

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF

Regional - Equity - General

31 March 2022

Portfolio Managers	<b>Sygnia Asset Management</b>
Inception	<b>1 April 2008</b>
Fund Size	<b>R 882 Million</b>
NAV Price	<b>1 452 cents</b>
Units in Issue	<b>60 757 851</b>

Investment Objective

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

Income Distribution

Bi-Annually (December and June)

Payment: 17 Jan 2022 - 7.06411 cents per unit

Payment: 13 Jul 2021 - 7.94503 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	5.3%
Sony Group Ord Shs	3.6%
Keyence Ord Shs	2.5%
Tokyo Electron Ord Shs	2.1%
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Ord Shs	2.1%
Recruit Holdings Ord Shs	1.7%
Nintendo Ord Shs	1.5%
Softbank Group Ord Shs	1.5%
Shin Etsu Chemical Ord Shs	1.5%
KDDI Ord Shs	1.5%

## Historical Performance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
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%	-3.2%	-4.0%	3.7%	1.1%	1.9%	6.1%	-2.4%	2.8%	1.4%	8.6%
2022	-8.0%	-1.3%	-6.8%										-15.3%

Since inception performance figures are available on request.

## Risk Statistics

	Fund	<sup>^</sup> BM
% Negative Months	46.7%	46.7%
Average Negative Month	-3.2%	-3.2%
Largest Drawdown	-16.0%	-16.0%
Standard Deviation	14.9%	14.9%
Downside Deviation	7.3%	7.3%
Highest Annual Return: Jun 2019 - May 2020	25.8%	25.8%
Lowest Annual Return: Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	-9.2%	-9.3%
Annualised Tracking Error (Active Return) (12 Mths)	0.00%	-
Annualised Tracking Error (Std Dev of Active Return) (60 Mths)	0.03%	-

The risk statistics reflected above are calculated on a 60-month or since-inception basis, depending on which period is shorter. <sup>^</sup>Benchmark is the Index.

## Asset Allocation

Asset	Percent	Allocation
International Equity	99.1%	

## Sector Allocation

Sector	Percent	Allocation
Industrials	22.3%	
Consumer Discretionary	19.1%	
Information Technology	14.2%	
Financials	10.0%	
Health Care	8.9%	
Communication Services	8.1%	
Consumer Staples	6.4%	
Materials	4.9%	
Other	5.9%	

## Portfolio Performance Analysis

Period	Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan	MSCI Japan Index (ZAR)**	MSCI Japan Index (JPY)**	Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan (TR)
1 Year	-9.2%	-9.3%	0.7%	-8.3%
3 Years	5.5%	5.5%	8.0%	6.6%
5 Years	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	7.0%
10 Years	11.5%	11.5%	8.6%	12.8%
Since Inception	6.2%	6.2%	2.4%	7.4%

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
VAT	0.11%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.86% (Mar 2022)
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.63% (Mar 2022)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.01% (Mar 2022)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.01% (Mar 2022)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.87% (Mar 2022)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.64% (Mar 2022)

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

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF

## Fund Commentary

Regional - Equity - General

1st Quarter 2022

### RISK PROFILE



LESS RISK/  
RETURN

MORE RISK/  
RETURN

### TIME HORIZON



### Fund Performance

The Sygnia Itrix MSCI Japan Index ETF delivered -15.3% for the quarter, in line with its benchmark, the MSCI Japan Index. The Fund benefitted from exposure to Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc, Toyota Motor Corp and Mitsubishi Corp, while its exposure to Keyence Corp, Sony Group Corp and Recruit Holdings Co Ltd detracted from performance.

The only change to the tracked index's constituents over the period was the addition of Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd.

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

### Disclaimer

Sygnia Itrix (RF) (Pty) Ltd is a registered and approved Manager under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, 2002. Sygnia Itrix does not provide any guarantee with respect to the capital or return of the portfolio. Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) are generally medium to long-term investments. The value of participatory interests 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. ETFs trade on stock exchanges and may therefore incur additional costs associated with listed securities. 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. ETFs may invest in foreign securities, which may be exposed to macroeconomic, settlement, political, tax, illiquidity and foreign exchange risks. Additional information on the Index including its performance and tracking error can be viewed on the relevant Fund Fact Sheets on [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za). A schedule of fees and charges may be requested via [admin@sfs.sygnia.co.za](mailto:admin@sfs.sygnia.co.za) or 0860 794 642 (0860 SYGNIA). The complete terms and conditions of your ETF investment are contained in the fund's offering circular, pre-listing statement, programme memorandum and/or supplemental. These documents may be obtained from [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za) or on request from Sygnia. Nothing in this document shall be considered to state or imply that the Fund is suitable for a particular type of investor.

### Market Performance

March saw central banks, surging prices and global investor enthusiasm for China compete for our attention with the atrocities on the ground as the war in Ukraine rumbled past the one-month mark. President Putin's invasion ousted Covid as public enemy number one as the somewhat shell-shocked analysts of the world recalibrated their global macro-economic stances.

The Russian invasion of the Ukraine has escalated beyond most people's wildest nightmares.

War atrocities sent shock waves throughout the world as we witnessed the bombing of civilian areas in key Ukrainian cities, and financial markets responded with a dramatic sell-off across risk assets. The West has responded with sanctions, turning Russia's dominant position in world energy into the elephant in the room. Russia is the world's third largest exporter of oil, and Europe buys around 60% of Russia's oil exports. The continuation of the war is pitting the West's own domestic financial interests against their political interests abroad. As Western powers put more pressure on the Russian energy economy in recent weeks, oil reached its highest level since 2008 (\$139 per barrel) in March. While the US failed in a lone attempt to ban Russian oil, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is still engaging with European and Japanese allies to test appetites for a more concerted ban. New talk of compromise from Moscow and Kyiv for Ukraine's status outside of NATO have lifted global markets, but the odds of a breakthrough are not quite favourable yet. Ultimately, the war's impact on global growth and inflation will depend on how long it lasts. And it's not just oil: China-Europe rail routes are used to move more than a million containers via Russia across the 6 000-plus miles of railway that link western Europe to eastern China. These containers must now find new routes via sea, adding to costs and threatening to worsen global supply-chain chaos. European natural gas prices shot up 34% as Putin said he would only accept payment in rubles. No mention has yet been made of Russian gas import restrictions, which would pose major issues for European economies, as 40% of their gas needs are met by Russia. Sanctions on the export of natural gas from Russia to the EU or UK are unlikely.

Global inflation is rising as war related driven supply disruptions replace Covid disruptions and the US is worst hit. In the first hike since 2018, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised rates by 25 bps to 0.5%. The Fed ramped up its rate-hike projections to seven overall for 2022, with an additional three or four in 2023. Powell left the door open to a striking 50bps hike in the sequence. To maintain its credibility without crashing the economy, the Fed needs to talk up the rate-hiking cycle – a high-risk move with little hope of completion. With the Fed already on the monetary-policy back foot, Treasury is unlikely to oppose inflation eating away at the national debt pile for a while, either; avoiding a recession is paramount. Rising yields have seen US home affordability at its worst level since 2007, which will slow housing activity, house price increases and growth via a lower wealth effect. The US is in a very difficult position.

China's Hang Seng Technology Index fell nearly 70% from its peak, and Chinese stocks entered their deepest bear market since 2008 as concerns about the country's ties with Russia, a surge in Covid cases and continued regulatory pressure on the technology sector sent shares on a downward spiral.

Moscow had sought military equipment from Beijing, and the US warned China of consequences for supporting the Kremlin. China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, says he wants to avoid US sanctions, and the US and China held high-level in-person talks that they described as "substantial" and "constructive". On top of the delicate situation around Russia, US regulators continue to pursue a multiple-year impasse over audit access to Chinese companies with US investors. The US Securities and Exchange Commission named its first Chinese stocks as part of a crackdown on foreign firms that have refused to open their books to US regulators, heightening delisting risks. The battle with the US over existing issues and now Russia comes as China is weakened domestically by yet another Covid outbreak. Nearly 30 million people are under lockdown in China as surging Covid-19 cases have led to the return of mass tests on a scale not seen since the start of the pandemic, leading to worries about a slowdown in growth and further global supply disruptions.

China has reached the equivalent of Mario Draghi's "whatever it takes" moment of the Grexit crisis. China's state council has addressed all the biggest concerns for investors, pledging to keep Chinese capital markets stable, support overseas stock listings, work with the US, address the fragile property development sector and end Big Tech regulations. Coupled with positive fundamentals, the strong rhetoric supporting the economy that key stakeholders want to see in China is shaping up as a catalyst.

South Africa is of course expected to be hit by the rise in energy prices and then by raised inflation. The silver lining is that inflation pressures are muted for an economy with growth as low as South Africa's. The SARB's monetary policy committee (MPC) opted to hike the repo rate by a further 25bps, to 4.25%. Three of the MPC members were in favour of a 25bps hike, while two pushed a more hawkish 50bps rise. While the SARB will continue to raise rates, they are unlikely to do so too quickly, and we think bond yields will not price in inflation concerns for too long. Core inflation for February remained steady at 3.5% year-on-year. The strong rand will certainly help cushion the blow of rising oil prices.

Our global recovery base for this year remains intact, driven by recovering economic activity as a result of eased Covid restrictions. Equity is expected to continue a rotation to value, with sustained emerging market outperformance due to rising real bond yields as global growth remains resilient – if lower than expected – at the start of the year.

## 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 three years. 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.

### Disclaimer

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