

# ANNUAL REPORT ALLAN GRAY AFRICA EX-SA EQUITY FUND LIMITED

31 DECEMBER 2018

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## ALLAN GRAY AFRICA EX-SA EQUITY FUND LIMITED STRATEGY

As at 31 December 2018

## **Inception date**

1 January 2012

## **Portfolio managers**

Andrew Lapping, Nick Ndiritu

# Fund description and summary of investment policy

Allan Gray Africa ex-SA Equity Fund Limited (the 'Fund') invests in a focused portfolio of companies with significant business interests in Africa regardless of the location of the stock exchange listing (excluding South Africa). The Fund price is reported in US dollars but the underlying holdings are denominated in various currencies. Returns are likely to be volatile.

# Fund objective and benchmark

The Fund aims to outperform African equity markets (excluding South Africa) over the long term without taking on greater risk of loss. The Fund's benchmark is the Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index. The Fund does not seek to mirror the benchmark but instead may deviate meaningfully from this performance benchmark in pursuit of superior returns. To the extent that its investments differ from those in the benchmark the Fund faces the risk of underperforming the benchmark.

## Suitable for those investors who

- Seek exposure to African (excluding South African) equities
- Are comfortable with stock market and currency fluctuations
- Are prepared to take on the risk of capital loss
- Typically have an investment horizon of more than five years

## Capacity

The Fund has limited capacity and thus may restrict inflows. Redemptions may be limited to US\$5m or 2.5% of the Fund (whichever is less) per dealing day.

## Commentary

Africa's equity markets delivered disappointing returns in 2018. The MSCI Africa index was down -24%, while the MSCI Africa ex-SA index was down -13%. None of the continent's largest markets provided a safe refuge, with respective MSCI country indices posting negative US dollar returns: Egypt -14%, Nigeria -14%, Kenya -13%, and Morocco -10%.

After the strong positive performance in 2017, a significant pull-back in 2018 reinforces the common perception that African markets are volatile and prone to risks lurking in the background. These risks include exchange rates overshooting, unpredictable regulatory regimes, commodity cycles, disputed elections, autocratic leaders, endemic corruption and erratic weather patterns.

As it turns out, excess market volatility is not unique to Africa's financial markets. The fundamental approach for determining the fair value of an asset entails estimating the present discounted value of future cash flows. Unfortunately, forecasting the future is an imperfect tango with uncertainty. The aggregate of investors' estimates, reflected in stock prices, can vary wildly from a fair value trend line based on "perfect foresight". In essence, the long-run trajectory based on underlying value drivers is more stable than the market thinks.

The Fund's exposure remains concentrated in bottomup opportunities where we believe the long-run value drivers remain intact despite recent market volatility and depressed valuations. In Nigeria, investor sentiment has turned more bearish over the past year, but top tier banks are: steadily growing their base of cheap deposits, ramping-up transactional volumes and related fees, and adopting digital distribution channels. Banks' profitability measures have recovered after the 2014 oil slump and they have boosted provisioning buffers. The perennial concern is the lack of a diversified base of credit-worthy borrowers. The short-term respite is that banks are generating attractive vields on government securities. currently above 17%. Long term, there will be eventual winners and losers; successful management teams are deftly balancing loan growth with asset quality risks. Despite the anomalies in Nigeria, the banking sector appears cheap. The country's top seven banks by market capitalisation are trading at average multiples of 4.8x price-to-earnings and 6.5% dividend yield.

## ALLAN GRAY AFRICA EX-SA EQUITY FUND LIMITED STRATEGY

As at 31 December 2018

The Fund also has a material holding in Seplat, a Nigerian oil producer. Forecasting the trajectory of oil prices isn't our forte. However, Seplat is increasingly a key gas supplier to the growing demand for gaspowered electricity generation. The present discounted value of this stream of cash flows is far less volatile than the oil price swings.

In Zimbabwe, early optimism has been replaced by the hard reality of digging out of the post-Mugabe rubble. The implied discount rate for a dollar in Zimbabwe increased from 36% in January 2018 to 80% at the end of December 2018. This suggests that rampant money creation continued well after Mugabe's exit, further worsened by a directive in October to split foreign currency accounts into those carrying real US dollars and those for electronic dollars. Ultimately, the new administration needs to curb fiscal excesses. We have no better insights on how the future unfolds, but our core holdings in Econet and Delta are real assets which can preserve or even increase in value – despite the challenging macroeconomic conditions.

We have been underweight Egyptian and Kenyan equities, but the correction in asset prices is increasingly discounting our concerns. In addition, during the fourth quarter, we added modestly to the Fund's exposure in the West African regional stock exchange.

Periods of volatility are unnerving, but can present long-term investors with attractive buying opportunities. Patient capital and maintaining a focus on fundamental value drivers trumps paying attention to short-term market fluctuations.

Since the Fund's inception, this investment approach has yielded 4.7% in US dollars, compared to -4.0% benchmark returns.

#### Commentary contributed by Nick Ndiritu

#### Performance in US\$ net of all fees and expenses

% Returns	Fund	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>
Cumulative:		
Since inception (1 January 2012)	38.2	-24.6
Annualised:		
Since inception (1 January 2012)	4.7	-4.0
Latest 5 years	-3.3	-8.9
Latest 3 years	10.7	3.2
Latest 2 years	20.4	3.1
Latest 1 year	-5.2	-10.5
Risk measures (since inception based on month-end prices)		
Maximum drawdown <sup>2</sup>	-51.7	-51.8
Percentage positive months <sup>3</sup>	53.6	50.0
Annualised monthly volatility <sup>4</sup>	17.9	17.5
Highest annual return <sup>5</sup>	69.1	26.6
Lowest annual return <sup>5</sup>	-38.6	-43.4

Relative to benchmark return required to reach high watermark: 0.9%.

Note: The Fund's returns shown above are all A class.

- Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index (source: Standard Bank), performance as calculated by Allan Gray as 13 December 2018. Calculation based on the latest available data as supplied by third parties.
- Maximum percentage decline over any period. The maximum drawdown occurred from August 2014 to July 2016 and maximum benchmark drawdown occurred from July 2014 to January 2016. Drawdown is calculated on the total return of the Fund/benchmark (i.e. including income).
- The percentage of calendar months in which the Fund produced a positive monthly return since inception.
- The standard deviation of the Fund's monthly return. This is a measure of how much an investment's return varies from its average over time.
- 5. This is the highest or lowest rolling 12-month return the Fund has experienced since inception. The Fund's highest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 January 2018 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 30 April 2018. The Fund's lowest annual return occurred during the 12 months ended 31 August 2015 and the benchmark's occurred during the 12 months ended 31 August 2015. All rolling 12-month figures for the Fund and the benchmark are available from the Allan Gray Service Team on request.

# ALLAN GRAY AFRICA EX-SA EQUITY FUND LIMITED STRATEGY

As at 31 December 2018

#### Annual management fee

The management fee consists of a base fee of 1% and a performance component. The fee rate is calculated weekly by comparing the Fund's total performance for the week, after the base fee is deducted, to that of the benchmark.

# Fee for performance equal to the Fund's benchmark: 1.00% p.a.

For each percentage point above or below the benchmark we add or deduct 0.2%. This means that Allan Gray shares in approximately 20% of the performance relative to the benchmark.

The fee is capped at 5% over any 12 month rolling period and can decrease to a minimum of 0%. If the fee would have been negative, the negative fee will be carried forward to reduce the next week's fee (and all subsequent weeks until the underperformance is recovered).

#### Total expense ratio ('TER') and Transaction costs<sup>6</sup>

The annual management fee charged is included in the TER. The TER is a measure of the actual expenses incurred by the Fund over a one and three-year period (annualised). Since Fund returns are quoted after deduction of these expenses the TER should not be deducted from the published returns. Transaction costs are disclosed separately.

TER and Transaction costs breakdown for the 1 and 3-year period ending 31 December 2018	1yr %	3yr %
Total expense ratio	2.90	2.31
Fee for benchmark performance	1.00	0.79
Performance fees	1.39	1.03
Custody fees	0.45	0.36
Other costs excluding transaction costs	0.06	0.06
VAT	0.00	0.07
Transaction costs	0.30	0.48
Total investment charge	3.20	2.79

Note: The fees, TERs and Transaction costs provided are for Class A only. The fees, TERs and transaction costs for all other classes are available from the Allan Gray service team.

6. Prior to 1 September 2017, the Fund was subject to VAT.

#### Sector allocation as at 31 December 2018

Sector	% of Fund	Benchmark <sup>7</sup>
Oil and gas	11.4	5.0
Basic materials	4.2	32.3
Industrials	1.0	4.9
Consumer goods	22.1	5.5
Consumer services	0.7	0.0
Telecommunications	11.1	14.1
Utilities	2.4	0.0
Financials	36.4	37.4
Technology	6.0	0.0
Money market and bank deposits	4.3	0.7
Bonds	0.3	0.0
Total <sup>9</sup>	100.0	100.0

#### Country of primary listing as at 31 December 2018

Country	% of Equities	Benchmark <sup>7</sup>
Nigeria	39.5	16.7
Zimbabwe <sup>8</sup>	26.9	1.8
Egypt	10.7	17.7
United Kingdom	4.6	9.9
Kenya	4.4	12.1
BRVM	2.7	1.6
Uganda	2.5	0.0
Australia	2.2	0.3
Rwanda	2.1	0.0
Malawi	1.6	0.0
Ghana	0.8	0.0
Tanzania	0.6	0.9
Zambia	0.6	0.0
Canada	0.6	25.3
France	0.4	1.1
Morocco	0.0	6.3
Mauritius	0.0	3.7
Tunisia	0.0	1.3
United States	0.0	1.1
Botswana	0.0	0.4
Total <sup>9</sup>	100.0	100.0

7. Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index (source: Standard Bank).

Calculation based on the latest available data as supplied by third parties. 8. Zimbabwe assets are currently being fair valued in accordance with the board's fair value pricing policies.

9. There may be slight discrepancies in the totals due to rounding.

## SCHEDULE OF NET ASSETS

#### As at 31 December 2018

Number held	Instrument (ranked by sector)	Market value US\$	% of Fund	Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index (%)
	FINANCIALS	136 720 674	36.4%	37.4%
527 186 562	Zenith Bank	33 367 154	8.9%	
1 293 174 908	Access Bank	24 146 272	6.4%	
624 792 823	First Bank of Nigeria	13 639 143	3.6%	
102 048 677	Guaranty Trust Bank	9 653 405	2.6%	
68 871 219	Stanbic IBTC	9 067 974	2.4%	
8 396 200	Stanbic Holdings	7 477 479	2.0%	
23 696 160	Bank of Kigali	7 374 909	2.0%	
18 603 902	Kenya Commercial Bank	6 837 253	1.8%	
1 141 389 398	Diamond Bank	6 832 415	1.8%	
169 895 217	Ecobank	6 531 202	1.7%	
	Positions less than 1%	11 793 468	3.2%	
	CONSUMER GOODS	82 766 861	22.1%	5.5%
38 352 170	Eastern Tobacco	34 818 888	9.3%	
36 841 188	Delta Corporation*	29 472 950	7.9%	
17 101 817	Innscor Africa*	6 156 654	1.6%	
	Positions less than 1%	12 318 369	3.3%	
	OIL AND GAS	42 871 661	11.4%	5.0%
20 461 846	Seplat Petroleum Development	30 878 045	8.2%	
1 971 160	Tullow Oil	4 503 488	1.2%	
	Positions less than 1%	7 490 128	2.0%	
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	41 839 423	11.1%	14.1%
141 724 716	Econet Wireless Zimbabwe*	31 746 336	8.5%	
3 146 256	Press Corp	4 921 624	1.2%	
	Positions less than 1%	5 171 463	1.4%	
	TECHNOLOGY	22 589 503	6.0%	0.0%
109 128 031	Cassava Smartech Zimbabwe*	22 589 503	6.0%	
	BASIC MATERIALS	15 885 937	4.2%	32.3%
1 778 004	Zimplats	7 778 822	2.1%	
1 361 704	Caledonia Mining	7 589 310	2.0%	
	Positions less than 1%	517 805	0.1%	
	UTILITIES	9 134 069	2.4%	0.0%
105 829 254	Umeme	9 134 069	2.4%	
	INDUSTRIALS	3 714 703	1.0%	4.9%
	Positions less than 1%	3 714 703	1.0%	
	CONSUMER SERVICES	2 444 111	0.7%	0.0%
	Positions less than 1%	2 444 111	0.7%	
	GILTS AND SEMI-GILTS	1 176 000	0.4%	0.0%
	RBZ 7% Saving 11/03/19*	588 000	0.2%	
	RBZ 7% Saving 25/03/19*	588 000	0.2%	
	CASH AND ACCRUALS	16 109 568	4.3%	

\*The Investment Manager adopted and used a fair value methodology utilising unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of Zimbabwean financial assets at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017. This valuation process is subjective and the results may vary according to the inputs and process applied.

## APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As at 31 December 2018

The directors of the Fund are responsible for the preparation of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report.

The annual financial statements which comprise the financial position as at 31 December 2018 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2018 are set out on pages 8 to 31 and have been approved by the directors of the Fund and are signed on its behalf by:

John CR Collis Director 26 March 2019

Craig Bodenstab Director 26 March 2019

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# To the directors and members of Allan Gray Africa ex-SA Equity Fund Limited (the 'Fund'):

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Fund, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies on pages 8 to 31.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at 31 December 2018 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS').

## **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Other Information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises:

The information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, in the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information, and in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the Annual Report prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud
  or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is
  sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement
  resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery,
  intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
  appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the
  Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ernst + Young LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants Licensed Public Accountants Toronto, Canada 26 March 2019

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
ASSETS			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2	361 009 255	370 256 685
Cash and cash equivalents	3	11 347 818	19 263 353
Trade and other receivables	4	3 204 085	534 339
TOTAL ASSETS		375 561 158	390 054 377
LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	308 648	686 649
TOTAL LIABILITIES EXCLUDING NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SHARES		308 648	686 649
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SHARES		375 252 510	389 367 728

The above Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

#### ALLAN GRAY AFRICA EX-SA EQUITY FUND LIMITED

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
NET INVESTMENT (LOSS) / INCOME		(7 153 048)	140 266 110
Dividends		26 956 884	13 974 882
Interest		433 624	69 607
Realised gains / (losses) on disposal of investments		11 987 547	31 922 968
Unrealised (losses) / gains on investments		(46 143 511)	94 355 687
Foreign exchange losses		(418 554)	(273 774)
Other income		30 962	216 740
OPERATING EXPENSES		(5 973 914)	(4 247 244)
Performance fees		(1 263 556)	(1 495 905)
Management fees	1.3.2	(290 142)	(134 982)
Audit fees		(21 720)	(38 071)
Custodian fees		(1 845 136)	(1 022 246)
Directors' fees		(18 000)	(18 000)
Transaction fees		(25 182)	(48 200)
Administration fees		(141 003)	(92 510)
Withholding taxes		(2 310 759)	(1 362 158)
Other expenses		(58 416)	(35 172)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		(13 126 962)	136 018 866

The above Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SHARES

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares US\$	Number of shares
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2016		221 491 417	2 202 874
Total comprehensive income for the year		136 018 866	
Net capital contributions		31 857 445	267 751
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2017		389 367 728	2 470 625
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(13 126 962)	
Net capital withdrawals		(988 256)	(8 076)
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2018	8	375 252 510	2 462 549

The above Statement of changes in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operations before working capital changes	6.1	8 584 201	(15 053 548)
Working capital changes	6.2	(2 118 376)	516 900
Interest received		214 814	-
Dividends received net of withholding tax		23 935 564	12 204 404
NET CASH GENERATED / (UTILISED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		30 616 203	(2 332 244)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of investments		(108 559 484)	(147 451 165)
Proceeds from sale of investments		71 434 505	135 948 144
NET CASH UTILISED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(37 124 979)	(11 503 021)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Redemption of redeemable shares		(10 205 155)	(56 362 926)
Proceeds from issue of redeemable shares		9 216 950	79 334 403
NET CASH FLOWS (UTILISED) / GENERATED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(988 205)	22 971 477
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(7 496 981)	9 136 212
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		19 263 353	10 400 915
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(418 554)	(273 774)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		11 347 818	19 263 353

The above Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# **Corporate information**

Allan Gray Africa ex-SA Equity Fund Limited (the 'Fund') was incorporated on 31 October 2011 and is a limited liability company of unlimited duration. The Fund was launched to the public on 1 January 2012 and is a Bermuda exempted Mutual Fund Company. The investment manager of the Fund is Allan Gray Bermuda Limited (the 'Investment Manager'). Allan Gray Proprietary Limited is the Investment Adviser to the Fund.

The financial statements of the Fund were authorised for issue by the directors on 26 March 2019.

## 1. Accounting standards and policies

#### **1.1 Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, using the historical cost basis, except for financial instruments that have been measured at either fair value or amortised cost, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRS'). These financial statements are presented in US dollars, being the functional currency of the Fund.

# 1.2 IFRS

The Fund has adopted all new and revised standards, interpretations and amendments issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (the 'IASB') and the IFRS Interpretations Committee ('IFRIC') of the IASB that are relevant to its operations and effective for the annual accounting period ended 31 December 2018.

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and are in accordance with and comply with IFRS.

The following new, revised and amended IFRS standards, interpretations and amendments applicable to the Fund were adopted during the year:

	Standards	Effective date: Years beginning on/after	Impact
IFRS 9	Financial Instruments	1 January 2018	Refer to Note 1.3.6
IFRS 15	Revenue from Contracts with Customers	1 January 2018	No material impact

The following new or revised IFRS standards, interpretations and amendments applicable to the Fund have been issued but are not yet effective:

	Standards	Effective date: Years beginning on/after	Expected impact
IFRS 16	Leases	1 January 2019	No material impact
IFRIC 23	Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments	1 January 2019	No material impact

For the year ended 31 December 2018

A number of other changes, that are effective for accounting periods ended after 31 December 2018, have been issued by the IASB and IFRIC. However, these are not considered relevant to the Fund's operations.

# **1.3** Accounting policies

The Fund has identified the accounting policies that are most significant to its business operations and the understanding of its results. These accounting policies are set out below and have been consistently applied.

#### 1.3.1 Net investment income

Net investment income comprises interest income, dividend income, other income and realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments.

#### Interest income

Interest is recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income using the effective interest method.

#### **Dividend income**

Dividends are recognised when the last date to register for the dividend has passed. Dividend income is presented gross of any non-recoverable withholding taxes, which are disclosed separately in the Statement of comprehensive income.

#### Other income

Investors are charged 1% when subscribing for Fund shares. Investors may be charged 1% when redeeming Fund shares in the case of significant redemptions. These charges are paid into the Fund to offset the costs associated with the transactions that are borne by the Fund. The Investment Manager may waive these charges if transactions substantially offset one another.

#### Investment gains and losses

Changes in the fair value of financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss, and gains or losses made on the disposal of these financial assets, calculated using the average cost method, are recognised in profit or loss.

#### 1.3.2 Annual management fee

The management fee is the fee paid by the Fund to the Investment Manager for the management of the Fund. Management fees are calculated and accrued based on the weekly net asset value of the share class and recognised on an accrual basis in profit or loss.

#### 1.3.3 Expenses

All expenses are recognised on an accrual basis in profit or loss.

## 1.3.4 Distributions to holders of redeemable shares

Distributions from the Fund that may be declared will be automatically reinvested in additional redeemable shares unless a holder of redeemable shares requests in writing that any dividends be paid to them.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Distributions to holders of redeemable shares are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income as finance costs.

## 1.3.5 Taxation

There is no income tax, corporation tax, profits tax, withholding tax, capital gains tax, capital transfer tax, estate or stamp duty or inheritance tax in Bermuda payable by the Fund or its members in respect of shares in the Fund. The government of Bermuda has undertaken that in the event that any income, profit, capital, capital gains, estate or inheritance taxes are levied in Bermuda in the future, the Fund and its shares will be exempt from such taxes until 31 March 2035.

Income and capital gains on the Fund's investments, however, may be subject to taxes in certain countries.

## 1.3.6 Financial instruments: Financial assets and liabilities

#### Transition

The Fund adopted IFRS 9, Financial Instruments during the year with the date of initial application being 1 January 2018. IFRS 9 replaced IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. As a result, the Fund's loans and receivables at amortised cost were reclassified to financial assets at amortised cost, which approximates fair value. The Fund applied the transitional provisions whereby prior year comparatives were not restated. There were no transitional adjustments identified.

The Fund assessed the classification of financial instruments at the date of initial application:

- Financial assets previously classified as fair value through profit or loss continue to be classified as such.
- Equity and debt instruments are designated as at fair value through profit or loss as they are held in a portfolio of financial assets that is managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis.
- Financial assets previously classified as loans and receivables are held to collect contractual cash flows and give rise to cash flows representing solely payments of principal and interest. These financial assets are now classified and measured as financial assets at amortised cost, which approximates fair value.

In summary, upon the adoption of IFRS 9, the Fund had the following required or elected reclassifications as at 1 January 2018. There were no changes to the carrying amounts of these financial assets.

IAS 39 measurement category	IFRS 9 measurement category
	Amortised cost US\$
LOANS AND RECEIVABLES	
Trade and other receivables	534 339
Cash and cash equivalents	19 263 353
TOTAL	19 797 692

For the year ended 31 December 2018

#### Classification

#### **Financial assets**

The Fund determines the classification of its financial assets on initial recognition, when it becomes a party to the contract governing the instrument. The classification depends on how the Fund manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows.

#### Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss when:

- they are held for trading;
- the contractual cash flows do not represent solely payments of principal and interest; or
- designated as such upon initial recognition to eliminate or significantly reduce a measurement or recognition inconsistency.

The Fund classifies its investment in equity instruments and money market instruments as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

The Fund's investments in equity instruments are designated upon initial recognition on the basis that they are part of a group of financial assets that are managed and have their performance evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with risk management and investment strategies of the Fund, as set out in the Fund's offering document. Derivatives are categorised as held for trading and are not designated as effective hedging instruments in terms of IFRS 9.

#### Financial assets at amortised cost - Policy effective from 1 January 2018 (IFRS 9)

The Fund classifies financial assets at amortised cost when:

- the financial asset is held with the objective to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Financial assets at amortised cost comprise cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables, which include dividends receivable and amounts due from brokers, which are short-term in nature.

#### Loans and receivables - Policy effective before 1 January 2018 (IAS39)

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Loans and receivables comprise cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables, which include dividends receivable and amounts due from brokers, which are short term in nature.

#### **Financial liabilities**

The Fund determines the classification of its financial liabilities on initial recognition, when it becomes a party to the contract governing the instrument, according to the nature and purpose of the financial instrument.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

#### Financial liabilities at amortised cost

The Fund classifies its trade and other payables and any distribution payable as financial liabilities at amortised cost, which are measured at amortised cost. Trade and other payables include accrued expenses and amounts due to brokers, which are short term in nature. Amortised cost approximates fair value due to the short term nature of the financial liabilities.

#### **Recognition and measurement**

A 'regular way' contract is one that requires the delivery of an asset within the time frame established, generally by regulation or convention within the marketplace concerned. Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised using trade date accounting. Trade date accounting refers to (a) the recognition of an asset to be received and the liability to pay for it on the trade date, and (b) derecognition of an asset that is sold, recognition of any gain or loss on disposal and the recognition of a receivable from the buyer for payment on the trade date. The trade date is the date that an entity commits itself to purchase or to sell an asset.

Financial instruments are recognised on the trade date at fair value, plus, in the case of assets not at fair value through profit or loss, directly attributable transaction costs. The Fund determines the classification of its financial instruments on initial recognition, when the Fund becomes a party to the contract governing the instrument.

#### Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets designated as at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, investments at fair value through profit or loss are marked to market on a daily basis with changes in fair value taken through profit or loss as gains and losses. Attributable transaction costs are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

#### Financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost are measured initially at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses. Amortised cost approximates fair value due to the short term nature of financial assets and financial liabilities.

Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost are derecognised or impaired, and through the amortisation process.

#### Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised where:

- The rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired, or
- The Fund has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset, or
- The Fund has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a
  third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement. Either (a) the Fund has transferred substantially all the
  risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the Fund has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the
  risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

#### For the year ended 31 December 2018

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in profit or loss.

#### Impairment of financial assets - Policy effective from 1 January 2018 (IFRS9)

The Fund assesses at each reporting date whether an allowance for expected credit losses ('ECL') should be recognised. The ECL allowance does not require any trigger event to occur but rather relies on an expectation of future losses.

#### Assets carried at amortised cost

The allowance for ECL is determined based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows expected to be received, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The Fund applies a simplified approach in determining the ECL based on its historical credit loss experience, days past due of the receivables and consideration of forward-looking factors specific to the counter-party and economic environment, the impact of which has been considered and concluded to be immaterial.

A financial asset is classified as in default when the contractual payments are 30 days past due unless there is specific information indicating that the Fund is unlikely to receive the outstanding amounts. A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows. The Fund holds trade receivables with no financing component and which have maturities of less than 12 months. All trade receivables are expected to be received within 30 days.

#### Determination of fair value

Financial instruments carried at fair value are valued based on a quoted price in an active market. The fair value of Zimbabwean based financial assets carried at a discount to their quoted prices and financial instruments not traded in an active market, is determined using appropriate valuation techniques.

An analysis of fair values of financial instruments and further details as to how they are measured, are provided in note 7.

#### Offsetting financial instruments

A financial asset and a financial liability are offset, and the net amount presented in the Statement of financial position, only when the Fund currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Income and expense items are only offset to the extent that their related instruments have been offset in the Statement of financial position.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

#### 1.3.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Balances held for the purposes of meeting short-term cash commitments, rather than for investment or other purposes, are current assets and disclosed separately on the face of the Statement of financial position.

Subsequent to initial recognition, cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

#### 1.3.8 Amounts due from and due to brokers

Amounts due from and to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased (in a regular way transaction) that have been contracted for but not yet settled or delivered on the Statement of financial position date. These are included in trade and other receivables, and in trade and other payables, respectively.

These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment for amounts due from brokers. Amortised cost approximates fair value due to the short term nature of amounts due from and to brokers. A provision for impairment of amounts due from brokers is established when there is objective evidence that the Fund will not be able to collect all amounts due from the relevant broker.

#### 1.3.9 Foreign currencies

The Fund's functional currency is the US dollar, which is the currency in which the performance of the Fund is evaluated and its liquidity is managed. Foreign currency items are recorded at the exchange rate ruling on the transaction date.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated to US dollars at rates of exchange ruling at the Statement of financial position date or when settled. Gains and losses arising from the translation of these monetary assets and liabilities are recognised in profit or loss.

Realised and unrealised foreign currency gains or losses on investments measured at fair value through profit or loss are included in the Statement of comprehensive income in realised gains or losses on disposal of investments and unrealised gains or losses on investments, respectively. Realised and unrealised foreign currency gains or losses on all other financial instruments denominated in foreign currencies are included in the Statement of comprehensive income in foreign exchange gains or losses.

## 1.3.10 Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares

Shares issued by the Fund are classified as financial liabilities and disclosed as net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares. The value of net assets attributable to holders is what is commonly known as the capital value of the Fund. This financial liability (as defined by IAS 32) represents the holders' right to a residual interest in the Fund's net assets.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

#### 1.3.11 Critical judgement in applying the Fund's accounting policies

The preparation of the Fund's financial statements requires the directors to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. However, uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that could require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of the asset or liability affected in the future.

When the fair value of financial assets and liabilities recorded in the Statement of financial position cannot be derived from active markets, they are determined using a variety of valuation techniques. Refer to note 7.2.

#### 1.3.12 Events subsequent to year-end

There were no significant events subsequent to year-end up to the date of approval of these financial statements.

2018	2017
100	100
USŞ	USŞ

# 2. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Gilts and semi-gilts	3 042 313	1 866 312
Foreign equities	357 966 942	368 390 373
TOTAL	361 009 255	370 256 685

## 3. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash with foreign banks	11 347 818	19 263 353
TOTAL	11 347 818	19 263 353

# 4. Trade and other receivables

Interest receivable	288 424	69 614
Dividends receivable	1 118 881	408 320
Amounts due from brokers	-	56 405
Margin account on futures	1 796 780	
TOTAL	3 204 085	534 339

## 5. Trade and other payables

Management fees	21 513	21 310
Performance fees	-	440 763
Other payables	219 456	127 694
Redemptions payable	54 107	-
Loss on forward contract	13 572	
Amounts due to brokers	-	96 882
TOTAL	308 648	686 649

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# 6. Notes to the statement of cash flows

# 6.1 Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operations before working capital changes

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(13 126 962)	136 018 866
Adjustments:		
Realised (gains) / losses on disposal of investments	(11 987 547)	(31 922 968 )
Unrealised losses / (gains) on investments	58 359 905	(106 740 889)
Foreign exchange losses	418 554	273 774
Interest income	(433 624)	(69 607)
Dividend income, net of withholding tax	(24 646 125)	(12 612 724)
TOTAL	8 584 201	(15 053 548)

# 6.2 Working capital changes

Increase in trade and other receivables	(1 740 375)	(56 405)
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other payables	(378 001)	573 305
TOTAL	(2 118 376)	516 900

# 7. Financial instruments

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset and financial liability are disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements.

# Categorisation of financial instruments at 31 December 2018

	Financial assets measured at amortised cost US\$	Financial assets measured at fair value US\$	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost US\$	Financial liabilities measured at fair value US\$	Total US\$
ASSETS					
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	361 009 255	-	-	361 009 255
Cash and cash equivalents	11 347 818	-	-	-	11 347 818
Trade and other receivables	3 204 085	-	-	-	3 204 085
TOTAL ASSETS	14 551 903	361 009 255	-	-	375 561 158
LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	-	-	295 076	-	295 076
Forward contract	-	-	-	13 572	13 572
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	295 076	13 572	308 648

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# Categorisation of financial instruments at 31 December 2017

	Loans and receivables measured at amortised cost US\$	Financial assets measured at fair value US\$	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost US\$	Total US\$
ASSETS				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	370 256 685	-	370 256 685
Cash and cash equivalents	19 263 353	-	-	19 263 353
Trade and other receivables	534 339	-	-	534 339
TOTAL ASSETS	19 797 692	370 256 685	-	390 054 377
LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	-	-	686 649	686 649
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	686 649	686 649

# 7.1 Financial risk management policies and objectives

The Fund's investment portfolio may comprise equities, equity-linked securities, interest-bearing non-equity linked securities and cash and cash equivalents. The Fund may invest in listed and unlisted securities and these securities may be denominated in local or foreign currency.

The Fund invests in a focused portfolio of assets that are selected for their perceived superior fundamental value and expected risk and return profile. The Fund seeks to take advantage of opportunities that arise and may invest a substantial portion of the assets in a single country or region rather than a diversified portfolio of assets with exposure to a basket of African countries.

The Fund defines 'African Equities' as equities in companies with significant business interests in Africa (excluding South Africa), regardless of the location of the stock exchange listing. The Fund's investing activities expose holders of Fund shares to various types of risks that are associated with the financial instruments and markets in which the Fund invests.

#### Market risk

The Fund's investing activities expose the holders of Fund shares to various types of risks that are associated with the financial instruments and markets in which the Fund invests. Market risk is defined as the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices and includes interest rate, foreign currency and other price risks.

The following tables show the Fund's exposure to price and interest rate risks, split into the different types of financial instruments held by the Fund at year end. The analysis only relates to instruments subject to those specific risks.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Exposure	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
SUBJECT TO PRICE RISK		
Equities	357 966 942	368 390 373
SUBJECT TO INTEREST RATE RISK		
Cash and cash equivalents	11 347 818	19 263 353
Gilts and semi-gilts	3 042 313	1 866 312

## **Price risk**

Price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate or currency risk), whether the changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting similar financial instruments traded in the market. Holders of redeemable shares are exposed to changes in the market values of the individual investments underlying the Fund. Exposure to price risk is mainly through listed instruments.

As a result of the nature of the Fund's underlying investments, there will be significant price fluctuations in the pursuit of superior long-term returns, and there will be periods when the equities in the Fund underperform its benchmark and/or generate negative absolute returns. Short-term performance can be volatile and investors are encouraged to focus on long-term returns when evaluating the Fund's performance, as the Investment Manager takes a long-term view when making investment decisions.

The Fund's portfolio is constructed based on proprietary investment research. This research is intended to enable the Fund to be invested in equities which offer superior fundamental value. Whether an equity offers superior fundamental value is determined by comparing the share price with an assessment of the equity's intrinsic value. Price risk is not managed in the Fund. Shares are typically bought when research and analysis indicates that the intrinsic value of the company far exceeds its market price, in anticipation of the price rising to its intrinsic value and it is believed there is a margin of safety. The lower the price of a share when compared to its assessed intrinsic value, the more attractive the equity's fundamental value is considered to be.

There has been no change to the Fund's exposure to price risk or the manner in which it manages and measures the risk. The following analysis indicates the possible impact on net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares to price risk, until such time as the investments are sold. The table also illustrates the effect of possible changes in fair value of investments for price risk, assuming that all other variables remain constant. The disclosure provides information on the risks to which holders of redeemable shares are exposed and is not indicative of future performance.

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
INVESTMENTS SUBJECT TO PRICE RISK		
EQUITIES		
Effect on net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares		
Gross exposure	357 966 942	368 390 373
+-5%	17 898 347	18 419 519
+-10%	35 796 694	36 839 037
+-20%	71 593 388	73 678 075

For the year ended 31 December 2018

## Concentration of equity price risk

The following table analyses the Fund's concentration of equity price risk in the Fund's equity portfolio by sector allocation:

% of equity securities	2018 %	2017 %
Financials	38.2	35.7
Consumer goods	23.1	27.0
Oil and gas	12.0	12.5
Telecommunications	11.7	13.7
Technology	6.3	
Basic materials	4.4	5.4
Utilities	2.6	3.1
Industrials	1.0	1.7
Consumer services	0.7	0.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Fund is exposed to interest rate risk through its exposure to holding cash and cash equivalents and gilts and semi-gilts. The Investment Manager manages the Fund's exposure to interest rates in accordance with the Fund's investment objectives and policies.

The table below illustrates the effect of reasonably possible changes in prevailing interest rates, with all other variables held constant. The actual results may differ from the sensitivity analysis, and the difference could be material. The disclosure provides information on the risks to which holders of redeemable shares are exposed and is not indicative of future performance.

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
INVESTMENTS SUBJECT TO INTEREST RATE RISK		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	11 347 818	19 263 353
Effect on net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares		
+- 0.5%	56 739	96 317
+- 1.0%	113 478	192 634
GILTS AND SEMI-GILTS	3 042 313	1 866 312
Effect on net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares		
+- 0.5%	15 212	9 332
+- 1.0%	30 423	18 663

## Foreign currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The Fund undertakes certain transactions denominated in foreign currencies and is therefore exposed to the effects of exchange rate fluctuations.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

The following table indicates the currencies to which the Fund had exposure at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 on its financial assets and liabilities.

A positive number indicates an increase in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares where the US dollar weakens against the relevant currency. For a strengthening of the US dollar against the relevant currency, there would be an equal and opposite impact on the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares, and the balances below would be negative.

				Currency impact US\$	
EFFECT ON NET ASSETS ATTR	RIBUTABLE T	O HOLDERS OF REDEEMABL	E SHARES AS AT 31	DECEMBER 2018	
CURRENCY		FINANCIAL ASSET US\$	-/+5%	-/+10%	-/+20%
Canadian dollar	CAD	1 976 666	98 833	197 667	395 333
Australian dollar	AUD	7 785 498	389 275	778 550	1 557 100
Euro	EUR	1 292 408	64 620	129 241	258 482
British pound	GBP	40 700 051	2 035 003	4 070 005	8 140 010
Egyptian pound	EGP	39 439 689	1 971 984	3 943 969	7 887 938
Kenyan shilling	KES	15 905 781	795 289	1 590 578	3 181 156
Nigerian naira	NGN	120 551 162	6 027 558	12 055 116	24 110 232
Botswana pula	BWP	4 651	233	465	930
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2 138 778	106 939	213 878	427 756
Ugandan shilling	UGX	9 406 479	470 324	940 648	1 881 296
Malawian kwacha	MWK	6 724 636	336 232	672 464	1 344 927
Zambian kwacha	ZMW	2 047 673	102 384	204 767	409 535
Rwandan franc	RWF	7 374 909	368 745	737 491	1 474 982
Ghanaian cedi	GHS	2 775 406	138 770	277 541	555 081
Sount African rand	ZAR	246 600	12 330	24 660	49 320
West African franc	XOF	9 685 557	484 278	968 556	1 937 111
			13 402 797	26 805 596	53 611 189

For the year ended 31 December 2018

				Currency impact US\$		
EFFECT ON NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HOLDERS OF REDEEMABLE SHARES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017						
CURRENCY		FINANCIAL ASSET US\$	-/+5%	-/+10%	-/+20%	
Canadian dollar	CAD	1 563 158	78 158	156 316	312 632	
Australian dollar	AUD	9 024 171	451 209	902 417	1 804 834	
Euro	EUR	1 566 570	78 329	156 657	313 314	
British pound	GBP	46 046 571	2 302 329	4 604 657	9 209 314	
Egyptian pound	EGP	57 022 345	2 851 117	5 702 234	11 404 469	
Kenyan shilling	KES	18 438 445	921 922	1 843 844	3 687 689	
Nigerian naira	NGN	118 128 275	5 906 414	11 812 828	23 625 655	
Botswana pula	BWP	5 062	253	506	1 012	
Tanzanian shilling	TZS	2 248 025	112 401	224 803	449 605	
Ugandan shilling	UGX	11 157 098	557 855	1 115 710	2 231 420	
Malawian kwacha	MWK	4 009 178	200 459	400 918	801 836	
Zambian kwacha	ZMW	2 480 942	124 047	248 094	496 188	
Rwandan franc	RWF	7 476 503	373 825	747 650	1 495 301	
Ghanaian cedi	GHS	2 695 643	134 782	269 564	539 129	
West African franc	XOF	7 180 412	359 021	718 041	1 436 082	
			14 452 121	28 904 239	57 808 480	

#### Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations, resulting in financial loss to the Fund.

At year-end, financial assets exposed to credit risk comprised cash accounts. The Investment Manager monitors the creditworthiness of the Fund's counterparties (e.g. brokers, custodians and banks) by reviewing their credit ratings, financial statements and press releases on a regular basis.

The compliance departments of Citibank Europe plc (the 'Administrator') and the Investment Manager monitor compliance with applicable regulations and the investment mandate on a daily basis.

The table below provides an analysis of the credit quality of the Fund's cash and cash equivalents at reporting date by rating agency category. The credit quality has been assessed by reference to Fitch credit ratings, and where unavailable, Moody's ratings have been used. Ratings are presented in ascending order of credit risk.

	2018	2017
CREDIT RATING	% OF FUND	% OF FUND
A+	-	4.9
A	3.0	-
	3.0	4.9

Note that the balance (97.0%) of the Fund's net assets (2017: 95.1%) comprises financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, trade and other receivables, accrued expenses, and gilts and semi gilts which have been excluded from the table above.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

The Fund invests in markets that are considered emerging markets. Such markets are generally less mature and developed than those in advanced countries. Liquidity risk management rests with the Investment Manager, which has built an appropriate liquidity risk management framework for the management of the Fund's short-, medium- and long-term funding and liquidity management requirements.

The Fund's redeemable shares are redeemable for cash or in specie equal to the proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value. The Fund is therefore potentially exposed to weekly redemptions by the holders of redeemable shares.

The Fund may not borrow other than to meet redemptions. Such borrowing is limited to 10% of the Fund's net asset value and must be repaid within 90 days. The Investment Manager's compliance department monitors compliance with the applicable requirements.

Where total members' redemptions on any dealing day are more than US\$5 000 000 or 2.5% of the total net asset value of the Fund (whichever is less), the Investment Manager may, at its discretion, redeem only 2.5% of the total net asset value of the Fund or US\$5 000 000 (whichever is less), on a pro rata basis among the members, per dealing day. If any redemption requests are not satisfied in full, the balance thereof will be carried forward to the following dealing day, subject to the same 2.5% restriction. The Investment Manager retains the right to distribute all or part of the redemption proceeds in specie (in kind).

The Fund invests primarily in marketable securities and other financial instruments, which under normal market conditions, are readily convertible to cash. In addition, the Fund's policy is to maintain sufficient cash and cash equivalents to meet normal operating requirements and expected redemption requests.

Trade and other payables are due on demand. Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares and distributions payable are settled within 30 days.

# 7.2 Fair value

The directors of the Fund are of the opinion that the fair value of all financial instruments, other than those measured at fair value through profit or loss, approximates the carrying amount in the Statement of financial position as these balances are due within 30 days. IFRS 7 and IFRS 13 require fair value measurements to be disclosed by the source of inputs, using a three-level hierarchy, as follows:

- Level 1 quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 those involving inputs that are directly or indirectly observable
- Level 3 those with inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs)

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are determined as follows:

For the year ended 31 December 2018

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities traded in active liquid markets such as listed equity securities are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading, and are classified within level 1.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Certain investments that are not valued using the quoted market price on the securities exchange can be valued based on other observable market data at the discretion of the Investment Manager. Securities not traded through recognised public securities exchanges can be valued on the valuation date based on other reliable sources, such as quotations by recognised investment dealers, at the discretion of the Investment Manager. Investments not listed on public securities exchanges, or for which reliable quotations are not readily available, are valued using valuation models based on assumptions that may not be supported by observable market inputs. These investments are classified as level 2 or 3.

The following tables show the fair values of instruments at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

Level 1	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THRO	UGH PROFIT OR LOSS	
Equities	261 820 417	287 677 377
	261 820 417	287 677 377
Level 2	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE TH	IROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS	
Forward contract	13 572	-
	13 572	-
Level 3	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THRO	UGH PROFIT OR LOSS	
Equities	96 146 525	80 712 996
Gilts and semi-gilts	3 042 313	1 866 312
	99 188 838	82 579 308

During the year ended 31 December 2018, the Zimbabwean macroeconomic conditions and currency situation continued to deteriorate with the government continuing to print greater sums of money thus driving up equity prices. As a result the Investment Manager adopted and used a fair value methodology utilising unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of Zimbabwean financial assets at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017. This valuation process is subjective and the results may vary according to the inputs and process applied.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

The following table shows a reconciliation from the opening balances to the closing balances for fair value measurements of financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss, in level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
Opening balance	82 579 308	51 640 851
Purchases at cost	36 584 133	37 170 765
Disposal of shares	(30 337 985)	(40 566 197)
Net gains recognised in profit or loss	10 363 382	34 333 889
CLOSING BALANCE	99 188 838	82 579 308

Total gains or losses included in profit or loss are presented in the Statement of comprehensive income as follows:

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
Unrealised gains / (losses) recognised in profit or loss	3 955 287	2 267 555
Realised gains / (losses) recognised in profit or loss	6 408 095	32 066 334
CLOSING BALANCE	10 363 382	34 333 889

The Investment Manager adopted and used a fair value methodology utilising unobservable inputs to estimate the fair value of Zimbabwean financial assets at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017. This valuation process is subjective and the results may vary according to the inputs and process applied.

For fair value measurements in level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, changing the discount rate would have the following effect:

Effect on profit or loss:					
INCREASE / (DECREASE) OF DISCOUNT RATE:	INCREASE / (DECREASE) OF DISCOUNT RATE:				
2018	GAIN	LOSS			
+-5%	4 959 442	(4 959 442)			
+-10%	9 918 884	(9 918 884)			
2017	GAIN	LOSS			
+-5%	10 501 082	(10 501 082)			
+-10%	21 002 164	(21 002 164)			

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# 8. Share capital

Notwithstanding that the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares are classified as financial liabilities, the directors of the Fund consider these to represent the Fund's capital. The number of shares issued and redeemed during the years is reported below. The Fund is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements. The Fund's authorised share capital at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017 is detailed below. Fund shares are divided into five share classes (Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D and Class E), which participate pro rata in the Fund's net assets and dividends, and are redeemable and non-voting. Founder shares do not participate in the Fund's portfolio, are redeemable at par value only after all Fund shares have been redeemed, and carry the right to vote. If the Fund is wound up or dissolved, the Founder shares will participate only to the extent of their par value. All of the authorised Founder shares are classified as a trade and other payable in the Statement of financial position. As at 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, only Class A, Class B and Class E shares had been issued.

	Fund shares par value (per share)	Authorised fund shares	Founder shares par value (per share)	Authorised and issued founder shares
Allan Gray Africa ex-SA Equity Fund Limited	US\$0.0001	99 990 000	US\$0.01	100

Fund share transactions	Class A	Class B	Class E	Total
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2016	505 897	-	1 696 977	2 202 874
Subscriptions	145 216	107 423	440 407	693 046
Redemptions	(276 831)	-	(148 464)	(425 295)
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	374 282	107 423	1 988 920	2 470 625
Subscriptions	22 495	42	36 408	58 945
Redemptions	(41 362)	-	(25 659)	(67 021)
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2018	355 415	107 465	1 999 669	2 462 549

Net asset value per share	Class A US\$	Class B US\$	Class E US\$
On 31 December 2017	135.99	137.40	162.76
On 31 December 2018	128.88	130.86	157.72

There are no options in existence for any capital.

No income distributions were declared by the Fund for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017.

## 9. Commitments

The Fund has a daily uncommitted intraday clearing facility of US\$4.5 million, US\$2 million settlement facility, US\$18 million overdraft facility and a US\$5 million pre-settlement exposure facility in place to facilitate the settlement of trade instructions. These facilities expire annually on 31 May and automatically roll over.

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# 10. Related party transactions

The Investment Manager held all of the authorised and issued Founder shares of the Fund. Further details on the number of shares held and their value are disclosed in note 8.

The Orbis group of funds ('Orbis funds') are managed by Orbis Investment Management Limited. A related party relationship exists between Orbis Investment Management Limited and Allan Gray Bermuda Limited, the Investment Manager of the Fund, by virtue of a common ultimate shareholder. For the year ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2017, no Orbis funds held any shares directly in the Fund.

Directors of the Fund and the Investment Manager held approximately 10 000 shares indirectly in the Fund at 31 December 2018 (2017 - 10 000 shares).

No rights, contingent or otherwise, to subscribe for shares have been granted to the Investment Manager, its directors or the directors of the of the Fund.

The directors of the Fund received total fees of US\$18 000 from the Fund (2017: US\$18 000).

During the financial year ended 31 December 2018, a director waived his fee of US\$6 000 (2017 - US\$6 000) and Orbis Investment Management Limited waived any fees due in respect of company secretarial services rendered to the Fund.

During the year ended 31 December 2018, the management and performance fees incurred by the Fund were US\$290 142 and US\$1 263 556 respectively (2017 - US\$134 982 and US\$1 495 905). At 31 December 2018, the management and performance fee payable by the Fund were US\$21 513 and US\$0 respectively (2017 - US\$21 310 and US\$440 763).

At 31 December 2018, Allan Gray funds held 1 311 526 shares in the Fund (2017 - 1 307 145 shares). Allan Gray Life Limited, subsidiary of the Investment Adviser, held 296 755 shares in the Fund (2017 - 300 259 shares).

For the year ended 31 December 2018

# **11.** Derivative contracts

Typically, derivative contracts serve as components of the Fund's investment strategy and are utilised primarily to structure and hedge investments, to enhance performance and reduce risk to the Fund (the Fund does not designate any derivative as a hedging instrument for hedge accounting purposes). The derivative contracts that the Fund holds include futures. The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to hedge its risks associated primarily with fair value risks relating to equity instruments.

Derivatives often reflect at their inception only a mutual exchange of promises with little or no transfer of tangible consideration. However, these instruments frequently involve a high degree of leverage and are very volatile. A relatively small movement in the underlying of a derivative contract may have a significant impact on the profit or loss of the Fund.

At 31 December 2018 the Fund had positions in forwards. At 31 December 2017, the Fund had no positions in forwards.

#### Forwards and futures

Forwards and futures contracts are contractual agreements to buy or sell a specified financial instrument at a specific price and date in the future. Forwards are customised contracts transacted in the OTC market. Futures contracts are transacted in standardised amounts on regulated exchanges and are subject to daily cash margin requirements.

The main differences in the risk associated with forward and futures contracts are credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund has credit exposure to the counterparties of futures contracts. The credit risk related to future contracts is considered minimal because the exchange ensures that these contracts are always honoured. Forward contracts are settled gross and, therefore, considered to bear a higher liquidity risk than the future contracts which are settled on a net basis. Both types of contracts result in market risk exposure. Fair value losses of US\$ 13 572 (2017: US\$ Nil) relating to these contracts were recognised during the year.

Forwards and futures held for risk management purposes:

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
Listed forwards contracts (total exposure)	(387 933)	-
Fair value losses recognised during the year	(13 572)	

#### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR INVESTORS

## **Fund information**

The Fund is incorporated and registered under the laws of Bermuda and is supervised by the Bermuda Monetary Authority. The Fund is also listed on the Bermuda Stock Exchange. The primary custodian of the Fund is Citibank N.A. The custodian can be contacted at 390 Greenwich Street, New York, New York, USA. The Investment Manager has appointed Allan Gray Unit Trust Management (RF) Proprietary Limited (the 'Representative') as its representative for the purpose of approval in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act 45 of 2002. The Representative is incorporated under the laws of South Africa and is supervised by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority ('FSCA').

The Fund may be closed to new investments at any time to be managed according to its mandate. If you have any questions regarding the status of the Fund, please contact the Registrar. Shares in the Fund are traded at ruling prices and the Fund can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. The Fund may borrow up to 10% of the market value of the portfolio to bridge insufficient liquidity This report does not constitute a financial promotion, a recommendation, an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy shares in the Fund. Investments in the Fund are made according to the terms and conditions and subject to the restrictions set out in the prospectus. Certain capitalised terms are defined in the glossary section of the Fund's prospectus, a copy of which is available on request. The offering of shares in the Fund may be restricted in certain jurisdictions. Please contact the Allan Gray service team to confirm if there are any restrictions that apply to you.

## European Union Savings Directive and Directive on Administrative Cooperation

The European Union Savings Directive 2003/48/EC of 3 June 2003 on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments was repealed in November 2015, as a consequence of the adoption in December 2015 of the EU Directive on Administrative Cooperation 2014/107/EU. The Directive on Administrative Cooperation expands the scope of income and information subject to automatic exchange between EU Member States to include not only interest income, but also dividends and other types of capital income as well as the annual balance of the accounts producing such income. The board of directors of the Fund believes that the Fund is exempt from the application of the EU Directive on Administrative Cooperation.

## **United Kingdom Reporting Fund Status**

The Fund's application for reporting fund status has been successful. The directors intend to manage the Fund in such a way that it should continue to be certified as a reporting fund.

## Notice to investors in the European Economic Area ('EEA')

The Fund is not currently marketed in the EEA. As a result the Investment Manager does not comply with the requirements of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive ('AIFMD'), and persons located in any EEA member state ('European Investors') are only permitted to subscribe for shares in the Fund in the discretion of the Investment Manager and subject to compliance with applicable law. European Investors who are permitted to invest in the Fund will not benefit from any of the protections of the AIFMD to which a European Investor making an investment in a non-European fund would otherwise have, including but without limitation, certain initial disclosure requirements, periodic reporting on illiquid assets and leverage, and certain annual reporting requirements.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR INVESTORS

## Performance

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (unit trusts or mutual funds) are generally medium- to long-term investments. Where annualised performance is mentioned, this refers to the average return per year over the period. The value of shares may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying international investments to go up or down. Neither the Investment Manager, the Fund nor the Representative provides any guarantee regarding the capital or the performance of the Fund. Performance figures are provided by the Investment Manager and are for lump sum investments with income distributions reinvested. Actual investor performance may differ as a result of the investment date, the date of reinvestment and applicable taxes.

## **Benchmark data**

The Fund's benchmark data is provided by Standard Bank Plc who require that we include the following legal note. The Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index is the proprietary information and registered trademark of Standard Bank Plc. All copyright subsisting in the Standard Bank Africa Total Return Index values and constituent lists vests in Standard Bank Plc. All their rights are reserved.

## **Share price**

Share prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the Fund including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the Fund divided by the number of shares in issue. Forward pricing is used. The weekly price of the Fund is normally calculated each Friday. Purchase requests must be received by the Registrar of the Fund (being Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch) by 17:00 Bermuda time on that dealing day to receive that week's price. Redemption requests must be received by the Registrar of the particular dealing day on which shares are to be redeemed to receive that week's price. Share prices are available on www.allangray.com

#### Fees and charges

Permissible deductions from the Fund may include management fees, brokerage, Securities Transfer Tax ('STT'), auditor's fees, bank charges and custody fees. A schedule of fees, charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Representative.

## Total expense ratio ('TER') and Transaction costs

The total expense ratio (TER) is the annualised percentage of the Fund's average assets under management that has been used to pay the Fund's actual expenses over the past one- and three-year periods. The TER includes the annual management fees that have been charged (both the fee at benchmark and any performance component charged) and other expenses like audit fees. Transaction costs (including brokerage, Securities Tax Transfer [STT] and investor protection levies where applicable) are shown separately. Transaction costs are a necessary cost in administering the Fund and impacts Fund returns. They should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of fund, the investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER. Since Fund returns are quoted after the deduction of these expenses, the TER and Transaction costs should not be deducted again from published returns. As collective investment scheme expenses vary, the current TER cannot be used as an indication of future TERs. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. Instead, when investing, the investment objective of the Fund should be aligned with the investor's objective and compared against the performance of the Fund. The TER and other funds' TERs should then be used to evaluate whether the Fund performance offers value for money. The sum of the TER and Transaction costs is shown as the Total investment charge ('TIC').

#### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR INVESTORS

## **African markets**

African markets are generally less mature and developed than those in advanced countries and have varying laws and regulations. There are significant risks involved in investing in shares listed in the Fund's universe of African markets including liquidity risks, sometimes aggravated by rapid and large outflows of 'hot money' and capital flight, concentration risk, currency risks, political and social instability, the possibility of expropriation, confiscatory taxation or nationalisation of assets and the establishment of foreign exchange controls which may include the suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a given country. In many cases, such risks are significantly higher than those in developed markets. Furthermore, African markets often have a more limited number of potential buyers and issuers and may be dependent on revenue from particular commodities or international aid. Additionally, African markets may have less government supervision and regulation, differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, and less developed legal systems. African Markets also often have less developed securities settlements processes which may delay or prevent settlement of securities transactions. African markets also typically have smaller economies or less developed capital markets than more developed markets.

# **Contractual risk**

The Fund can use derivatives to manage its exposure to stock markets, currencies and/or interest rates and this exposes the Fund to contractual risk. Contractual risk includes the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction according to its terms and conditions because of a dispute over the terms of the contract (whether or not bona fide) or because of a credit or liquidity problem, causing the Fund to suffer a loss. Such contract counterparty risk is accentuated for contracts with longer maturities where events may intervene to prevent settlement, or where the Fund has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties.

#### Derivatives

Borrowing, leveraging, and trading securities on margin will result in interest charges and, depending on the amount of trading activity, such charges could be substantial. The low margin deposits normally required in futures and forward trading utilised by the Fund permit a high degree of leverage; accordingly, a relatively small price movement in a futures or forward contract may result in immediate and substantial losses to the investor. Price movements of forward contracts and other derivative contracts in which the assets of the Fund may be invested are highly volatile and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changing supply and demand relationships, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies. Forward contracts are not traded on exchanges and are not standardised; rather, banks and dealers act as principals in these markets, negotiating each transaction on an individual basis. Trading in forward contracts is substantially unregulated and there is no limitation on daily price movements.

# **Additional information**

You can obtain additional information about the Fund including copies of the fact sheet prospectus and application forms free of charge by contacting the Allan Gray service team at +353 1 622 4716 or by email at AGclientservice@citi.com.

#### CHARACTERISTICS AND DIRECTORY

## **Domicile and structure**

Bermuda open-ended investment company

# Regulation

The Fund is incorporated and registered under the laws of Bermuda and is supervised by the Bermuda Monetary Authority. The Fund is also listed on the Bermuda Stock Exchange.

## **Registered Office**

Orbis House 25 Front Street Hamilton HM11 Bermuda

# **Company Secretary**

Orbis Administration Limited

## Directors

Craig T Bodenstab BCom MBA CFA John C R Collis BCom BA (Jurisprudence) K Renée Oliveira BA LLB Tapologo Motshubi BCom (Hons) CA (SA) ACPA CFA

## **Investment Manager**

Allan Gray Bermuda Limited Orbis House 25 Front Street Hamilton HM11 Bermuda

## **Investment Adviser**

Allan Gray Proprietary Limited 1 Silo Square V&A Waterfront Cape Town 8001 South Africa

#### **Primary Custodian**

Citibank N.A. New York Offices 390 Greenwich Street New York, New York 10013 USA

# Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP EY Tower 100 Adelaide Street West Toronto, Ontario Canada M5H 0B3

# Administrator & Registrar

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