

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50 ETF

Minimum Disclosure Document (MDD)  
Global - Equity - General

30 September 2024

Portfolio Managers **Sygnia Asset Management**  
Inception **30 April 2021**  
Fund Size **R 325 Million**  
NAV Price **1 832 cents**  
Units in Issue **17 716 824**

Investment Objective

To replicate the price and yield performance of MSCI Emerging Markets 50 Index

Income Distribution

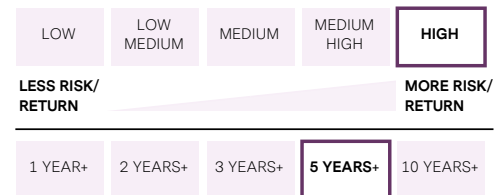
Bi-Annually (June and December)

Payment: 12 Jan 2024 - 21.34448 cents per share

Payment: 10 Jul 2024 - 15.21308 cents per share

Trustees

Standard Bank Trustees (021 441 4100)



Fund Information	
Classification	Global - Equity - General
Asset Allocation	100% Offshore
NAV/Index Ratio	ca. 1/1000
Financial Year End	31 December
Index Tracking	MSCI EM 50 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

## 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
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Ord Shs	22.2%
Tencent Holdings Ord Shs	11.1%
Samsung Electronics Ord Shs	6.7%
Alibaba Group Holding Ord Shs	6.4%
HDFC Bank ADR Representing Three Ord Shs	3.5%
Meituan Ord Shs	3.3%
PDD Holdings ADS	2.8%
ICICI Bank ADR Rep 2 Ord Shs	2.3%
Hon Hai Precision Industry Ord Shs	2.2%
Infosys ADR Representing One	2.2%

## Historical Performance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
2021						4.8%	-7.9%	-1.3%	-2.1%	4.1%	-0.1%	0.8%	-2.4%
2022	-4.2%	-8.5%	-9.2%	1.2%	0.0%	-2.3%	-0.5%	2.1%	-10.3%	-6.6%	12.7%	-0.5%	-24.9%
2023	16.1%	-3.9%	1.6%	-2.7%	8.0%	-1.3%	-0.2%	-0.6%	-4.5%	-3.7%	9.6%	-1.2%	16.0%
2024	-4.6%	8.7%	3.7%	0.4%	1.5%	4.0%	-2.8%	-1.0%	4.5%				14.8%

## Risk Statistics

	Fund	^BM
% Negative Months	60.0%	57.5%
Average Negative Month	-3.3%	-3.5%
Largest Drawdown	-37.6%	-37.6%
Standard Deviation	19.5%	19.6%
Downside Deviation	10.8%	10.7%
Highest Annual Return: Nov 2022 - Oct 2023	20.0%	20.0%
Lowest Annual Return: Nov 2021 - Oct 2022	-32.6%	-32.6%
Annualised Tracking Error (Active Return) (12 Mths)	0.0%	-
Annualised Tracking Error (Std Dev of Active Return) (40 Mths)	0.1%	-

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

Listing Information	
Exchange	JSE Limited
Exchange Code	SYGEMF
Trading Currency	ZAR
Portfolio Currency	USD
ISIN	ZAE000297792
RIC	SYGEMFJJ
Bloomberg Ticker	SYGEMF SJ EQUITY
Trading Hours	9:00 am - 16:50 pm
Transaction cut-off	JSE trading hours

## Asset Allocation

Asset	Percent	Allocation
International Equity	96.9%	
Domestic Equity	2.0%	

## Sector Allocation

Sector	Percent	Allocation
Information Technology	40.8%	
Consumer Discretionary	19.2%	
Financials	17.8%	
Communication Services	14.8%	
Energy	2.8%	
Materials	2.3%	
Other	2.3%	

## Portfolio Performance Analysis

Period	Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50**	MSCI Emerging Markets 50 Index (ZAR)**	MSCI Emerging Markets USD Return Index	Sygnia Itrix MSCI EM 50 ETF (TR)
1 Month	4.5%	4.6%	7.7%	4.6%
3 Months	0.6%	0.6%	6.6%	1.7%
6 Months	6.7%	6.7%	17.3%	7.9%
Year to Date	14.8%	14.8%	21.9%	17.8%
1 Year	19.9%	19.9%	31.0%	22.9%
3 Years	1.6%	1.5%	-3.0%	3.6%
Since Inception	-0.7%	-0.7%	-7.3%	1.1%

Performance of the fund is calculated by Sygnia Asset Management as at reporting date.  
\*A positive performance in currency reflects a depreciation of ZAR against base currency and vice versa.  
\*\*Price return.

## Fees

Management Fee	0.35% **
Other costs	0.01% **
VAT	0.05%
Total Expense Ratio (TER)	0.42% (Sep 2024)
Transaction Costs (TC)	0.03% (Sep 2024)
Total Investment Charge (TIC)	0.45% (Sep 2024)

\*\*Fees are exclusive of VAT

# Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50 ETF

## Fund commentary

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3rd Quarter 2024

### Market performance

The S&P 500 closed at record highs after the first cut in the current cycle by the Federal Reserve. The Fed cut interest rates by 0.5% and updated its economic projections to reflect increased confidence for lower inflation while raising risks around the labour market. Despite the cooling labour market, the consumer sector appears robust. Household wealth has significantly increased on the back of rising values in both housing and financial markets, and household balance sheets are in good shape, having undergone a prolonged period of deleveraging. With reduced debt levels and increased net worth, the debt service ratio is at manageable levels, consumers are less under pressure to save for debt repayment and credit is expanding alongside bank loan growth. The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow model projects a healthy annualised gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 2.9% for the third quarter, suggesting a robust US economy.

Looking beyond the first US rate cut, the question becomes whether this is an opportune time to invest in small-cap stocks and real estate. Over half of the bottom 1 000 companies in the Russell 3000 are unprofitable, a stark contrast to the 10% of 1996. The economic landscape is complicated by the fact that interest rates are unlikely to return to the near-zero levels of the Covid-19 pandemic. This persistent higher-rate environment could inhibit recovery for many small-cap firms, particularly those that survived in the era of low rates but that may not be fundamentally sound enough to thrive now. While a decrease in interest rates could provide some relief for the property sector given its high levels of leverage, the ongoing structural challenges posed by remote work and the rise of online shopping continue to disrupt the demand-supply balance in real estate. These factors suggest that even with rate cuts, fundamental issues within the sector may persist, making recovery uncertain.

China's central bank unveiled a huge stimulus package to boost its economy, sending commodities and emerging market stocks higher. Key interest rates were cut and plans were announced to reduce the bank's required reserve ratio to its lowest level since 2018. Mortgage rates were lowered and rules for second home purchases will be eased. 100% of loans for local governments buying unsold homes will be covered, up from 60%. A stock stabilisation fund of 500 billion yuan was also announced, with measures to encourage mergers and acquisitions to be announced soon. This is a step in the right direction but is unlikely to sufficiently improve domestic consumer confidence, and China faces a significant deflationary spiral. Weak demand conditions are further reflected in stagnating imports, and the housing sector is still struggling with excess supply, showing a sharp decline in both housing starts and sales. China is also experiencing a large trade surplus as it attempts to export its excess production.

The core issue is not that the Chinese government has excessive debt – this debt can be financed domestically – but that the ageing population and property market crunch have diminished consumer confidence and spending. The government needs to step in with supportive fiscal spend, i.e. take on more debt.

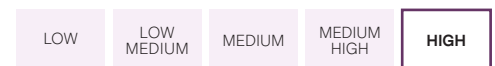
South African assets and the rand rallied on the back of the Fed cuts, which weakened the dollar and lowered global interest rates, and further on the Chinese stimulus, which drove up commodity prices and resources. The South African Reserve Bank cut interest rates by 0.25% – less than the Fed despite SA inflation being closer to target. The new two-pot retirement system went online in September; outflows so far seem lower than expected, which may mean less of a once-off boost to GDP. We remain neutral on SA assets.

The S&P Global flash purchasing managers (PMIs) indexes show that the contraction in manufacturing activity in developed markets has accelerated. The weakness in Europe is likely driven by China moving up the value chain and by ongoing high energy prices, while the weakness in the US is a result of the ongoing normalisation of Covid goods spend. Services PMIs continue to expand in most regions. We remain overweight US, where the US consumer accounts for 69% of GDP. The US is a consumption-based economy and is often seen as the global consumer of last resort; while headwinds are rising, the US consumer remains robust. Eurasia and emerging markets (EMs) are largely production-based economies heavily linked into the global manufacturing supply chain. As the world is currently in a manufacturing recession, the producing economies led by China's slowdown are struggling. This suggests that the dollar will not fall as much as interest rate differentials might suggest after the Fed's rate cut, as the US economy remains relatively strong. Thus, while commodity prices, EMs and Eurasia may rally in the short term on the back of rate cuts and the Chinese stimulus, longer-term commodity prices will continue to struggle and EMs and Eurasia will continue to underperform.

Based on the nine easing cycles that have occurred since 1974, performance after the initial rate cut is heavily dependent on the state of the economy. No recession occurred in the subsequent 12 months of four of the nine rate-cut cycles. Equities posted positive returns in all four of these instances, delivering an impressive median gain of 18% – against a fall of 10% when recessions did occur. We do not believe the US is heading for a recession within the next 12 months, and we remain overweight equities.

As always, however, risks remain. Global shipping costs remain elevated and geopolitical risks continue to rise, with Israel escalating its campaign against the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group through a massive bombardment of Lebanon.

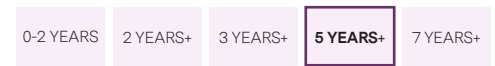
### RISK PROFILE



LESS RISK/  
RETURN

MORE RISK/  
RETURN

### TIME HORIZON



### Fund performance

The Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50 ETF delivered 0.6% for the quarter, in line with its benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets 50 Index. The fund benefitted from exposure to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, Tencent Holdings Ltd and Meituan, while its exposure to Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, SK Hynix Inc and MediaTek Inc detracted from performance.

There were two changes to the tracked index's constituents over the period, being the addition of Fubon Financial Holding Co Ltd and the removal of LG Chem Ltd.

The fund remains true to its investment objective of delivering returns that mirror those of the MSCI Emerging Markets 50 Index.

## Important information to consider before investing

### Investment Objective and Strategy

The objective of the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50 ETF is to provide an investment vehicle to investors who want to achieve long term capital appreciation in tracking the performance of the MSCI EM 50 Index (“benchmark index”).

In order to achieve this objective, the Sygnia Itrix MSCI Emerging Markets 50 ETF shall track the MSCI EM 50 Index as closely as practically and feasibly possible by buying securities that substantially make up the index at similar weighting as they are included in the Index. Whenever the Index gets rebalanced, the Portfolio will be rebalanced to align its holdings to that of the benchmark and to the extent that its performance will not deviate from its benchmark.

### Balancing risk and reward

The Fund has a 100% strategic allocation to global equities. The structure of the Fund is dictated by the composition of the MSCI EM 50 Index and managed with the aim to produce the same level of income as that produced by the index. Investors are alerted to the fact that the Fund is not a general equity product, but one with a specific focus, and thus a specific risk and return profile. For a change in the index constituents, please refer to the published SENS. Index Performance data can be sourced from Bloomberg, Reuters, other data providers and at [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za).

Annualised performance figures represent the geometric average return earned by the fund over the given time period.

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.

### Index Disclaimer

The funds or securities referred to herein are not sponsored, endorsed, or promoted by MSCI, and MSCI bears no liability with respect to any such funds or securities or any index on which such funds or securities are based. The Offering Circular pre-listing statement, programme memorandum and/or supplemental contains a more detailed description of the limited relationship MSCI has with the Sygnia Itrix and any related funds.

### 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. 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

The Sygnia Group is a member of the Association for Savings and Investment SA. Sygnia Itrix (RF) (Pty) Ltd is a registered and approved Manager under the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, 2002. Sygnia Asset Management (Pty) Limited (FSP 873), an authorised Financial services provider, is the appointed investment manager of the Fund. 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. Collective investment schemes are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending.

The value of investments/units may go down as well as up and past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future performance. 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 once per 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, liquidity, and foreign exchange risks. Performance is calculated for the portfolio, and the individual investor performance may differ as a result of trading cost, price paid for investment share.

Additional information on the Index including its performance and tracking error can be viewed on the relevant Minimum disclosure document (MDD) on [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za). A schedule of fees, charges and where the ETF engages in securities lending activities, information on such securities lending activities may be requested via [admin@sfs.sygnia.co.za](mailto:admin@sfs.sygnia.co.za) or 0860 794 642. 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 deed and index constituents with prices are published daily on Sygnia’s website. The documents/information 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. All the portfolio options presented are approved collective investment schemes in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No 45 of 2002 (“CISCA”). The Manager has the right to close any portfolios to new investors to manage them more efficiently in accordance with their mandates. A copy of the Minimum disclosure document (MDD) is available on our website: [www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za).

**CAPE TOWN:** 7th Floor, The Foundry, Cardiff Street, Green Point, 8001 T +27 21 446 4940

**JOHANNESBURG:** Unit 40, 6th Floor Katherine & West Building, West Street, Sandton, 2196 T +27 10 595 0550

**DURBAN:** Office 2, 2nd Floor Ridgeview, 1 Nokwe Avenue, Ridgeside, Umhlanga Ridge, 4319 T +27 31 001 0650

[www.sygnia.co.za](http://www.sygnia.co.za) | [info@sygnia.co.za](mailto:info@sygnia.co.za)

**SYGNIA ITRIX (RF) (PTY) LTD**  
Registration No. 2004/035580/07

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