# **GRANITE HEDGE FUND**



### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

The Coronation Granite Hedge Fund is managed as a long/short fixed income fund, investing in a diversified portfolio of securities, including derivative instruments, bonds and cash. The Coronation Granite Hedge Fund makes use of six core and distinct fixed income strategies, namely: Directional View Taking, Yield Curve Positioning, Corporate Credit Opportunities, Arbitrage Strategies, Quantitative and Relative Value Trades in the pursuit of producing consistent absolute returns independent of general market direction

The fund is expected to have low volatility with a very low correlation to the All Bond Index (ALBI). Investment decisions are driven by fundamental proprietary in-house research. The fund's target return is cash plus 3%. The objective is to achieve this return with low risk, providing attractive risk-adjusted returns through a low fund standard deviation.

The fund may make use of derivative instruments for efficient portfolio management purposes.

### **INVESTMENT PARAMETERS**

The Coronation Granite Hedge Fund may invest in international investments. The fund may use leverage but such leverage shall be limited to 5 (five) times. The fund is precluded from raising any debt funding over and above that achieved in terms of the long/short process. Value at risk is monitored on a daily basis and is subject to an internal limit of 6% at a 95% confidence level, and 10% at a 99% level. The maximum modified duration of the fund may not exceed that of the ALBI. The portfolio will have maximum credit exposure limits with reference to credit classification bands, determined in accordance with the fund's Credit Exposure Guidelines. Limits per issuer within each credit classification band exist and are monitored on a daily basis. No writing of uncovered options will be permitted. The fund employs stop-loss strategies to facilitate capital preservation. The intention is to invest the majority of the fund in liquid tradable securities that are listed on BESA or the JSE. The fund may invest in unitised vehicles, in particular money market investment and exposure to small capitalisation shares may be achieved in this way. Investment in derivatives is permitted for efficient investment management of the fund.

### **FUND RETURNS**

|                              | Fund*  | ALBI   | Cash** |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Since inception (cumulative) | 708.8% | 733.7% | 347.1% |
| Since inception p.a.         | 9.6%   | 9.7%   | 6.8%   |
| Latest 10 year p.a.          | 8.7%   | 9.4%   | 6.1%   |
| Latest 5 year p.a.           | 9.0%   | 11.4%  | 5.9%   |
| Latest 3 year p.a.           | 10.9%  | 13.5%  | 7.5%   |
| Latest 1 year p.a.           | 11.8%  | 17.0%  | 7.5%   |
| Year to date                 | 6.1%   | 9.5%   | 4.2%   |
| Month                        | 0.9%   | 2.7%   | 0.6%   |

\*Fund Returns since inception to 30 September 2023 are for the A class (the most expensive fee class prior to the A class being closed on 30 September 2023) and was calculated net of fees and net of fund expenses. Fund Returns from 1 October 2023 to date are for the Z class. Fund Returns for the Z class are calculated net of fund expenses and gross of investment management and performance fees. Investment management and performance fees are individually agreed with each Qualified Investor prior to investment and are levied outside of the fund. Each Qualified Investor receives a monthly report indicating performance net of their individual fees and expenses.

### PERFORMANCE & RISK STATISTICS (Since inception)

|                               | Fund*  | ALBI   | Cash** |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Average Annual Return         | 9.4%   | 9.4%   | 6.7%   |
| Highest Annual Return         | 17.3%  | 26.1%  | 12.3%  |
| Lowest Annual Return          | 4.1%   | (5.6)% | 3.3%   |
| Annualised Standard Deviation | 1.8%   | 7.3%   | 0.6%   |
| Downside Deviation            | 1.3%   | 5.2%   |        |
| Maximum Drawdown              | (1.5)% | (9.8)% |        |
| Sharpe Ratio                  | 1.56   | 0.40   |        |
| Sortino Ratio                 | 2.08   | 0.57   |        |
| % Positive Months             | 97.4%  | 70.4%  | 100.0% |
| Correlation (ALBI)            | 0.17   |        |        |
| 99% Value at Risk (P&L %)     | (0.3)% |        |        |

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Investment Structure** Limited liability en commandite partnership **Disclosed Partner** Coronation Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd

Inception Date 01 October 2002 Hedge Fund CIS launch date 01 October 2017 Year End 30 September

**Fund Category** South African Fixed Income Hedge Fund

fees)

Benchmark ± Cash **Target Return** Cash + 3%

Annual Management & Performance Fees

Annual Management and Performance Fees are agreed and levied outside of the Fund.

0.08% (excluding management and performance Total Expense Ratio (TER)<sup>†</sup>

Transaction Costs (TC)† 0.02% R231.55 Fund Size (R'Millions) ‡ **Fund Status** Open NAV (per unit) 109.63 cents **Base Currency** ZAR **Dealing Frequency** Monthly

Income Distribution Annual (with all distributions reinvested)

Minimum Investment R1 million Notice Period

Coronation Alternative Investment Managers (Pty) Investment Manager

Ltd (FSP 49893)

Auditor KPMG Inc

Prime Brokers Absa Bank Ltd and FirstRand Bank Ltd

Custodian Standard Chartered Bank

Administrator JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., London Branch

Transfer Agency Intembeko Investment Administrators

Nishan Maharaj, Adrian van Pallander, and Seamus Portfolio Managers Vasev

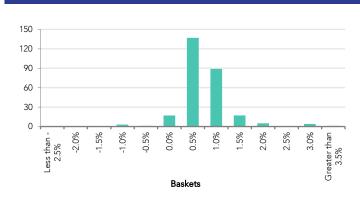
±The benchmark of the hedge fund has been included to align with industry standards.

†TER and TC data is provided for the 1 year ending 30 June 2025. TER excludes manufactured dividend expenses and scrip borrowing costs, in line with the revised ASISA TER Hedge Fund Disclosure Standard. ‡Fund assets under management as at 31 July 2025.

### **GROWTH OF R100m INVESTMENT**



### HISTOGRAM OF MONTHLY NET RETURNS



<sup>\*\*</sup>South Africa Rand Overnight Deposit Rate.

# **GRANITE HEDGE FUND**

OHALIEIED INVESTOR HEDGE FLIND FACT SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2025



# PORTFOLIO LIQUIDITY Days to Trade Long 8.9 Short 1.9

| INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS (cents per unit) |        |          |          |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|--|
| Declaration Date                      | Amount | Dividend | Interest |  |
| 30-Sep-24                             | 9.56   | 0.00     | 9.56     |  |

| STRATEGY STATISTICS       |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Number of long positions  | 59 |
| Number of short positions | 4  |

### MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The Fund returned 0.9%\* in July taking the one-year return to 11.8%. This places the Fund 4.3% ahead of cash over 12 months.

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) voted unanimously to cut the repo rate by 25bps to 7.0% at the July Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. Furthermore, Governor Lesetja Kganyago announced that the MPC was shifting to a 3.0% preferred inflation target from the current 4.5%. The official target range is still 3%-6% and will only change once an agreement is reached with National Treasury, and it is announced by the Minister of Finance, potentially at the medium-term budget policy speech in October. The accompanying modelling also revised the inflation baseline significantly lower to reach 3.0% by end-2027 and now centres at a 3.0% steady state. The driver of the lower forecast is a combination of an assumed wider output gap (lower growth), a stronger currency, and a downward adjustment in unit labour costs (wages) as lower inflation expectations are embedded within the South African price-setting dynamic.

SA headline inflation ticked up to 3.0% y/y in June from 2.8% y/y in May, while core inflation slowed to 2.9% y/y from 3.0% y/y. The data reflected a rise in food prices (meat and dairy), which were partly offset by falling fuel prices. The latter is set to change in July as the higher oil price will see retail fuel prices increase after a long decline. Food and fuel prices are likely to push headline inflation higher in coming months, but core pressures remain benign.

The global landscape remains uncertain, however, emerging markets have continued to outperform developed markets. South African government bonds have flourished as local anxiety has eased and expectations for a lower inflation target have bolstered prospects for a lower repo rate. SA government bonds are now trading at or close to fair value and to see a further rerating one would need to see a significant change in fiscal prospects or monetary policy accommodation. Indeed, anchoring inflation at 3.0% may take longer than the SARB suggests, thus delaying any tailwinds for bonds from further policy easing. Achieving substantial fiscal consolidation would require growth in excess of 2%-3% p.a; also not an imminent outcome. Global bond flows have turned more supportive of emerging markets, given their relatively cleaner balance sheets, and could support further compression in bond yields if that trend gains momentum. From an outright perspective, valuation suggests that the best value on the yield curve sits in the 10- to 15-year band and in inflation-linked bonds (ILB's) with a maturity of less than six years.

The Fund hit a bonanza of asset accumulation over the past several weeks – an extremely fortuitous turn of events. This was really the highlight of July, more so than anything that occurred within the active overlay strategies. It will also have far-reaching implications for sustained, ongoing returns for the portfolio over the coming months, as increasing the core holding of desirable, diversified and reasonably priced yielding assets is a reliable way to enhance performance for the Fund.

For what seemed like an extremely long time, the Fund had been winding down its aggregate effective domestic credit exposure through asset sales, maturities and the passage of time. Limited attractive opportunities was the main constraint, as spreads compressed and domestic funding markets remained under-supplied and over-demanded, whether that was in the debt-capital markets, bank funding arena, private markets – and whether domestic or offshore. We would argue that the Fund's patience and steadfast resolve around maintaining appropriate valuation standards has been rewarded with the sizeable accumulation of both new and existing exposures during July.

Against this backdrop, outright interest rates in SA have had a particularly strong run. Whether more is deserved rests on deeper developments surrounding the conduct of monetary policy, structural inflation or the course of fiscal balances over the coming years. That said, real yields (ILB's) continue to flag as attractive over the medium-term, while the yield curve retains a substantial term premium that can be harvested in a multitude of different ways.

The second half of 2025 for the Fund is already starting to look very appealing – after a long period of reserved risk-taking and particularly vigilant position management, the step-accumulation in attractive yield assets for the portfolio is exactly the tonic required for the Fund to lengthen its stride.

\*The Fund return is net of expenses and gross of fees.

## REGULATORY DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER

The content of this document and any information provided may be of a general nature and is not based on any analysis of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any potential investor. As a result, there may be limitations as to the appropriateness of any information given. It is therefore recommended that any potential investor first obtain the appropriate legal, tax, investment or other professional advice and formulate an appropriate investment strategy that would suit the risk profile of the potential investor prior to acting upon such information and to consider whether any recommendation is appropriate considering the potential investor's own objectives and particular needs. Neither Coronation Fund Managers Limited (collectively "Coronation") is acting, purporting to act and nor is it authorised to act in any way as an adviser. Any opinions, statements or information should change or become inaccurate. Coronation Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd is an approved manager of Collective Investments Schemes 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 the future performance of the Fund. Hedge Fund strategies can result in losses greater than the market value of the Fund, however investor's losses are limited to capital invested or contractual commitments. Hedge Funds may invest into illiquid instruments which may result in longer periods for investors to redeem units in a portfolio. The ability of a portfolio to repurchase is dependent upon the liquidity of the portfolio and cash of the portfolio. All income, capital gains and other tax liabilities that may arise as a result of participating in this investment structure remain that of the investor. Coronation reserves the right to close the Fund to new investors in order to ensure the Fund is more efficiently managed in line with our clients' mandates. The investor acknowledges the inherent risk associated with an in