Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Fund information update at 30 September 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 3.03 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 30 June 2024	Class A
Based on period from:	01/07/2021
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.

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Monthly update at 30 September 2024

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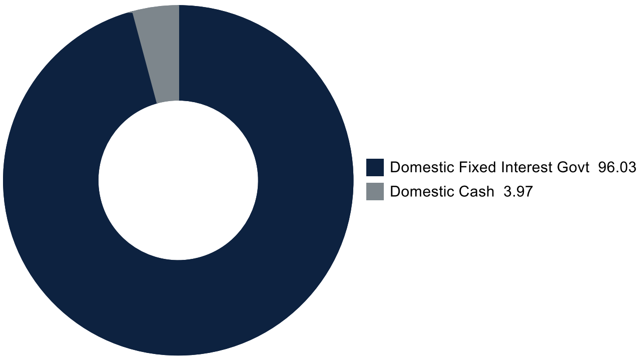
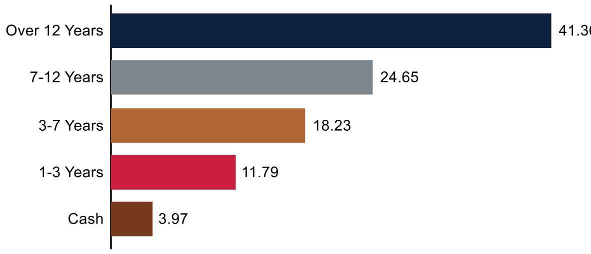
Holdings

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

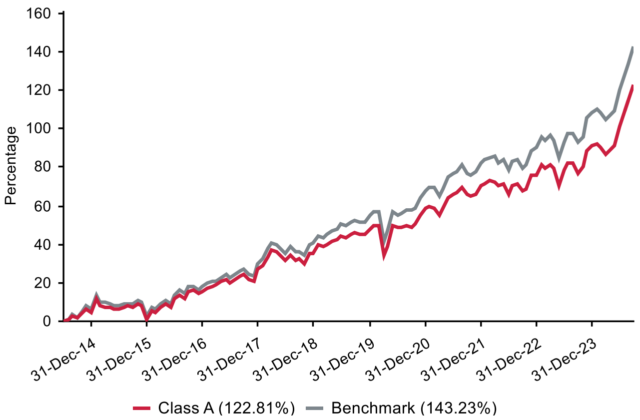
Returns (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	10yrs
Class A					
Class	25.95	10.30	8.86	8.66	8.19
Rank/Out of	25/51	29/41	25/33	24/28	15/18
Sector Average	24.05	10.53	9.06	8.92	8.48
Benchmark	26.14	11.14	9.84	9.67	9.06

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

Statistics (%)	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	7yrs	10yrs
Class A					
Positive Months	10	24	40	55	77
Max Gain	25.95	34.75	66.03	84.47	120.29
Max Drawdown	-2.58	-5.81	-10.44	-10.44	-10.44
Highest	25.95	25.95	25.95	25.95	25.95
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.

Cumulative performance (%) from Launch



Amount declared (cents per unit)

	Class A
29 December 23	2.02
28 March 24	2.02
28 June 24	2.16
30 September 24	2.20
In last 12 months	8.40
In 2023	7.90

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Melville Douglas STANLIB Bond Fund

Quarterly update at 30 September 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 positive returns during the period outperforming its peers during the month (3.71% vs 3.29%) as major central banks including the SARB begun cutting interest rates at the back of a benign inflation outlook.

Market overview

At the beginning of the third quarter of the year, the European Central Bank kickstarted the process of dialling back on policy rates and other central banks followed suit including the South African Reserve Bank (SARB). The SARB in its meeting in September cut its lending rate by twenty-five basis points to 8.0%. The debate has now shifted from whether policy makers will cut interest rates to how deep the cutting cycle will be.

The national general elections that were held in South Africa in May 2024, ushered in new kind of politics in South Africa, where for the first time in thirty years, there was no outright winner to form a government on their own. After these elections, a political arrangement known as a "Government of National Unity" (GNU) was set up and has now surpassed the 100 days mark of its administration. Financial markets have responded rather very well to this political arrangement, and we saw country specific risk unwind at the back of this, with general appreciation in the value of the local currency and buoyancy across all asset classes.

Assigning the recovery of the local currency and domestic financial markets, during the quarter, to the positive political backdrop alone would be grossly inaccurate and would tell only a small fraction of the story. Domestic markets recovery, like their global counterparts, have been driven mainly by the benign inflation and interest rates outlook as well as the resultant actions of central banks. In September the SARB cut interest rates by 25 basis points after headline inflation had decelerated to 4.4% y/y. The print was below the SARB's 4.5% midpoint target and where they would want to anchor long term inflation expectations. The central bank described risk to inflation as evenly balanced, citing improvements to Eskom's performance as positive to inflation. By the end of the quarter, the power utility had manged to provide uninterrupted power supply to the national grid for more than five months. However, policy makers voiced their concerns about the electricity tariff hike which Eskom is applying for, and which is almost 40%.

The bank's decision to cut the repo rate by only 25 basis points despite such a benign inflation forecast trajectory, might reflect a very strong preference for gradual interest rate changes. There have been rumours that the central bank intends lowering its inflation target and the bank has not debunked these. We believe that the interest rate cutting cycle that the bank has embarked on will be shallower than what the interest rates market (FRA curve) is pricing. We believe that the bank will have cut rates by a cumulative 50 basis points by end of 2024 and a further 50 basis points in 2025. We expect the cutting cycle to bottom by mid-2025.

Over the past twelve months, local bonds were the best performing asset class (26.1% y/y) and 16.70% on a year-to-date basis. This performance is underpinned by benign inflation, lower interest rates outlook and a positive political backdrop. This backdrop has not gone unnoticed by foreign investors, with foreigners increasing their government bond holdings to 25%, up from 24.6% in August. This is still far below the peak 42.8% that foreigners held in March 2018. We believe that if this positive backdrop is sustained foreign portfolio flows will gather momentum, thus lending support to a stronger currency and further yield compression.

Looking ahead

The National Treasury issued two new nominal bonds in September with 31 March 2033/2038 maturities. There was huge appetite for this debt with both bonds more than six times oversubscribed in the initial auction. The new bonds fall in the 7 – 15-year area of the yield curve and we believe that these instruments will be included in the bond index, in the first quarter of 2025 when there has been sufficient issuance. We expect this area of the curve to be the best performer in the coming twelve months. In general, we expect bonds to continue generating better returns over the next year.

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	Q3 2024	Q2 2024	Change
Domestic Cash	3.97	2.58	1.39
Domestic Fixed Interest Govt	96.03	97.42	-1.39

The portfolio adhered to its portfolio objective over the quarter.

Fund classes

Class	Type	Price (cpu)	Units	NAV (Rand)
A	Retail	97.73	6,102,921.07	5,964,213.47

All data as at 30 September 2024.
Units – amount of participatory interests (units) in issue in relevant class.

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Important information update at 30 September 2024

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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 30 September 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

Manager

STANLIB Collective Investments (RF) (Pty) Limited
Reg. No. 1969/003468/07
17 Melrose Boulevard, Melrose Arch, 2196
Telephone: 0860 123 003
Email: contact@stanlib.com
Website: www.stanlib.com

Trustee

Standard Chartered Bank
Reg. No. 2003/020177/10
2nd Floor, 115 West Street, Sandton, 2196
Telephone: +27 (0)11 217 6600

Third Party Manager

Melville Douglas Investment Management (Pty) Ltd
An authorised financial services provider, FSP No. 595
Reg. No. 1987/005041/07
8th Floor West Wing, 30 Baker Street, Rosebank, 2196
Telephone: +27 (0)11 721 7964
Website: www.melvilledouglas.co.za

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