BALONDOLOZI
THE CUSTODIANS

BALONDOLOZI INFLATION LINKED BOND FUND **July 31, 2026**

FACT SHEET

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE
The fund seeks to outperform the JSE ASSA Composite Inflation Linked Index (CILI) by 1% per annum after fees over a rolling 3 year term.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY
This fund aims to out-perform its benchmark through active and quantitatively managed exposure via RSA stock and investment grade high yield credit bonds. Through the active management of duration which can vary by 2 years relative to the benchmark, alpha generation is achieved. Quantitative techniques such as the use of derivatives are employed to fine tune strategy and hedge risk factors.

FUND INFORMATION

Fund Classification	South African - Multi Asset - Income
Benchmark	CILI
Risk Profile	Moderately Conservative
Fund Managers	Fannuel Tigere, Sindisiwe Mahlangu
Inception Date	01 September 2018
Fund Size	R1709 million
Currency	SA Rands
Administration	Prescient Management Company (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Trustees	Standard Bank
Regulator	Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA)
Regulation 28	Compliant

FEES

Initial & Exit Fees	Nil
Total Investment Charge	0.30%
Portfolio TER	0.30%
Management Fees	*0.30%*
Transaction Costs	*0.00%*
Audit Fees	*0.00%*
Other Costs	*0.00%*
Vat	*15.00%*
Pricing	Daily at 17:00

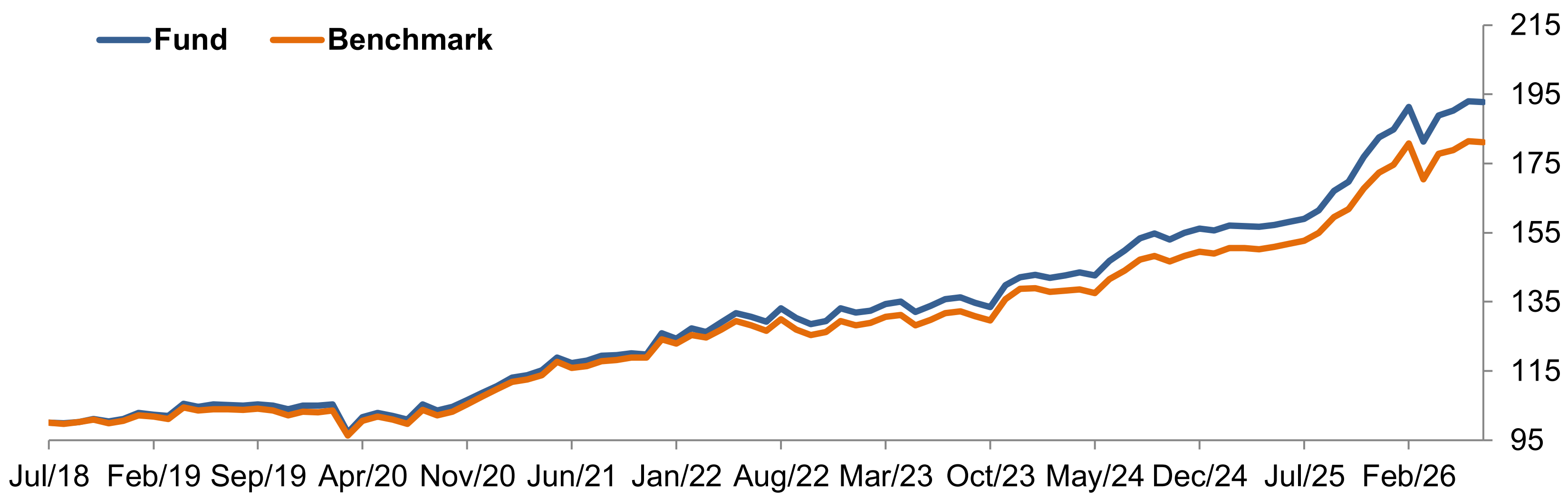
RISK RATIOS

	Fund	*Benchmark*
Annualised Return	8.55%	7.70%
Sharpe Ratio	0.34	0.22
Sortino Ratio	0.43	0.28
Max Drawdown	-7.83%	-7.06%
Drawdowns	34	33

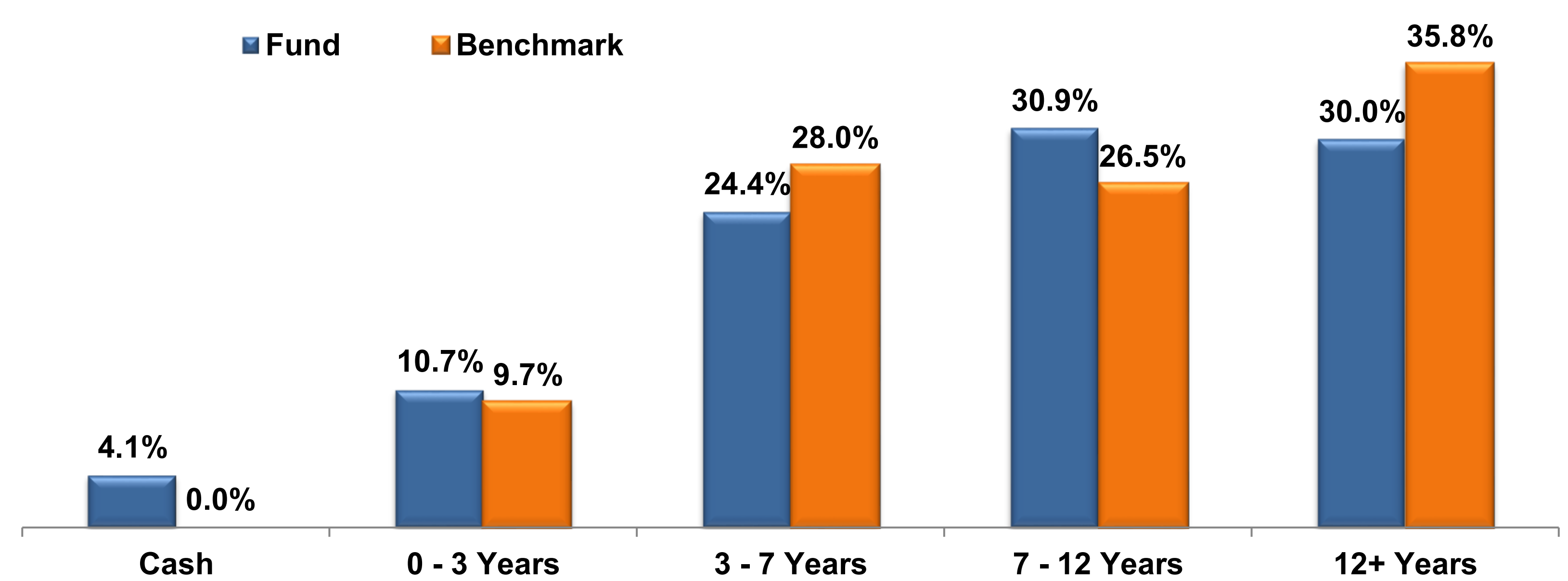
PERFORMANCE (Gross of fees)

	Fund	*Benchmark*
Jul-26	-0.08%	-0.21%
Year to Date	5.64%	5.05%
Rolling 12 months	21.24%	18.60%
Return p.a. since inception	8.55%	7.70%
Return since inception	92.84%	81.08%
Highest Rolling 1-year Return	22.06%	20.11%
Lowest Rolling 1-year Return	-4.75%	-4.68%

GROWTH OF R100 INVESTED AT INCEPTION



SECTOR ANALYSIS



FUND COMMENTARY

Global growth remains resilient but uneven, with activity still expanding but increasingly shaped by volatile energy prices and geopolitical risk. The conflict in the Middle East, intermittent ceasefires and disruptions to shipping have become key drivers of both inflation and sentiment, feeding through to fuel and transport costs. Markets have shifted from expecting broad-based rate cuts to pricing in the risk that major central banks will instead need to hike later this year.

Nominal government bonds returned -1.43% (GOVI); vanilla credit bonds delivered -1% (OTHI); inflation linked bonds returned -0.21% (CILI) and cash returned 0.57% as indicated by the STeFi Call Index in July 2026. Overall, the ALBI (All Bond Composite Index) returned -1.38% for the month.

During the same period; the yield for the R2030 (benchmark bond) rose by +18.5 basis points to end the month at 7.92%. Concurrently, the R2048/R2030 spread ticked up by +19 basis points to 138 bps whilst medium-term break-evens widened by +0.04% to 4.41%. Foreigners bought bonds worth +R2.3 billion as yields rallied during the month of July 2026.

The fund delivered -0.08% for the month against a benchmark return of -0.21%, outperforming by 0.13%. Outperformance was driven by credit allocation, contributing 0.08% towards alpha, movements in curvature (0.03%) and duration (0.02%).

After registering a value of 4.5% in May 2026, headline inflation for June 2026 was 5% (consensus 4.5%). On the same note, the price for brent crude oil rose by 23.59%, to end the month at $90.12 per barrel and the Rand depreciated against the Dollar by -0.86% to close at R16.53 per dollar. The seasonally adjusted Kagiso Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined by -3.5 index points to reach 47.3 in June 2026.

South Africa's electricity sector strengthened further during July as Eskom continued to improve operational performance while private sector investment in renewable energy remained robust. During the month, Eskom surpassed 420 consecutive days without load shedding, reduced diesel expenditure by approximately 85%, and continued to improve plant reliability under its Generation Recovery Plan, supporting a more stable national electricity supply.

This improved operating environment did not slow down investment in clean energy. Exxaro commissioned its 68MW Lephalale Solar Project, a R1.7 billion investment that will supply renewable electricity to the Grootegeluk Mine. The project demonstrates that improving grid reliability and renewable energy deployment are complementary, with businesses continuing to invest in lower-carbon energy solutions to enhance energy security, reduce emissions and improve cost efficiencies.

For holders of Eskom's government-guaranteed bonds, the utility's operational recovery supports its credit profile through lower operating costs, improved system reliability and stronger cash flow generation. While the sovereign guarantee remains a key source of credit support, sustained improvements in operational performance are equally important in strengthening the resilience of South Africa's electricity system and enabling the integration of additional renewable energy capacity.

In the US, economic data point to an economy that is still growing at a solid pace, supported by strong productivity and investment, despite uncertainty linked to the Middle East. The Federal Reserve left the federal funds rate at 3.50%–3.75% for a fifth consecutive meeting in July, broadly in line with expectations, although three FOMC members favoured a 25bp hike, keeping the possibility of tightening in September. Headline inflation declined to 3.5% in June from 4.2% in May, below forecasts, helped by easing energy inflation as the ceasefire between the US and Iran reduced pressure on gasoline and fuel oil prices, but inflation remains above the Fed's 2% target. The S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI edged down slightly to 53.8 in July from 53.9, still close to its highest levels in more than four years, with slower production and softer new orders partially offset by firmer factory employment. Longer supplier delivery times reflected supply disruptions linked to the Middle East rather than strong demand, reinforcing the sense that geopolitical developments remain central to the outlook.

In the Euro Area, growth is positive but subdued, as higher energy prices again push inflation above target and complicate policy decisions. The European Central Bank kept key rates unchanged in July after a 25bp hike in June, adopting a more cautious "wait and see" stance as softer inflation, wages and activity reduced the urgency for further tightening. Eurozone headline inflation rose slightly to 2.9% in July from 2.8% in June, driven largely by renewed energy price pressures as tension between the US and Iran resumed, keeping inflation above the ECB's 2% goal. Business surveys show gradual improvement in activity, the S&P Global Eurozone Manufacturing PMI increased to 52.0 in July from 51.4, with output at its strongest pace since early 2022 as easing supply chain disruptions allowed firms to rebuild inventories, even though staffing continued to be reduced and cost pressures, while moderating, remained elevated. The Services PMI returned to expansion at 51.6 from 49.4, supported by a rebound in business activity and better employment, while firms passed on operating cost increases to customers at a slower pace.

China's central bank is keeping policy very supportive, but recent data show growth losing momentum. The People's Bank of China left its key lending rates at record lows for a 14th straight month in July 2026, as expected, reflecting caution about the impact of Middle East tensions and a still uneven domestic recovery. Q2 GDP growth slowed to its weakest pace since late 2022, even though exports still benefit from strong demand for AI related goods. Headline inflation eased to 1.0% in June from 1.2% in April and May, slightly below expectations and consistent with subdued price pressures. Activity indicators point to softer industry and consumption. The official NBS Manufacturing PMI fell back into contraction at 49.2 in July from 50.3, signaling weaker factory activity amid weak demand and elevated production costs. Retail sales rose only 0.4% month on month in June, suggesting cautious household spending. Overall, China is keeping monetary policy loose, but growth is slowing, inflation is contained, and the outlook is increasingly dependent on external demand and targeted domestic support.

In South Africa, recent data point to rising inflation and weaker manufacturing momentum, against a policy stance that aims to anchor inflation while supporting a fragile recovery. The South African Reserve Bank kept the repo rate at 7% on 23 July, surprising most analysts who had expected a 25bp hike, with a 4–2 vote to hold as policymakers highlighted a slightly better inflation outlook and softer growth. Headline CPI accelerated to 5% in June from 4.5% in May, the highest rate since June 2024, driven mainly by a 34.3% surge in fuel prices that pushed transport inflation up to 12.7% amid elevated global energy prices linked to the conflict with Iran. SARB now expects inflation to average about 4% in 2026, down from 4.4% previously, and has lifted its 2026 growth forecast to 1.4% from 1.2%, while warning that further Middle East related shocks to oil and fertilizer could still warrant additional tightening. The Absa Manufacturing PMI fell back into contraction at 47.3 in June from 50.8, as weaker demand and delayed orders weighed on activity, although the survey suggests cost pressures may have peaked and confidence improved as oil prices eased following an interim US–Iran deal. The S&P Global South Africa PMI rose to 50.5 from 49.6, indicating marginal overall growth, but output and new orders continued to contract amid subdued domestic demand and lingering uncertainty, even as employment expanded and firms faced longer supplier delivery times due to ongoing disruptions to imported shipments.

Given the current backdrop, fundamentals relative to U.S. TIPS suggest that real yields appear somewhat rich, while sentiment indicators point to the recent rally in real yields being somewhat overextended following heightened geopolitical tensions and increased market volatility. As a result, the fund maintains a cautious stance on duration. Furthermore, short-term breakeven rates continue to indicate value in inflation-linked bonds (ILBs), supporting selective exposure within the portfolio. The fund closed the month with a neutral duration view. The managers will not hesitate to take short term opportunities offered by the volatility in the markets. Since credit spreads are tightening, the fund will seek credit and target high quality names to benefit from the yield pick-up whilst minimising the risk of widening spreads.