Taquanta Enhanced Cash Fund
Factsheet

June 2022

Fund Objective

The primary objective of the Taquanta Enhanced Cash Fund is to achieve consistent returns in excess of a generic money market fund with an emphasis on capital preservation and low performance volatility.

Investment Strategy

Employs a conservative approach to enhance yields through extracting the liquidity risk premium primarily in longer-dated bank paper with a maximum maturity up to 5 years. Our fundamental credit review process is robust, combining qualitative and quantitative analysis, overlaid with institutional memory to question convention, operating within a strong risk and compliance framework. The fund is primarily invested in bank issued instruments that can be liquidated easily

Fund Details

Risk Profile: **Low** | Mid | High

Portfolio Manager:	Taquanta Asset Managers
Currency:	ZAR
Fund Size:	R2.9 bn
Inception date:	March 2005
Benchmark:	STeFI Composite
Compliance:	Regulation 28 & 30
ASISA Fund Classification:	Similar to Varied Specialist
Valuation Method:	Mark to Market
Instrument Max Term:	5 Years
Floating Rate Asset:	100%
Avg Term to Maturity	2.5
Modified Duration:	<0.25 Years
No. of Counterparties:	≥15

Fund Performance

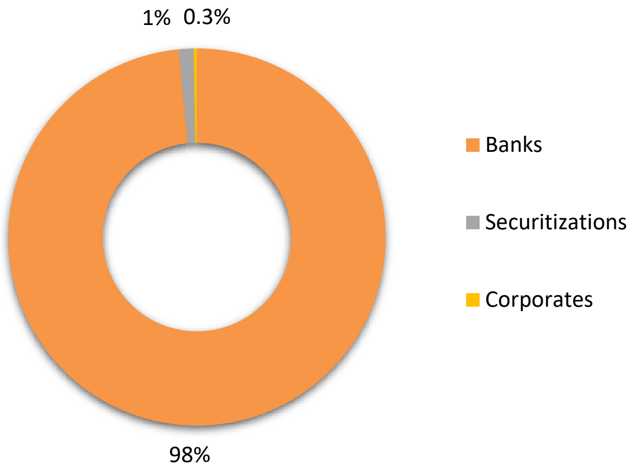
Period (naca)	Fund Return	Benchmark	Active Returns
Month	**0.5%**	0.4%	0.1%
Quarter	**1.4%**	1.2%	0.2%
1 year	**5.5%**	4.2%	1.3%
3 years p.a.	**6.3%**	5.0%	1.3%
5 years p.a.	**7.3%**	5.9%	1.4%
Volatility (inception)	**0.6%**	0.5%	0.1%

Top 5 Credit Exposures

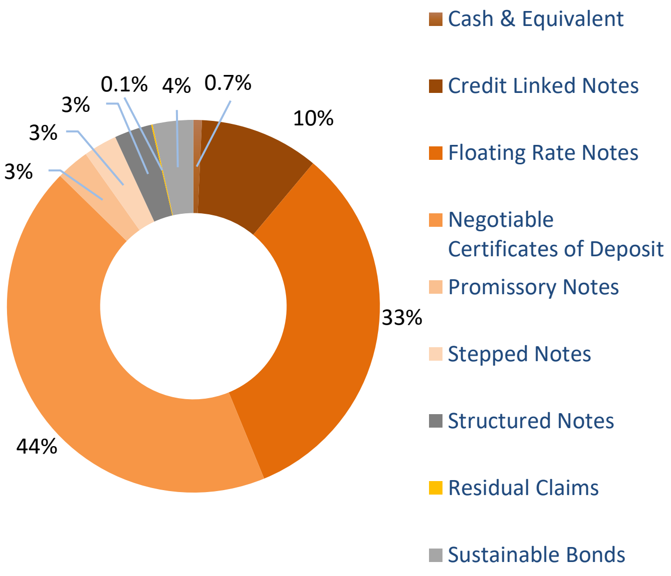
Issuer Name	% Exposure
Nedbank Limited	24.1%
ABSA Bank Limited	20.8%
Standard Bank of South Africa	14.8%
Investec Bank Limited	13.8%
Firstrand Bank Limited	11.0%

excluding unit trust exposure

Issuer Type



Instrument Type



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Fund Outlook

The fund remains well positioned for the current hiking cycle, as we largely hold floating rate instruments which will all reset their interest rate coupons to the new higher rate within the next few weeks and months. This will serve as much needed relief to income investors following the deep interest rate cuts sustained at the height of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Market Commentary

Rising policy rates amid growing economic challenges has now led to a significant sell-off across high-risk asset classes. A slew of high frequency data long pointed towards looming growth and earnings headwinds. Moreover, a strong dollar and tighter liquidity conditions further anchors the current bear cycle. High risk asset classes have come under significant pressure amid growing economic challenges and shrinking excess liquidity levels.

In the US, the S&P 500 index was down by 8.4% m/m versus May 2022. The Russell 1000 value index fell by 8.9% m/m while the Russell 1000 growth index moderated by 8.0% m/m. The Dow Jones Industrial and Nasdaq also plunged by 6.6% and 8.7% respectively versus the previous month.

In Europe, the German DAX and the French CAC40 fell by 11.2% and 8.2% respectively versus the previous month. Similarly, the Stoxx 50 tumbled by 8.7% m/m, while the commodity linked FTSE 100 plunged the least at 5.5% versus May 2022.

The rand remains vulnerable to moderating global trade prospects and a firmer U.S. dollar. To this end, domestic monetary authorities are compelled to stay at pace with global policy trends thus to reduce elevated risks of imported price inflation.

Following the May CPI shock and the Fed's decision to hike its policy rate by 75-bps, the domestic Forward Rate Agreement (FRA) market began pricing in a high likelihood of a 75-bps hike in the repo rate at the next MPC meeting. The implied policy rates have also steadily increased in the last 12-months with 3-m JIBAR rate rose 11.6 bps m/m to end the month at 5.0%, while the 12-m JIBAR rate rose 61.7 bps m/m to 7.4%. In the last 12 months, these rates increased by 132 bps and 265 bps, respectively.

Steep interest rate hikes are well poised to tip the economy into a recession, more so when output remains fundamentally weak. And in the absence of costs associated with trade wars and supply-side rigidities, elevated inflation pressures appear less likely to be maintained by a moderating macroeconomic backdrop.

Long maturity bonds (SAGBs) ended June 2022 extensively offered, up 54 to 73 basis points (bps) versus the previous month. Non-residents were net seller as the R2.4b outflow in June followed May's R3.1b outflow. This brings the net cumulative outflow to approximately R16b year-to-date.

The yield curve bear steepened in June as economic pressures continued to mount. At present, the global bond market appears more concerned about rising economic challenges ahead of cost-push inflation. Both the US 5-year and 5y/5y Forward Breakeven have now plunged to 2.6% and 2.0% respectively after reaching their 10-year peak at the beginning 2022q2.

To this end, the R2023 was down 76 bps versus the previous month. On the hand, the R2040 and the ultra-long R2048 were conversely up 54 and 56 bps, respectively. In the month of June, the ALBI TR ZAR Index was down 3.1% m/m (and up 1.3% y/y), while the CILI TR ZAR Index fell by 92 bps m/m (and up 10.7% y/y).

During the month of June, the FTSE/JSE SA All Property Index fell by 10.3% m/m (and up 0.2% y/y). The net m/m returns were down across various industry sub-sectors. Both retail and Specialised REITs tumbled by 5.0% m/m, while Industrials and Diversified REITs plunged by 8.5% m/m and 12.0% m/m, respectively versus the previous month.