



See money differently

# Quarterly Report: **Nedgroup Investments** **XS Guarded Fund of Funds**

as at 30 June 2022

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments



## Domestic asset class returns (ZAR)



### SA Equity

**-11.7%**

Q2 2022

4.7% 1 year

8.2% 3 years

12.3% LT average

The Naspers / Prosus recovery was one of the top performers, while resources were the biggest losers

### SA Property

**-11.6%**

Q2 2022

0.2% 1 year

-9.0% 3 years

11.8% LT average

Weakness was broad-based, but Growthpoint and Redefine were the largest detractors

### SA Bond

**-3.7%**

Q2 2022

1.3% 1 year

5.8% 3 years

6.9% LT average

SA yields were impacted by the negative global environment and the rising domestic inflation backdrop

### SA Cash

**1.1%**

Q2 2022

3.8% 1 year

4.5% 3 years

5.9% LT average

The repo rate was increased by 75bps to 4.75% this quarter.



## Global asset class returns (USD)



### Global Equity

**-15.5%**

Q2 2022

-15.4% 1 year

6.7% 3 years

10.2% LT average

Tech-heavy Nasdaq fared the worst and EU struggled due to higher inflation and vulnerability to recession

### Global Property

**-17.2%**

Q2 2022

-12.7% 1 year

-0.2% 3 years

5.8% LT average

Rising rates, inflation pressure and recession fears weighed heavily on REITs, in particular on offices and regional malls

### Global Bond

**-8.3%**

Q2 2022

-15.3% 1 year

-3.2% 3 years

1.6% LT average

Global bond market volatility remained elevated and yields pushed higher in the global rising rate trend

### US Cash

**0.4%**

Q2 2022

0.6% 1 year

0.8% 3 years

4.3% LT average

US inflation for May surprised to the upside at 8.6% and US Fed hiked rates by 1.25% in the quarter



## Exchange rates (Rand spot rate and quarterly change)



### US Dollar R16.38

**11%**

The US dollar was the main beneficiary of the current market environment. With talks about a looming recession, investors sought refuge in the safety of the dollar. After a resilient first quarter, the rand depreciated 11.4% to the dollar in the second quarter, with the state of the local economy exacerbated by Eskom power cuts.



### British Pound R19.90

**5%**

The Bank of England (BoE) hiked rates for a fifth time since December 2021 just a day after the US Fed announced their 75bps rate hike in June. Inflation rose to 9.1% in May from 9% in April, consumer confidence has fallen further and the BoE now expect GDP to fall by 0.3% in the second quarter as a whole.



### Euro R17.13

**3%**

The European Central Bank (ECB) confirmed in June that it will raise rates by 0.25% in July, in line with most market participant expectations. High inflation is a major challenge as the ECB expects inflation to remain undesirably high for the next few years at 6.8% in 2022, 3.5% in 2023 and 2.1% in 2024.

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments



## Domestic performance drivers



### Highlights

- First quarter GDP printed at 1,9%, exceeding market expectations, with the economy now back at pre-COVID levels. The expansion was broad based, with strong contributions from the manufacturing and trade sector, and robust consumer spending as the economy reopened.
- Eskom announced 18 winning bids for renewable projects in Mpumalanga, which will lease land from Eskom and generate an estimated 1800MW of energy to be wheeled across the grid. While this will not alleviate the immediate energy crisis, it is illustrative of the energy reforms slowly being enacted. It was also constructive to note that the first two private projects for generation below 100MW were approved in May, both solar, marking a milestone in energy reforms and better prospects.



### Low points

- Eskom loadshedding intensified significantly towards the end of June as striking workers impaired the ability to provide secure electricity supply to the country
- In addition, weak prints for mining and manufacturing production in April confirming the disruption and damage from the flooding in KwaZulu Natal, strikes in the mining sector and persistent loadshedding will result in weak GDP growth figures for the second quarter.
- Headline inflation surprised to the upside at 6,5% y-o-y in May, a breach of the 6% upper target of the SA Reserve Bank and the highest figure since 2017.



## Global performance drivers



### Highlights

- Based on recent survey data, stimulus measures seem to be helping and we have seen improving PMI numbers.
- Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed in many countries, providing some relief to previously constrained sectors like hospitality and entertainment. Capacity constraints, mask-wearing and testing requirements are some examples of the relaxed restrictions.
- In May, European Central Bank President (ECB) Christine Lagarde provided a rare explicit forward policy guidance, by saying that the Eurozone policy rate was likely to be positive (currently at -0.5%) by the end of the third quarter this year.



### Low points

- High food and energy prices remain two of the biggest drivers of high inflation figures, with the war between Russia-Ukraine and pandemic restrictions in China keeping pricing pressure elevated.
- Losses were not confined to traditional 'risk' assets with notable swings in fixed income markets as investors grappled with a changing landscape of base-rate expectations.
- The Chinese economy remains under significant strain due to Covid-induced lockdowns.

# Quarterly report:

## Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



### Fund overview

Max equity

**40%**

Time frame

Min **3** years

Benchmark

Inflation  
**+3%**

Peer group

**SA Multi-  
Asset Low  
Equity**

Regulation 28

**Compliant**

Risk profile



### Fund costs (C – clean class)

Management fee\* (Excl. Vat)

**1.15%**

Total expense ratio

**1.30%**

Transaction charges

**0.07%**

Total investment charges

**1.37%**



### Benefits of the XS Fund of Funds range

Competitive pricing



Diversified across  
Asset classes



Investment experts



Passive and active underlying  
investments



Tax  
Efficient



Ongoing  
Due diligence



as at 30 June 2022

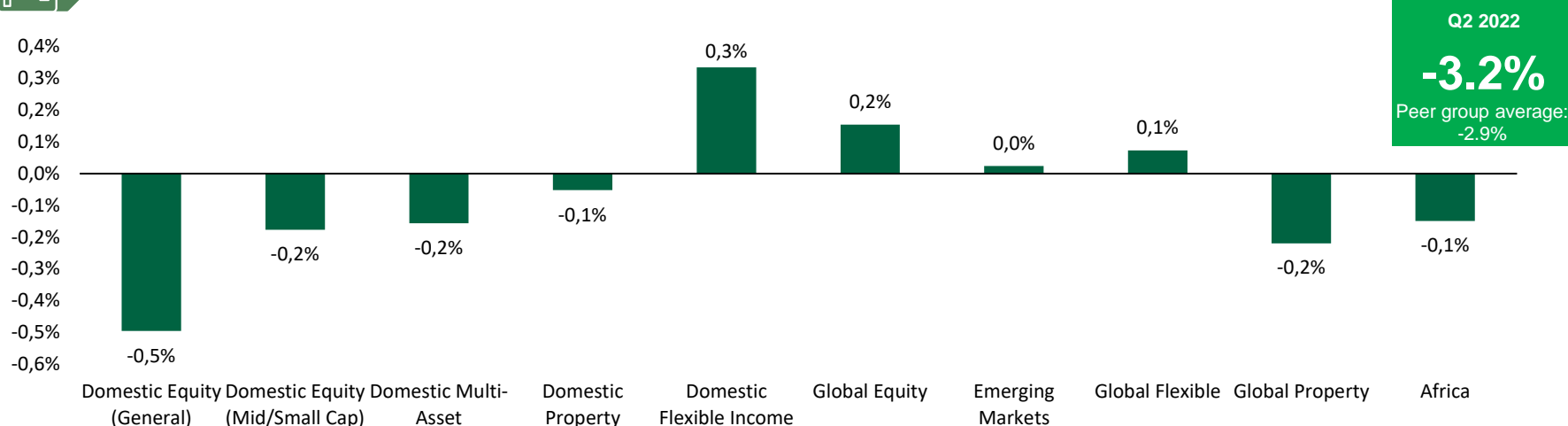
\*\*Includes BOTH multi-manager and underlying fund fees. Both the Total Expense Ratio (TER) and Transaction Costs (TC) of the Fund are calculated on an annualised basis, beginning 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 and ending 31 March 2022

# Quarterly report:

## Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



### XS Fund of Funds performance contribution – Q2 2022



- Global equity and the domestic flexible income bucket contributed the most to performance. The XS Guarded FOF range's lower exposure to risk assets (such as equities), also shielded the fund from bigger losses of the second quarter.
- The Nedgroup Investments Core Income Fund was well positioned for the current hiking cycle. The fund largely holds floating rate instruments which will all reset their interest rate coupons to the new higher rate over the coming weeks and months.
- In terms of global equities, the MSCI All Country World Index gave back -5.3% (in rand terms). The peer group average (ASISA) Global Equity General was down -4.8% for the quarter. However, the Nedgroup Investments Global Emerging Markets Feeder managed to return 0.5%. The fund's stock selection in India's Varun Beverages (up +21.0%), is one example of a good call made over the quarter.



#### Detractors this quarter

- Increasing inflationary pressures, rising interest rates and tensions between Ukraine/Russia, continued to put risk assets under pressure. Domestic equities and global property were the biggest detractors to performance.
- Locally, the FTSE/JSE All Share Index (ALSI) returned -11.7% for the quarter and the Capped SWIX -10.6%, dragged down by Resources with a -21.9% return, -15.8% from Financials, -12.1% from Listed Property (All Property Index) and -3.0% from Industrials
- Within the XS Guarded FOF range, 40% of the top 10 holdings were resource facing while 20% of the top 10 were banks and financials.
- Two out of the five domestic equity managers (Mazi Equity down -10.4% and Satrix ALSI equity down -11.7%) underperformed their peer group (ASISA General Equity down -9.1%).

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



## Fund performance (clean class)

Q2'22 return

**-3.2%**

Peer group average: -2.9%

Ytd return

**-4.8%**

Peer group average: -3.8%

1yr annualised return

**+2.8%**

Peer group average: +3.0%

3yr annualised return

**+5.2%**

Peer group average: +7.7%

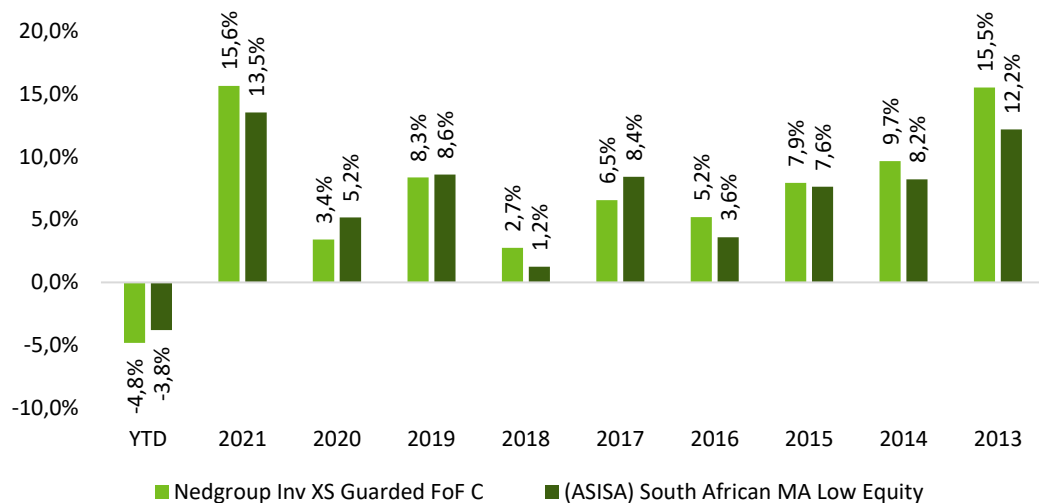
5yr annualised return

**+5.4%**

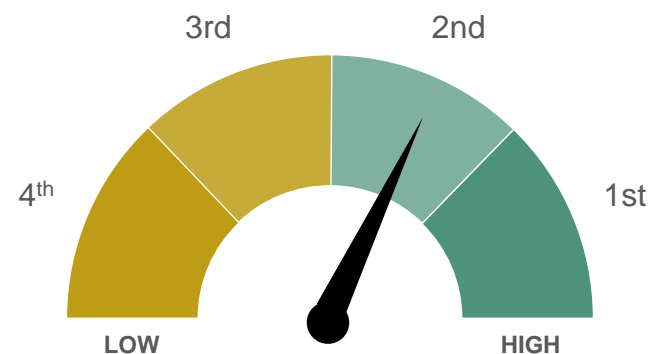
Peer group average: +5.9%



## Calendar year performance



## Peer group quartile ranking: 1yr



as at 30 June 2022

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



## Risk measures since inception

### Rolling 3yr return

**71%**

Hit rate: outperforming  
peer group average

### Volatility

**4.9%**

SA equity market: 15.0%

### Max drawdown

**-10.6%**

SA equity market: -40.4%

### Sharpe ratio

**0.5**

SA equity market: 0.4

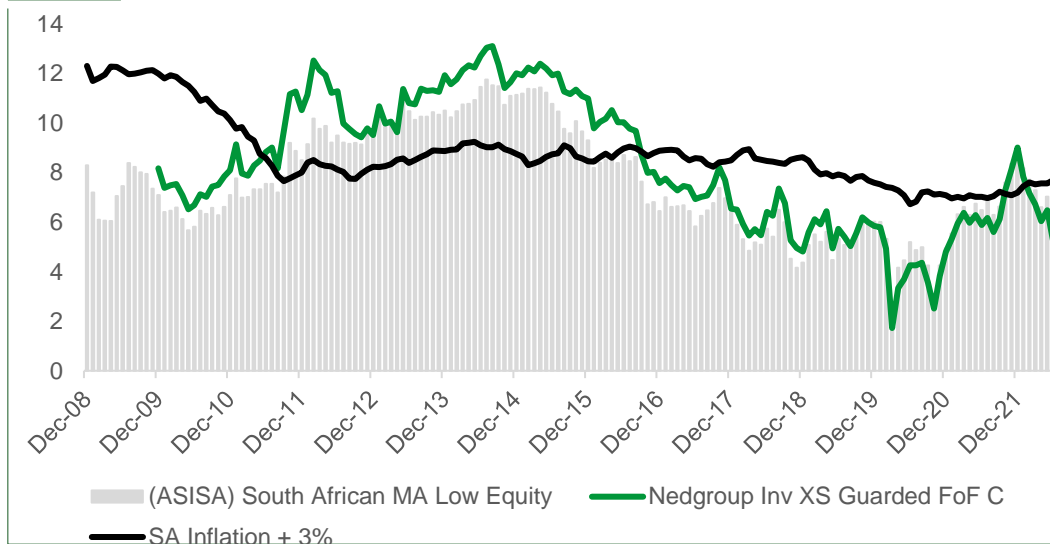
### % Positive months

**80%**

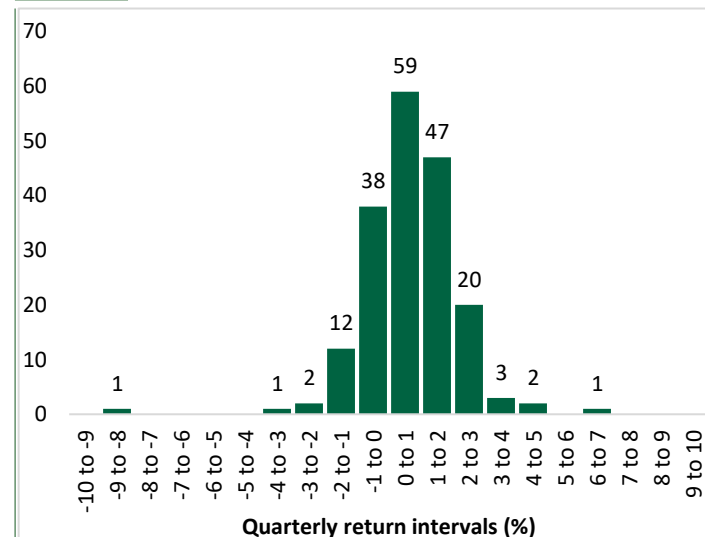
SA equity market: 76%



## Rolling 3-year annualised return



## Quarterly return distribution



# Quarterly report:

## Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



### Performance across classes

	A Class (all in)	B Class (lisp)	C Class (clean)	Peer group	SA inflation
Quarter	-3.5%	-3.2%	-3.2%	-2.9%	2.3%
1 year	1.7%	3.2%	2.8%	3.0%	6.5%
3 year	4.0%	5.6%	5.2%	5.6%	4.6%
5 year	4.2%	5.8%	5.4%	5.9%	4.5%



### Costs across classes

	Management fee (excl. Vat)	financial planner	total expense ratio	transaction charges	total investment charges
A Class (all-in)	1.15%	1.00%	2.44%	0.07%	2.51%
B Class (LISP)	0.85%	N/A	0.95%	0.07%	1.02%
C Class (clean)	1.15%	NA	1.30%	0.07%	1.37%

as at 30 June 2022

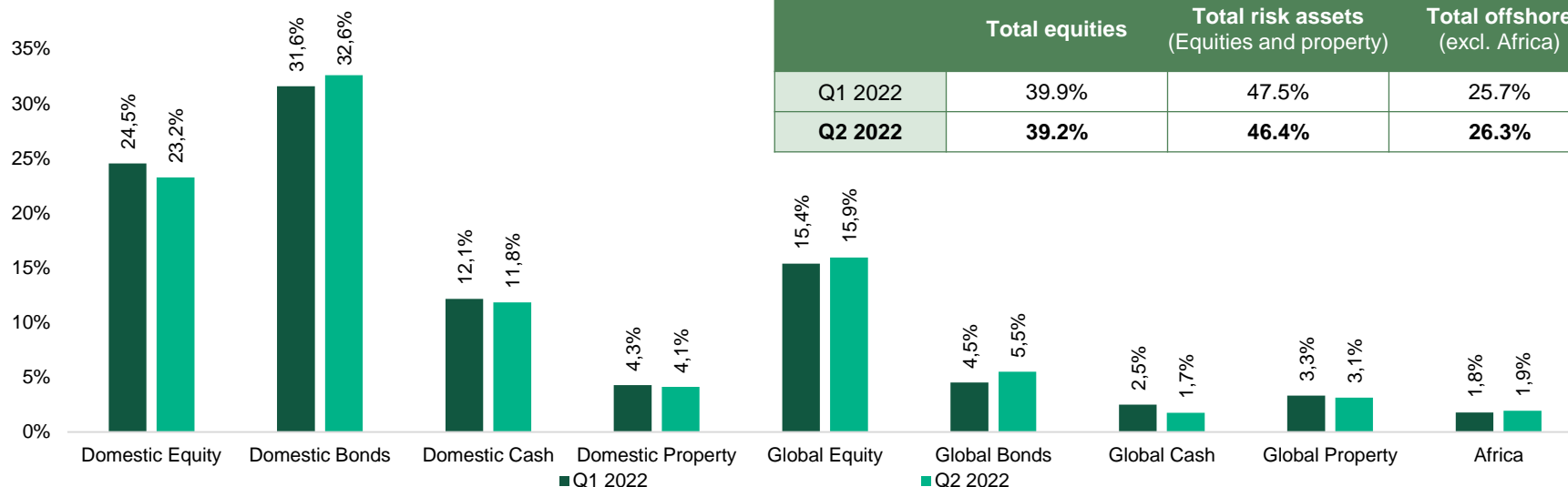
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## Asset allocation changes



	Total equities	Total risk assets (Equities and property)	Total offshore (excl. Africa)
Q1 2022	39.9%	47.5%	25.7%
Q2 2022	39.2%	46.4%	26.3%



## Summary of recent changes

- No changes were made to asset allocation during Q2 of 2022.
- We continue to be cognisant that the current geo-political tensions have primarily affected global growth through commodity supply and will have implications for central bank policy given deviations in inflation expectations.
- Therefore, we continue to monitor, assess, follow a sound investment process, and continue to make portfolio adjustments as necessary to ensure that portfolio positioning is reflective of our current market views.
- Any other differences noted above are purely as a result of market movements, and minor trades conducted by the investment team to ensure that the portfolio is in line with the house view. A healthy allocation to defensive assets remain and the funds are well diversified across all asset classes, with a conservative risk positioning.

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



## Asset allocation

### Domestic Equity



23.2%

### Domestic Property



4.1%

### Domestic Fixed Interest



44.4%

### Foreign Equity



15.9%

### Foreign Property



3.1%

### Foreign Fixed Interest



7.2%

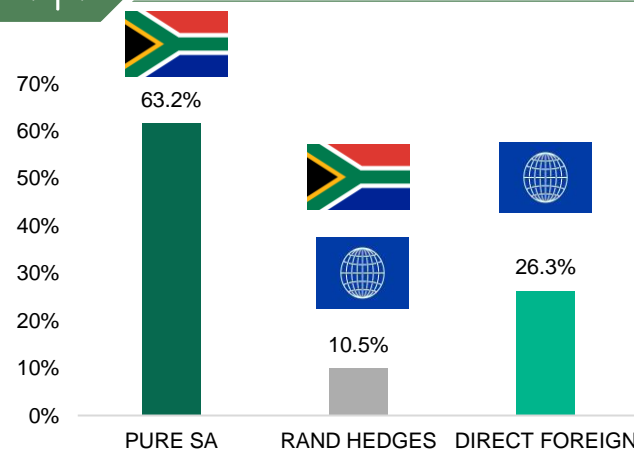
### Africa



1.9%



## Regional exposure



## Top ten holdings (as a % of fund)



1.2%



0.8%



0.7%



0.6%



0.6%



0.5%



0.4%



0.4%



0.6%



0.6%

as at 30 June 2022

# Quarterly report: Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



## Domestic asset class positioning



### Domestic Equity



23.2%

- Despite this, SA equities as being attractive on a relative basis. In the context of many developed markets (which were trading at all-time highs and at elevated valuations, but have since come down) SA equities still offer a more attractive risk-reward profile.
- Sector and stock selection will be key.

### Domestic Property



4.1%

- Some expansionary talk is starting to filter through once more now that Covid-19 related crisis management is not the sole focus of most management teams.
- Global inflation pressure should be beneficial for property as an asset class, although a period of consolidation can be expected

### Domestic Bond



32.6%

- While it is difficult to see the fiscus continue its path of fiscal consolidation in the absence of high commodity prices (due to expenditure pressures, continued SOE support and lower growth all hampering tax revenues), we can concede that relative to many other EMs we are no longer on the precipice of a fiscal cliff and have managed to buy ourselves time.

### Domestic Cash



11.8%

- Waiting on more attractive entry points on select equity opportunities.



## Global asset class positioning



### Global Equity



15.9%

- Equities will outperform fixed income, with an expectation of high single digit returns over the course of the year.
- We favour quality segments of the market with the expectation that these areas will withstand any potential recessionary pressures whilst also benefitting from an inflationary improvement.

### Global Property



3.1%

- Real assets appear attractive as an alternative to fixed income and with some inflation protection.
- Selective commercial property segments and the broader infrastructure sectors will benefit from the continued reflation of economies.

### Global Bond



5.5%

- Fixed income markets will underperform equities over a 12-month period. We anticipate shifting away from credit risk towards interest rate risk as implied yields climb. There is the potential for an overshoot on rate expectations, particularly if inflation levels start to show signs of peaking.

### Global Cash



1.7%

- Cash positions remain as underlying managers look for compelling idiosyncratic opportunities. Less negative on cash given the rise in interest rates.

# Quarterly report:

## Nedgroup Investments XS Guarded Fund of Funds



### Domestic: fund manager exposures

#### Equity General: 16.7%



#### Small/Mid Cap Equity: 3.0%



#### Passive Multi-Asset: 18.7%



#### Property: 2.8%



#### Flexible Income: 35.7%



### Offshore and Africa: fund manager exposures

#### Equity: 8.9%



#### EM Equity: 2.2%



#### Multi-Asset: 6.7%



#### Property: 2.9%



#### Africa: 2.0%



As at 30 June 2022

The residual balance (out of 100%) is held as domestic cash to provide liquidity

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