developments outside our borders. Continued strong economic data, and uncertainty around policies to be implemented by the incoming administration had members guide for the pace of any further interest cuts to be more gradually implemented – driving yields and the US dollar higher, and risk assets lower.

Risk-off sentiment caused the South African rand to end the quarter 9.3% weaker against the US dollar with the broad dollar index strengthening by 7.6%. This indicates a strong reaction of the US dollar to perceptions of potential paths for monetary policy and fiscal policy uncertainty ahead of the incoming US administration, effectively putting the rand's rally on hold.

But let's not succumb to the habit of remembering something for how it concluded, and rather consider the economic and financial market good fortune that transpired throughout the year. Inflation continued to cool off, with most central banks about two-thirds of the way through interest rate cutting cycles. A recession did not transpire in the US. In fact, US equities had another stellar year, with the S&P 500 index up 25.0% in US dollar

In South Africa, the outcome of the National Elections was markedly positive. Here too, inflation is contained, business and consumer confidence are at multi-year highs, and loadshedding is no longer the main topic discussed in social settings.

From a financial perspective, the JSE All Share index (SA equities) ended the year up 13.4% in rand terms, but small cap companies and longer duration government bonds were the standout performers. The index of small companies (JSE Small Cap) rallied 35.6%, while the bond market (JSE All Bond) returned 17.2%, reflecting the optimism around the outlook for the economy and domestically oriented businesses.

After the bond market delivered the strongest 1-year return in over a decade, outpacing the emerging market peers and developed market counterparts by some margin, we now view SA government bonds to be close to fair value.

While much good has come post the National Elections, a lot of work lies ahead – especially from a logistical perspective. We look for the rubber to hit the road in the first half of 2025 if the positive momentum is to be maintained and higher consumer and business optimism to follow through to increased consumption and capital expenditure.

We are on balance bullish in our outlook for SA equities in general, and offer some of our views below:

- We believe bonds have advanced ahead of equities on post-election optimism and think there is a catch-up to be had (especially so for smaller companies and within the Industrials sector in particular).
- Real GDP growth has been flat over the past decade, and now feels like the wheels
  of change are starting to turn with the worst of loadshedding seemingly behind us
  and work commencing in earnest to ameliorate logistical ailments. Economists have
  broadly revised growth expectations higher: the SARB currently forecasts GDP to
  expand by 1.7% and 1.8% in 2025 and 2026.
- Lower interest rates bode well for consumers and businesses alike. This should be supportive of further re-rating in equities. The business and consumer confidence indicators are already starting to partially reflect this.
- While foreign investors have not returned to the SA equity market yet as they have in the bond market, we believe that once strong macroeconomic data prints start to materialise, these funds may start to flow. At the same time, post the amendments to Regulation 28 (stipulating fund managers may allocate up to 45% of their assets offshore), we see most of these shifts having largely been made. This reduces the selling pressure faced by domestic equites over the past two years.
- Despite the rally this year, aggregate valuations remain undemanding especially so versus emerging market peers and versus longer term averages.
- We currently see three main risks: 1) extended escalated geopolitical tensions, especially in the Middle East affecting oil prices and global risk sentiment, 2) volatility under a Trump presidency, and 3) disruptive coalition politics domestically.

Our outlook for the South African financial markets is optimistic, but subject to some risks and uncertainties. Our optimism rests on there being opportunity under the coalition government for continued structural reform and fiscal consolidation, with asset valuations still attractive. Together with inflation rolling over, allowing the SARB to continue cutting interest rates this year (following other global central banks) providing financial relief to under pressure consumers.

While an overweight position to equity detracted in December, increased allocation to smaller capitalisation domestically-focused equities during the latter half of 2024, enhanced participation in the meaningful post-election market rally. At the same time, a slight underweight position in longer duration South African government bonds detracted from relative performance. Our engagement with offshore assets proved beneficial as the significantly stronger US dollar begot rand weakness in December.

We remain alert to the opportunities and risks unfolding. Believing the South African bond and equity markets to remain resilient, but volatile, we are following a balanced and diversified approach to allocating client capital.

## FUND MANAGER



### BRYN HATTY, CA(SA), CFA

Bryn is the Chief Investment Officer for Stonehage Fleming Investment Management in South Africa and is responsible for the leadership and development of the domestic investment offering. Prior to joining Stonehage Fleming, he worked as a Portfolio Manager at Old Mutual Investment Group. During this time, he managed a range of portfolios including hedge funds, long-only absolute returns funds as well as an equity fund. He also has a number of years' experience doing structuring for South African institutional and corporate clients. Bryn served on the Financial Derivatives Advisory Committee for the South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX) for over 10 years. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant as well as a CFA charterholder and studied Business Science at the University of Cape Town.

## DEPUTY FUND MANAGER



#### IAN-DAAN VAN WYK. CFA

JD is a Senior Research Analyst within the Stonehage Fleming Investment Managementteam and permanent member of the Investment Committee, responsible for developing and implementing investment strategy. He focusses on economic and market research as well as manager selection and portfolio construction. Prior to joining Stonehage Fleming, JD worked at an M&A Advisory consultancy, and as a finance lecturer before that. He studied Investment Management at the University of Johannesburg and is a CFA charterholder. JD was a Board Member of the CFA Society of South Africa from 2018 to 2024.

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#### **GLOSSARY SUMMARY**

**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 Return:** The highest and lowest returns 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. **Alpha:** Denoted the outperformance of the fund over the benchmark.

#### **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.

**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.

**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.

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

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 TER's. During the phase in period TER's 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 costs are 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.

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,

**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.

Max Gain: Largest increase in any single month

**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.

**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.

**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.

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 with income reinvested. 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.

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

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Management Company: Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd. This portfolio operates as a white label fund under the Prescient Unit Trust Scheme, which is governed by the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act.

Management Company: PRESCIENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY (RF) (PTY) LTD

Prescient House, Westlake Business Park, Otto Close, Westlake, 7945 t: 0800 111 899 e: info@prescient.co.za www.prescient.co.za Registration number: 2002/022560/07

Trustee: NEDBANK INVESTOR SERVICES

2nd Floor, 16 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort, 1709 t: +27 11 534 6557 www.nedbank.co.za

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 South Africa.

Investment Manager: STONEHAGE FLEMING INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (SOUTH AFRICA) (PTY) LTD

First Floor North Block, Waterway House, 3 Dock Road, VA Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001

t: 021 301 0800 e: SAfundinfo@stonehagefleming.com www.stonehagefleming.com/investments

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Issue Date: 14 February 2025.

