

Fund Objective

The objective of the High Yield Credit fund is to generate returns in excess of a typical income fund. This fund is best suited for investors looking for enhanced income returns with very low liquidity requirements.

Investment Strategy

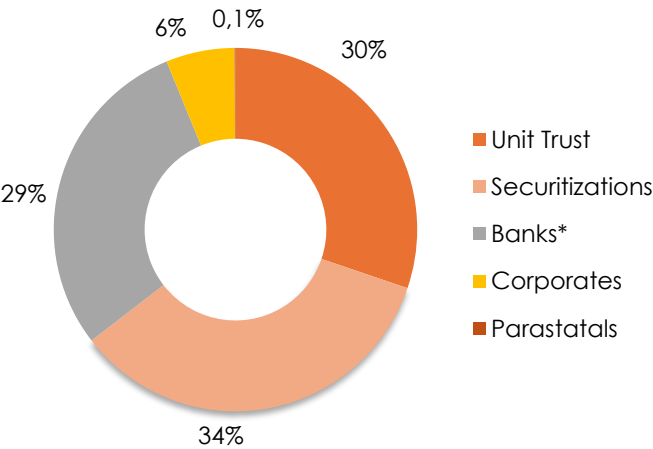
Employs a conservative approach to enhance yields through extracting the liquidity risk premium in longer dated and less liquid debt instruments, as well as an increased exposure to credit assets. Our fundamental credit review process is robust, combining qualitative and quantitative analysis, overlaid with institutional memory to question convention, operating within a strong risk and compliance framework. Our portfolio construction process builds a well-diversified fund targeting up to 30+ counterparties to further diversify risks.

Fund Performance

Period (naca)	Fund Return	Fund Target	CPI +5%
1 month	0,9%	0,9%	0,3%
3 months	2,8%	2,9%	2,3%
6 months	5,7%	5,8%	4,5%
1 year	10,5%	12,1%	8,3%
2 years p.a.	10,0%	12,4%	8,8%
3 years p.a.	11,0%	12,2%	9,2%
5 years p.a.	10,3%	10,6%	10,0%
3yr volatility	1,2%	0,2%	1,2%

Source: Taquanta Asset Managers

Issuer Type



*Includes 19% in Credit-linked Notes, which are bank issued notes referencing other entities.

Source: Taquanta Asset Managers

Fund Details

Risk Profile:



Portfolio Manager:

Taquanta Asset Managers

Currency:

ZAR

Fund Size:

R452,2 m

Inception date:

August 2015

Target Return:

STeFI Composite (Cash) +4%

Minimum Rating:

BB- (at time of purchase)

Max offshore exposure:

40% (Hedged)

Lock in Period:

5 years

Maturity Limit:

7 years

Modified Duration:

<0.25 Years

No. of Counterparties:

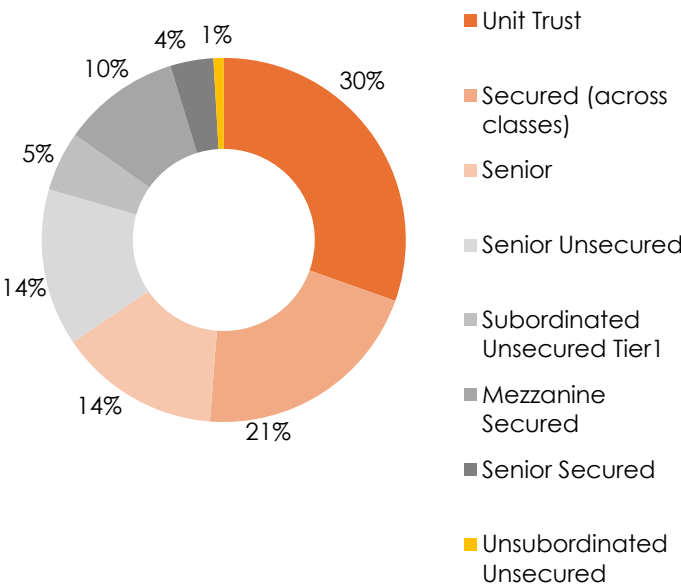
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Top 5 Credit Exposures (excluding unit trust exposure)

Issuer Name	% Exposure
The Republic of South Africa	21%
Standard Bank of South Africa	12%
Nedbank Limited	8%
Obaro SPV (RF) Proprietary	4%
Firstrand Bank Limited	4%

Source: Taquanta Asset Managers

Capital Ranking



Fund Outlook

The fund continues to maintain a low duration strategy, supported by a measured approach to maturity and liquidity positioning. With primary market activity having gained momentum and net issuance being positive year to date, the fund is well placed to access opportunities across public auctions, private placements, and structured debt. While the increase in supply is encouraging, strong investor demand continues to drive spreads toward the lower end of guidance. This environment of compressed pricing and macroeconomic uncertainty reinforces the importance of maintaining discipline in credit selection and liquidity risk management.

Market Commentary

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) kept the repo rate steady at 7% on 18 September 2025, as widely anticipated. The decision underscored the Bank's cautious stance amid persistent global uncertainty, even as it prepares to transition to a 3% inflation target. The vote was divided, with four members supporting a hold and two favoring a 25-basis-point cut. Since September 2024, the repo rate has been lowered by a cumulative 125bps. Policymakers signaled a pause to evaluate the effects of earlier cuts on economic conditions, evolving expectations, and inflation risks.

Headline inflation has risen as expected and is projected to peak in the near term, averaging 3.4% in 2025 and 3.6% in 2026, slightly above previous estimates, before easing back to target at 3% in 2027. Meanwhile, growth prospects have improved: the 2025 GDP forecast was revised upward to 1.2% (from 0.9%) following stronger-than-expected second-quarter output. Gains are expected to continue in the medium term, supported by structural reforms, though export performance remains constrained by higher tariffs.

After expanding just 0.1% in Q1 2025, real GDP rose by 0.8% in Q2 (April–June). Growth on the supply side was driven by manufacturing, mining, and trade, while stronger household consumption and softer imports lifted demand. Within production, manufacturing, mining & quarrying, and trade, catering & accommodation each added 0.2 percentage points to quarterly GDP growth.

Foreign appetite for South African debt has strengthened, with non-residents net buyers of R24.8 billion (\$1.4 billion) in government bonds on a single day in September, the largest one-day inflow since 2019, according to JSE data compiled by Bloomberg.

On the inflation front, consumer prices eased modestly. Annual CPI fell to 3.3% in August from 3.5% in July, supported by softer food and fuel costs. Month-on-month, CPI declined by 0.1%, with four of thirteen categories recording decreases: food & non-alcoholic beverages (-0.1%), furnishings & household equipment (-0.1%), transport (-0.2%), and information & communication (-0.2%).

Geopolitically, South Africa is close to appointing a new ambassador to the United States after months of vacancy—a period marked by heightened trade tensions and criticism from President Donald Trump over Pretoria's empowerment and foreign policy stances, alongside the imposition of additional tariffs on South African exports.

In the US, inflationary pressures intensified. The annual CPI accelerated to 2.9% in August, the highest since January, after holding steady at 2.7% in June and July. Price increases were broad-based, led by food (3.2%), used vehicles (6%), and new vehicles (0.7%). Energy costs also turned positive for the first time in seven months (0.2%), as gasoline and fuel oil declines moderated, while natural gas remained elevated (13.8%). On a monthly basis, CPI rose 0.4%, the strongest reading since January driven largely by shelter costs. Core inflation was steady at 3.1% year-on-year, with core CPI advancing 0.3% month-on-month.

Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve delivered its first rate cut since December, lowering the federal funds rate by 25bps to a range of 4.00%–4.25%. The decision was largely expected, though Governor Stephen Miran dissented, favoring a larger 50bps cut. Updated projections signaled a further 50bps in easing by year-end and a quarter-point cut in 2026. Growth forecasts were revised higher: 1.6% for 2025 (vs. 1.4% in June), 1.8% in 2026 (vs. 1.6%), and 1.9% in 2027 (vs. 1.8%). Inflation projections also edged higher for 2026, with PCE expected at 2.6% and core PCE at 2.6%. The unemployment rate is forecast at 4.5% for 2025 and 4.4% for 2026.

Disclosures: FAIS

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Category Description	Taquanta			
	Cat I Advice	Cat I Intermediary	Cat II discretionary Intermediary	Cat IIA Hedge Fund FSP
Long-Term Insurance subcategory B1				
Long-term insurance subcategory B2				
Long-term Insurance subcategory B2-A				
Long-term Insurance subcategory B1-A				
Long-Term Insurance subcategory C	X	X	X	
Retail Pension Benefits				
Pension Funds Benefits				
Shares	X	X	X	
Money market instruments	X	X	X	
Debentures and securitised debt	X	X	X	
Warrants, certificates and other instruments	X	X	X	
Bonds	X	X	X	
Derivative instruments	X	X	X	
Participatory interests in CIS's	X	X	X	
Participatory interest in a Hedge Fund			X	X
Long-term Deposits	X	X	X	
Short-term Deposits	X	X	X	
Structured Deposits			X	X
Securities and instruments				
General Category IIA experience				X

There are certain risks associated with investments in financial products, including market, credit & currency risks. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance. All returns are rand returns, unless otherwise stated.

Information disclosed to the FSP's will be treated as confidential unless written consent is obtained to disclose such information, or the disclosure of such information is required under a particular law

The appointed Compliance Officer is Mr Nick Howse and his contact details are as follows: Phone: (021) 681 5000 or | (021) 671 8162 | e-mail: nickh@taquanta.com

The appointed Information Officer is Mr Justin Kretzschmar and his contact details are as follows: Phone: (021) 681 5000 | e-mail: justink@taquanta.com

The FSP's have Implemented a Data Privacy Policy in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013. Our Information Access & Privacy Statement and PAIA Manual is available at www.taquanta.co.za

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