Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Fund information update at 31 May 2024

MelvilleDouglas
A Member of Standard Bank Group

What is the fund's objective?

The objective of the fund is to achieve capital preservation and income generation by investing in long-term fixed interest securities. This fund is an actively managed, unconstrained, South African fixed-income strategy that aims to generate consistent and predictable long term returns through investments in high quality income-yielding debt securities.

What does the fund invest in?

Securities will normally consist of a spread of gilts, semi-gilts, loan stock, debentures, debenture bonds, approved securities, notes and liquid assets and any other securities which are consistent with the fund's investment policy.

What possible risks are associated with this fund?

General market risks include a rise or volatility in bond yields, rising interest rates, economic and political risk, inflation uncertainty and duration risk. Where foreign securities are included in the portfolio there may be additional risks, such as potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds, macro-economic risks, political risks, tax risks, settlement risks, and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

Risk rating				
Conservative	**Moderately conservative**	Moderate	Moderately aggressive	Aggressive

What is the suggested investment period for this fund?

Minimum period					
1 Month	6 Months	1 Year	**3 Years**	5 Years	7 Years

Who should consider investing in this fund?

This fund suits investors that are looking for stable income and reasonable capital growth over the longer term.

Income

Distribution Net income is calculated and accrued daily and is declared and distributed quarterly.

Declaration 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December

General fund information

Manager(s) Mzimasi Mabece, Paolo Senatore and Bernard Drotschie

Size (NAV) R 2.73 billion

Classification South African - Interest Bearing - Variable Term

Benchmark FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

Regulation 28 Complies

Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act sets the limits in terms of the maximum exposure the retirement fund and the individual retirement fund member's savings (i.e. your savings) may have to various asset classes. For more information please refer to the Regulation 28 Guidelines available on our website (www.stanlib.com). This Fund complies with this Regulation.

	Class A
Launch	01 July 2014
ISIN number	ZAE000191763
JSE code	MDBFA

Minimum investment requirements -

Lump sum	R 50,000
Monthly	R 1,000

What are the costs to invest in this fund?

Maximum charges including VAT	Class A
Initial fee (manager)	0.000%
Initial fee (adviser)	3.450%
Annual fee (manager)	0.863%
Annual fee (adviser)	0.000%
Performance fee	N/A

Annual fee (manager) – this is a service charge (% based) applicable to each class of a fund, that is levied on the value of your portfolio and includes the **Annual fee (adviser)** fee (where applicable). Annual fees are calculated and accrued daily and recovered monthly from the income awaiting distribution in the fund.

Cost ratios (annual) including VAT as at 31 March 2024	Class A
Based on period from:	01/04/2021
Total Expense	0.87%
Transaction Costs	0.00%
Total Investment Charge	0.87%
1 Year Total Expense	0.86%

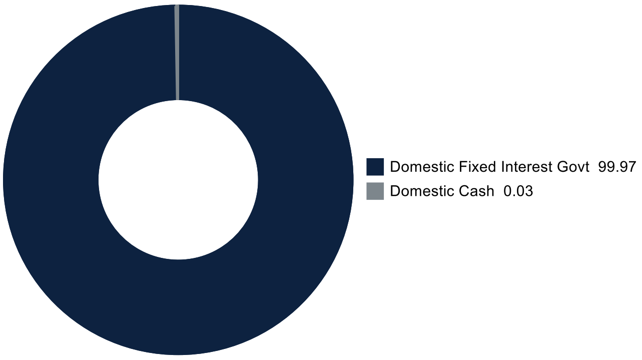
Total Expense (TER): This ratio shows the charges, levies and fees relating to the management of the portfolio and is expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value of the portfolio, calculated over the period shown and annualised to the most recently completed quarter. A higher TER does not necessarily imply a poor return, nor does a low TER imply a good return. The current TER should not be regarded as an indication of future TERs.

Transaction Costs (TC): This ratio shows the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the buying and selling of the fund's underlying assets. TC are a necessary cost in administering the fund and impacts fund returns. It should not be considered in isolation as returns may be impacted by many other factors over time including market returns, the type of fund, investment decisions of the investment manager and the TER.

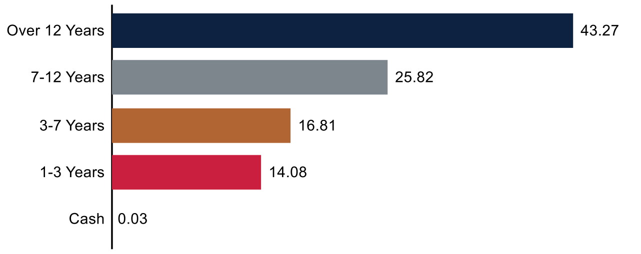
Total Investment Charges (TIC): This ratio is simply the sum of the TER and TC, showing the percentage of the value of the fund incurred as costs relating to the investment of the fund. It should be noted that performance figures account for all costs included in the TIC ratio, so you should not deduct the TIC from performance figures, the performance is already net of the TIC.

Holdings

Asset allocation (%)



Fixed Interest allocation (%)



Fixed Interest Top 10 Issuer exposure (%)

Performance and Income

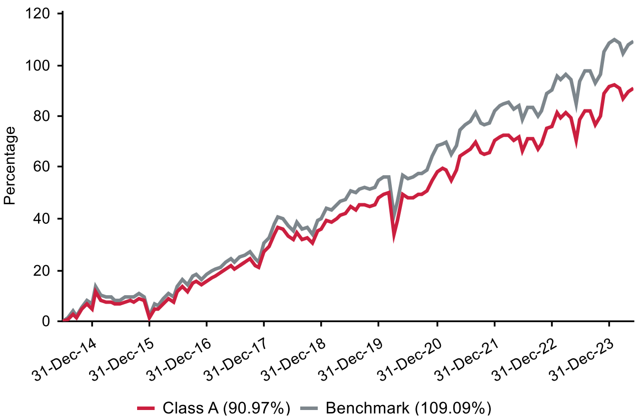
Class A Launch: 01 July 2014

Benchmark: FTSE/JSE All Bond Index

Returns (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class A					
Class	11.96	5.19	6.09	6.67	6.74
Rank/Out of	37/52	31/38	25/32	25/28	16/17
Sector Average	11.79	5.92	6.59	7.13	7.40
Benchmark	13.03	6.19	7.21	7.74	7.72

Returns (%) shown are cumulative for all periods shorter than or equal to 1 year and annualised for all periods greater than 1 year.

Cumulative performance (%) from Launch



Statistics (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	Launch
Class A					
Positive Months	8	23	39	54	75
Max Gain	12.52	16.96	43.01	59.55	91.93
Max Drawdown	-2.96	-5.81	-10.44	-10.44	-10.44
Highest	11.96	13.57	15.64	15.64	15.64
Lowest	3.25	-0.74	-4.09	-4.09	-5.81

Highest – this reflects the highest 12 month return during the period.
Lowest - this reflects the lowest 12 month return during the period.

Amount declared (cents per unit)

	Class A
30 June 23	2.02
29 September 23	2.03
29 December 23	2.02
28 March 24	2.02
In last 12 months	8.09
In 2023	7.90

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Quarterly update at 31 March 2024

MelvilleDouglas
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Who are the investment managers?

Since 1983 Melville Douglas has been delivering superior investment returns across a number of asset classes. As a global boutique investment management company within the Standard Bank Group, we are uniquely positioned to offer domestic and offshore investment solutions. What truly sets Melville Douglas apart is our experienced investment team and our approach to investing – driven by balance, a long-term view and a commitment to fundamental research – which informs our investment decisions across the board.

Mzimasi Mabece
BSc
Head of Fixed Income: South Africa

Mzimasi has more than 14 years financial market experience spanning both quantitative analysis as well as portfolio management and has managed both fixed income and equity funds. Prior to joining Melville Douglas, he was Head of Fixed Income at Mvunonala Asset Managers. He previously held Portfolio Manager roles at Prowess Investment Managers and Old Mutual Investment Group (OMIGSA) and also worked at Sanlam Investments as a fixed income Quantitative Analyst. Mzimasi holds a BSc degree.

Paolo Senatore
MSc (Mechanical Engineering)
Strategist

Paolo joined Melville Douglas in 2018 as a strategist and co-manages the Melville Douglas STANLIB High Alpha Fund. From 1995 he was with the FirstRand Group, gaining over 20 years' financial market experience. In 2000, he became CIO of RMB Private Bank Portfolio Management with the responsibility of growing the specialised institutional business. He was CIO for Ashburton Investments, FirstRand's asset management initiative, from its inception, and was instrumental in consolidating asset management businesses and investment processes. He holds an MSc (Mechanical Engineering).

Bernard Drotschie
BCom (Hons), CFA®, CFPTM
Chief Investment Officer

Bernard joined Melville Douglas in 2002 as a portfolio manager and analyst, prior to which he worked for Absa Asset Management. He is the lead manager on the Melville Douglas Global Growth Fund (USD) and co-manages the Melville Douglas Balanced Fund (USD) and the Melville Douglas Income Funds. He holds a BCom (Hons) degree in Econometrics, is a CFA® Charterholder and a Certified Financial Planner™ professional.

Fund review

The fund experienced negative returns on the period as failing inflation expectation failed to materialise reversing the capital markets optimism reflected at the start of the year.

Market overview

The year 2024 began with capital markets (the market) optimistic and expecting global central banks to cut policy rates in the first quarter of the year. However, inflation proved to be persistent, and this optimism faded away quickly. Policymakers expressed their unease with the deceleration path and speed of inflation. As a result, the market is now anticipating that the interest rate-cutting cycle will begin in the second half of the year.

In both its meetings this year, January and March, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) kept interest rates on hold at 8.25%, with the tone in its last meeting more hawkish even though the decision was unanimous. This hawkish tone was further reinforced by the rhetoric emanating from the US Federal Reserve (US Fed). In its first meeting of the year in March 2024, US Fed Chair, Jerome Powell, indicated that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) was in no rush to cut interest rates and would wait for clearer signs of lower inflation before cutting interest rates. He nevertheless reiterated that it would be appropriate to ease interest rates sometime this year, with recent higher-than-expected inflation data not "materially changing" the overall inflation view.

In February, the Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, delivered the national budget amidst a challenging economic growth outlook. The nation's long-term growth prospects are hampered by factors such as power outages, inefficiencies in ports, failing rail and road infrastructure, high interest rates, growing borrowing costs, and heightened geopolitical tensions. It turned out that the announced budget was better than what the market had expected. The debt as a percentage of GDP has been revised lower and is now expected to reach its peak at 75.3% in 2025, instead of the previously predicted 77.7%. One of the major positive outcomes of the budget was the announcement made by the minister regarding the government's plan to use foreign reserves profits held in the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Account (GFECRA). The National Treasury will withdraw a total of R150 billion from this account over the next three years, with R100 billion in 2024 and R25 billion for each subsequent year. This withdrawal will be used to repay debt and reduce the country's debt burden while following strict guidelines. Using reserves to reduce the debt burden instead of using them for consumption is considered a positive development by the market and will contribute to reducing fiscal risk.

On 29 May 2024, South Africa will head to the polls to either renew the mandate of the ruling party or elect an entire new administration that will govern the country for the next five years. Unlike in the previous elections where the ruling party was able to garner enough votes to govern on its own, in these elections it is expected that the governing party may for the first time, in thirty years, not be able to achieve a majority victory to form a government on its own. The possibility of this electoral outcome introduces some form of political risk in the short term, where some of the structural reform projects that the current administration had embarked on may be at risk. It introduces an element of policy uncertainty, and we expect both currency and bond yields to be volatile ahead of this event. South African bond yields and the Rand are already expressing this jitteriness, with the SA 10-year bond (R2035) selling off from 11.37% beginning of the year to 12.24% at the end of March. The South African Rand joined the party with the currency weakening from R18.362 (December 2023) to R18.992 (March 2024) against the US dollar.

Looking into the future, we expect that the growth projections for the near term will be better due to a reduction in load-shedding. However, in the medium term, growth will be dependent on structural reforms and an improvement in external demand. While inflation is expected to slow down in the medium term, there is still a risk of it overshooting and remaining higher than projected.

Looking ahead

We believe that local bond yields, currently at 12.24%, are still attractive. However, we advise caution going forward despite the attractive valuations. To mitigate against the short-term risks, we plan to maintain a shorter duration position in the fund while waiting for these risks to materialise. We anticipate that rate cuts could happen in the second half of 2024, but we believe that the cycle will be shallower than previously expected. We will carefully monitor the actions of the developed central banks as they will have a significant impact on the SARB's ability to move on policy rates.

The commentary gives the views of the portfolio manager at the time of writing. Any forecasts or commentary included in this document are not guaranteed to occur.

Change in allocation of the fund over the quarter

Asset type	Q1 2024	Q4 2023	Change
Domestic Cash	2.73	1.18	1.55
Domestic Fixed Interest Govt	97.27	98.82	-1.55

The portfolio adhered to its portfolio objective over the quarter.

Fund classes

Class	Type	Price (cpu)	Units	NAV (Rand)
A	Retail	86.02	8,888,873.69	7,645,987.94

All data as at 31 March 2024.
Units – amount of participatory interests (units) in issue in relevant class.

STANLIB

Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Important information update at 31 May 2024

MelvilleDouglas
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Disclosures

Collective Investment Schemes in Securities (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 a guide to future performance. CIS are traded at ruling prices and can engage in borrowing and scrip lending.

The Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund is a portfolio of the STANLIB Collective Investment Scheme (the Scheme).

The manager of the Scheme is STANLIB Collective Investments (RF) (Pty) Limited (the Manager). The Manager is authorised in terms of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, No. 45 of 2002 (CISCA) to administer Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in Securities. Liberty is a full member of the Association for Savings and Investments of South Africa (ASISA). The Manager is a member of the Liberty Group of Companies. The manager has a right to close a portfolio to new investors in order to manage the portfolio more efficiently in accordance with its mandate. The Manager does not provide any guarantee either with respect to the capital or the return of a CIS portfolio. A schedule of fees and charges and maximum commissions is available on request from the Manager.

The trustee of the Scheme is Standard Chartered Bank.

The investments of this portfolio are managed, on behalf of the Manager, by Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised financial services provider (FSP), FSP No. 595, under the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS), Act No. 37 of 2002.

Prices are calculated and published on each working day, these prices are available on the Manager's website (www.stanlib.com) and in South African printed news media. This portfolio is valued at 15h00. Forward pricing is used. Investments and repurchases will receive the price of the same day if received prior to 15h00.

This portfolio is permitted to invest in foreign securities. Should the portfolio include any foreign securities these could expose the portfolio to any of the following risks: potential constraints on liquidity and the repatriation of funds; macroeconomic risks; political risks; foreign exchange risks; tax risks; settlement risks; and potential limitations on the availability of market information.

This is a portfolio that derives its income primarily from interest-bearing instruments. The yield (if shown) is a current effective yield calculated daily.

This portfolio is a third party named, co-named portfolio. The Manager retains full legal responsibility for this portfolio. A third party named, co-named portfolio is a portfolio bearing the name of both the Manager and the financial services provider (FSP) where the FSP, under an agreement with the Manager, undertakes financial services of a discretionary nature, as contemplated in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, Act No. 37 of 2002 (FAIS), in relation to the assets of the portfolio. Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd, an authorised FSP, FSP No. 595, FAIS, is the third party manager of this portfolio.

The FSP is a related party to the Manager, the FSP may earn additional fees other than those charged by the Manager. It is the responsibility of the FSP to disclose additional fees to the investor. This document is not advice, as defined under FAIS. Please be advised that there may be representatives acting under supervision.

All performance returns and ranking figures quoted are shown in ZAR and are based on data sourced from Morningstar or Statpro and are as at 31 May 2024.

Annualised return figures are the compound annualised growth rate (CAGR) calculated from the cumulative return for the period being measured. These annualised returns provide an indication of the annual return achieved over the period had an investment been held for the entire period. Actual annual figures are available on request from the Manager.

Portfolio performance figures are calculated for the relevant class of the portfolio, for a lump sum investment, on a NAV-NAV basis, with income reinvested on the ex-dividend date. Individual investor performance may differ due to initial fees, actual investment date, date of reinvestment of income and dividend withholding tax. Portfolio performance accounts for all costs that contribute to the calculation of the cost ratios quoted, all returns quoted are after these costs have been accounted for.

Statistics - Positive Months: the number of individual 1 month periods during the specified time period where the return was not negative; Max Gain: the maximum gain in a trough-to-peak incline before a new trough is attained, quoted as the percentage between the trough and the peak. It is an indicator of upside risk over a specified time period (quoted for all periods of 1 year or longer); Max Drawdown: the maximum loss in a peak-to-trough decline before a new peak is attained, quoted as the percentage between the peak and the trough. It is an indicator of downside risk over a specified time period (quoted for periods of 1 year or longer, where no value is shown no loss was experienced); Highest and Lowest: the highest and the lowest 1 year return (%) that occurred during the specified time period (quoted for all relevant classes launched 1 year or more prior to current month end date).

Additional information about this product including, but not limited to, brochures, application forms and annual or quarterly reports, can be obtained free of charge, from the Manager and from the Manager's website (www.stanlib.com).

Contact details

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