

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF

Regional - Equity - General

31 March 2021

Portfolio Managers	<b>Sygnia Asset Management</b>
Inception	<b>1 April 2008</b>
Fund Size	<b>R 769 Million</b>
NAV Price	<b>1 598 cents</b>
Units in Issue	<b>48 157 851</b>

Investment Objective

To replicate the price and yield performance of the MSCI Japan Index

Income Distribution

Bi-Annually (December and June)

Payment: 13 Jan 2021 - 6.63193 cents per unit

Payment: 13 Jul 2020 - 8.44343 cents per unit

Standard Bank Trustees (021 441 4100)

Trustees

Fund Information	
Classification	Regional - Equity - General
Asset Allocation	100% Offshore Equity
NAV/Index Ratio	ca. 1/10
Financial Year End	31 December
Index Tracking	Fund tracks the MSCI Japan Index
Dividend Distribution	Semi-annual distribution
NAV Publication	Daily on sygnia.co.za
Portfolio Valuation	Close of relevant market
Foreign exchange source	World Market fix rate 16:00pm EST

Listing Information	
Exchange	JSE Limited
Exchange Code	SYGJP
Trading Currency	ZAR
Portfolio Currency	JPY
ISIN	ZAE000249538
RIC	SYGJP.J
Bloomberg Ticker	SYGJP SJ EQUITY
Trading Hours	9:00 am - 16:50 pm
Transaction cut-off	JSE trading hours

## Cumulative Investment Performance



Cumulative investment performance is for illustrative purposes only and is calculated using the NAV before any distributable income and management fee.

## Top 10 Holdings

Instrument	Percent
Toyota Motor Ord Shs	4.1%
Softbank Group Ord Shs	3.3%
Sony Group Ord Shs	3.2%
Keyence Ord Shs	2.0%
Recruit Holdings Ord Shs	1.6%
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Ord Shs	1.6%
Tokyo Electron Ord Shs	1.6%
Nintendo Ord Shs	1.5%
Shin Etsu Chemical Ord Shs	1.5%
Takeda Pharmaceutical Ord Shs	1.4%

## Historical Performance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
2018	0.1%	-2.1%	-3.3%	6.9%	0.5%	5.5%	-3.0%	10.8%	-1.7%	-4.2%	-6.9%	-2.1%	-0.7%
2019	-2.3%	6.0%	1.4%	1.4%	-1.6%	-1.3%	2.6%	5.3%	2.5%	4.7%	-2.6%	-2.7%	13.7%
2020	5.9%	-4.5%	4.1%	8.2%	1.7%	-1.6%	-3.5%	7.0%	-1.3%	-4.2%	7.1%	-1.3%	17.9%
2021	1.4%	2.1%	-2.2%										1.3%

Since inception performance figures are available on request.

## Risk Statistics

	Fund	*BM
% Negative Months	46.7%	46.7%
Average Negative Month	-2.9%	-2.9%
Largest Drawdown	-16.0%	-16.0%
Standard Deviation	15.1%	15.1%
Downside Deviation	8.2%	8.3%
Highest Annual Return: Jun 2019 - May 2020	25.8%	25.8%
Lowest Annual Return: Dec 2017 - Nov 2018	-7.3%	-7.3%
Annualised Tracking Error (Active Return)	-0.01%	-
Annualised Tracking Error (Std Dev of Active Return)	0.03%	-

The risk statistics reflected above are calculated on a 60-month or since-inception basis, depending on which period is shorter. \*Benchmark is the Index.

## Asset Allocation

Asset	Percent	Allocation
International Equity	99.3%	

## Sector Allocation

Sector	Percent	Allocation
Industrials	21.0%	
Consumer Discretionary	18.5%	
Information Technology	13.6%	
Health Care	9.9%	
Communication Services	9.6%	
Financials	9.0%	
Consumer Staples	7.0%	
Materials	5.2%	
Other	6.2%	

## Portfolio Performance Analysis

Period	Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan	MSCI Japan Index (ZAR)**	MSCI Japan Index (JPY)**	Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan (TR)
1 Year	13.3%	13.3%	40.5%	14.5%
3 Years	12.4%	12.4%	5.5%	13.7%
5 Years	8.5%	8.5%	8.0%	9.7%
10 Years	13.8%	13.8%	8.2%	15.1%
Since Inception	7.5%	7.5%	2.5%	8.7%

Performance of the fund is calculated by Sygnia Asset Management as at reporting date.

Performance figures greater than one year are annualised.

\*A positive performance in currency reflects a depreciation of ZAR against base currency and vice versa.

\*\*Price return.

## Annual Management Fee

Broker/Other Platform (excl VAT)	Sygnia Alchemy Platform (excl VAT)
First R 10 Million	0.75%pa
First R 2 Million	0.55%pa
R 10 Million-R 100 Million	0.60%pa
R 2 Million-R 100 Million	0.50%pa
Over R 100 Million	0.40%pa
Over R 100 Million	0.30%pa

Excess management fees for investors over R10m are included in the below TER, and distributed back to the investor at each distribution date.

## Fees

VAT	0.11%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.86% (Mar 2021)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.01% (Mar 2021)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.87% (Mar 2021)

TER is calculated using the highest current annual management fee.

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF

## Fund Commentary

Regional - Equity - General

1st Quarter 2021

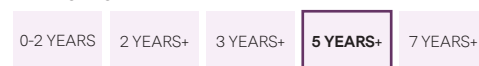
### RISK PROFILE



LESS RISK/  
RETURN

MORE RISK/  
RETURN

### TIME HORIZON



### Market Performance

Markets are up a roaring 13% in the first quarter of 2021 but with such a swift rally, the question of a bubble arises. Unfortunately, a market bubble is a phenomenon best identified with hindsight. Having said that, there are bubble characteristics that you can watch out for, such as exponential price movement, extreme valuations, retail leverage and a "this-time-it's-different" investment case. Looking at price action, the only truly exponential moves seem to be linked to digital innovation and ESG. Since 2014 cryptocurrencies have risen by a factor of 160, innovation stocks are up six times, special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) and solar energy have tripled while European renewables have doubled. A lot of this meteoric rise has happened in the last year and is most likely linked to extreme activity (relative to the past) in US retail trading. Fortunately, the recent price correction in this area has reduced some concerns.

Despite respite in most of the world, Central and Eastern Europe are currently being overrun by a third wave, forcing countries such as Italy, Estonia, and Hungary to introduce new lockdown restrictions. This comes at a time when vaccination rollout is struggling across the EU and is further complicated by developments regarding the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, where the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and France suspended use of the vaccine over potential blood clotting concerns. AstraZeneca and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are denying reports that the vaccine is linked to blood clotting risks. Towards the end of the month Europe restarted AstraZeneca vaccines following a safety endorsement from the European Medicines Agency, but now the EU is threatening to stop exports of the vaccine from EU production facilities into the UK and ongoing bickering continues between EU countries over all vaccine allocations. South Africa has vaccinated just over 200 000 people. However, the South African government has not yet set up the required compensation to cover damage claims as the rollout is still part of a clinical trial; and incoming shipments of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines have been delayed.

In the month, Congress passed President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion Covid relief bill - the second largest ever US fiscal stimulus package. This adds \$1.9trn worth of fiscal stimulus on top of the \$900bn already introduced by former president, Donald Trump, at the end of last year, bringing the total estimated combined fiscal support from these two packages to the significant amount of 13% of GDP.

Focus now turns to Biden's \$2.25trn infrastructure package, a massive number. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the current value of government fixed assets considered as infrastructure is about \$6trn, so this represents about more than a third of the stock of fixed assets. Concerns are now being raised about inflation risks, given the huge amount of stimulus. Clearly the US has learned from Japan and is fighting tooth and nail to avoid deflation. In the short-term, inflation and US rates will certainly rise, but we maintain that this will be a one- or two-year event.

The biggest challenge facing advanced economies remains the weak rate of productivity growth. This is a result of several factors including:

- quantitative easing.
- low rates of business cost of capital which allows inefficient businesses to survive; and
- the failure of new "social media" digital technologies to feed through into productivity.

Remember that all stimulus is just stealing from the future. Biden is already planning the first major federal tax hike since 1993 to help pay for his long-term economic programme.

The tax changes in the infrastructure program will likely include repealing portions of Donald's 2017 tax law that benefitted corporations and wealthy individuals and making the tax code more progressive by providing relief for middle-class households. Taxes are low by historical standards. Biden's plan sees the corporate tax rate rising from 21% to 28%.

The South African economy contracted by 7.0% in 2020 from an increase of 0.2% in 2019. While this was better than expected, electricity generation continues to constrain growth. Load shedding continued unabated in March. Aside from Eskom's spiralling debt, fading sales, and ailing power stations, the utility faces another unsustainable predicament. There is a growing trend of serious allegations against executives from staff who have been taken to task for underperformance, with more than 3 686 of Eskom's 44 000 employees facing disciplinary proceedings.

South Africa announced preferred bidders to provide emergency power to prevent load shedding. The eight bidders - Acwa Power Project DA, Karpowership SA Coega/ Saldanha/ Richards Bay, Mulilo Total Coega, Mulilo Total, Hydra Storage, Oya Energy Hybrid Facility and Umoyilanga Energy - will provide a total of 1.8MW from various technologies to be connected to the grid by August 2022. There is some concern as a number of these projects are foreign-owned, expensive, and using dirty power. Turkish-owned Karpowership ships are anchored off our shores and produce power via Liquid Natural Gas while Acwa is a Saudi company. Black ownership for these projects is at 41%, according to Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Minister, Gwede Mantashe. A pending request for proposals for procurement of an additional 2600MW for private power producers is expected to further boost energy supply. Pension funds will be able to invest in a number of these projects as part of the new Private Public Pension Infrastructure Programme. Draft regulation 28 has several shortcomings, and Sygnia has submitted feedback to National Treasury.

China's economic activity surged in the first two months of the year, exports soared 61% in dollar terms reflecting strong global demand and imports climbed 22.2% highlighting a divergence in the economy as demand for iron ore and crude slowed and imports of high-tech parts accelerated. China's 14th five-year plan has a dedicated section for tech development with the clear objective of self-reliance for the country. The plan lays out seven technology research areas of focus including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semi-conductors, and space. Premier Li Keqiang said that China would increase research and development spending by more than 7% a year over the next four years, in pursuit of "major breakthroughs" in technology.

We've seen increased focus on regulation with China's antitrust regulator issuing fines against some of its largest tech giants including Tencent. Alibaba has been asked to dispose of its media assets. Alibaba, China's largest e-commerce operator, is planning to offer its bargains service on rival Tencent Holdings' WeChat platform in a major concession to regulators seeking to crack down on monopolies.

While Covid-19 is not quite done with us yet, the pace of events (and recovery) is picking up. Leaders the world over can be seen to be taking swift action to correct the plummets of 2020 by putting recovery plans into motion. From concrete steps locally to address South Africa's energy crisis to Biden's stimulus package and infrastructure plans in the US, to China's ambitious 14th five-year-plan - all point to concerted efforts to ease financial pressures by stimulating growth and pressing forward. How successful each of these initiatives will be remains to be seen (and a sigh of relief is not in order yet), the shoots of a global recovery are already breaking ground.

### Fund Performance

The Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF delivered 1.3% for the quarter, in line with its benchmark, the MSCI Japan Index. The Fund benefitted from exposure to SoftBank Group Corp, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc and Sony Group Corp, while its exposure to Keyence Corp, M3 Inc and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co Ltd detracted from performance.

There were no changes to the tracked index's constituents over the period.

The Fund remains true to its investment objective of delivering returns that mirror those of the MSCI Japan Index.

### Disclaimer

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Sygnia 

## Important information to consider before investing

### Investment Objective and Strategy

The composition of the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF will be adjusted periodically to conform to changes in the composition and weighting of the securities in the MSCI Japan Index so as to ensure that the composition and weighting of the portfolio are representative of the composition and weightings contained in the index.

This is a high risk, passively managed index tracking fund, with an objective to replicate the price and yield performance of the MSCI Japan Index as closely as possible by physically holding a portfolio of securities representative of the composition and weighting of the securities contained in the index. Index Performance data can be sourced from Bloomberg, Reuters, other data providers and at [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za).

### Balancing risk and reward

The MSCI Japan Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalisation index that is designed to measure developed market equity performance in Japan, representing companies with a total market capitalisation of approximately US\$3 trillion. The MSCI Japan Index is recognised as a barometer of the Japanese economy and as a holder of the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF; an investor will essentially track Japan's equity markets. The recommended investment term for investors in the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF is a minimum of five years.

Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) are generally medium-to long-term investments. The value of units may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future performance. CIS are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending. Equity markets are volatile and the price of equities fluctuate based on a number of factors such as changes in the economic climate, general movements in interest rates and the political and social environment which will also affect the value of the securities held in the unit trust, thereby affecting the overall value of the unit trust. There are regulations in place which limit the amount that a unit trust may invest in securities, thereby spreading the risk across securities, asset classes and companies. The fund may also be exposed to liquidity risk. This relates to the ability of the unit trust to trade out of a security held in the portfolio at or near to its fair value.

Annualised performance figures represent the geometric average return earned by the fund over the given time period. Unannualised performance represents the total return earned by the fund over the given time period, expressed as a percentage.

Performance is calculated based on the NAV to NAV calculation of the portfolio. Individual investor performance may differ as a result of initial fees, the actual investment date and dividend withholding tax.

### Fees

A schedule of fees and charges is available on request from Sygnia Itrix. Permissible deductions may include management fees, brokerage, STT, auditor's fees, bank charges and trustee fees. Sygnia Itrix ETFs are Exchange Traded Funds that trade on stock exchanges and may therefore incur additional costs associated with listed securities. Sygnia Itrix does not provide advice and therefore does not charge advice fees.

### What is the Total Expense Ratio (TER) and Transaction Costs (TC)?

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 year. Transaction costs are a necessary cost in administering the fund and impact 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 financial product, 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 the published returns. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return.

### Foreign Securities

The fund invests in foreign securities, which may be exposed to macroeconomic, settlement, political, tax, reporting or illiquidity risk factors that may be different to similar investments in South African markets. Fluctuations or movements in exchange rates may cause the value of underlying investments to go up or down.

### Cumulative Investment Performance

Cumulative investment performance is for illustrative purposes only. The investment performance is calculated by taking all ongoing fees into account for the amount shown, with income reinvested on the reinvestment date.

### Exchange Traded Funds vs Unit Trusts

Whilst both unit trusts and ETFs are regulated and registered under the Collective Investment Scheme Control Act, ETFs trade on stock exchanges just like any other listed, tradable security. Unlike a unit trust, which can be bought or sold only at the end of the trading day, an ETF can be traded intraday, during exchange trading hours.

### How are NAV prices calculated?

Net Asset Value (NAV) prices are calculated on a net asset value basis, which is the total market value of all assets in the portfolio including any income accruals and less any permissible deductions from the portfolio divided by the number of units in issue. The price at which ETFs trade on an Exchange may differ from the NAV price published at the close of the trading day, because of intraday price movements in the value of the constituent basket of securities.

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