# **BengLeong** Assurance

## HLA Global ESG Fund (HLAGEF)

#### July 2022

#### **Fund Features**

#### Investment Objective

The objective of the fund is to provide medium-to-long term capital growth by investing in a globally diversified portfolio of companies with a focus on Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") criteria in the investment process.

#### **Investment Strategy & Approach** 2.

HLAGEF will principally feed into third party collective investment schemes that meet the fund's objective. HLAGEF may also invest directly in a diversified portfolio of domestic and/or foreign assets including equities, equity-related securities, deposits or any other financial instruments that offer potential capital appreciation.

At inception, the fund will invest by feeding into Hong Leong Global ESG Fund ("Target Fund"), with the option to increase the number of funds or replace the Target Fund in future.

The Target Fund follows a rule-based strategy and will only invest in securities of companies with a strong ESG scoring. The Target Fund will incorporate the principles of ESG in security selection through MSCI ESG Ratings. Through MSCI ESG Ratings, companies with poor performance on ESG Factors would be excluded in the investable universe. The Target Fund will only invest in securities with an ESG rating that indicates that the company has a good track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to industry peers. As such, the investable universe of the Target Fund comprises all equities with a minimum of BBB ESG rating by MSCI. The Target Fund emphasizes on responsible investing and as such will ensure a minimum of 70% of its NAV is invested in accordance with ESG criteria.

Additionally, the Target Fund may also invest in money market instruments and deposits with financial institutions. The Target Fund does not incorporate ESG factors for money market instruments and deposits as the said instruments are used for liquidity purposes.

#### Asset Allocation 3.

The Target Fund will invest a minimum of 70% and maximum of 98% of its NAV in equities. The balance of its NAV will be invested in money market instruments.

#### Target Market 4.

This fund is suitable for investors looking who have a medium-to-long term investment horizon and are willing to assume a higher risk in their investments with exposure to foreign investments.

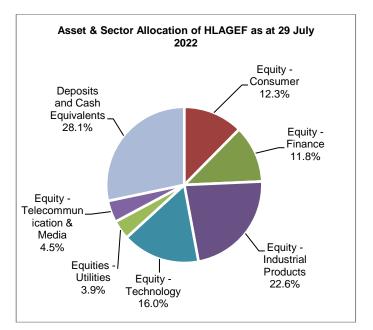
#### Fund Details

Unit Price (29/7/2022)	: RM 1.0337				
Fund Size (29/7/2022)	: RM 452,934.5				
Fund Management Fee	: 1.50%				
Fund Manager	: Hong Leong Assurance Berhad				
Fund Inception	: 27 April 2022				
Benchmark	: MSCI ACWI ESG Universal				
	Index				
Frequency of Unit Valuation	: Daily				

Fund management charge of underlying Collective Investment Scheme(s) is part of Fund Management Fee as stated in table above. There are no additional charges being charged to the Policy Owner. The Company reserves the right to change the Fund Management Fee (% p.a.) by giving the Policy Owner ninety (90) days prior written notice.

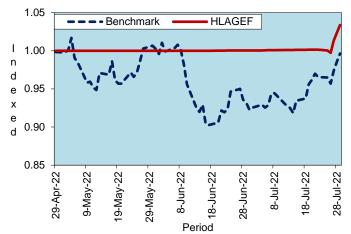
Asset Allocation for HLAGEF as at 29 July 2022	
Hong Loong Clobal ESC fund	00.2

	/0
Hong Leong Global ESG fund	99.26
Cash	0.74
Total	100.0



Top 5	Holdings for HLAGEF as at 29 July 2022	%		
1.	Trane Technologies Plc	8.1		
2.	Apple Inc.	6.9		
3.	Advanced Micro Devices, Inc	5.6		
4.	Honeywell International Inc	4.9		
5.	3M Company	4.8		
	Total Top 5	30.3		

#### Historical Performance



	YTD	1 month	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since Inception		
HLVF	-	3.32%	-	-	-	3.37%		
Benchmark*	-	7.98%	-	-	-	-0.36%		
Relative	-	-4.66%	-	-	-	3.73%		
*Source: Bloomberg								

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance.



## HLA Global ESG Fund (HLAGEF)

### Market Review, Outlook & Strategy

Amid gloomy headlines, European Union (EU) consumer confidence reached a record low of -27.3 and the S&P Global flash July PMI for the Eurozone fell into contraction territory to 49.4 in July. Despite the key Nord Stream 1 pipeline resuming gas flows, Russia will likely continue using gas exports as political pressure, seen by how Russia's Gazprom halved the flows to 20% of capacity last Wednesday. Attempts to collectively reduce gas consumption or ration gas supplies in the EU might not be as easy as it sounds, given infrastructure feasibility and political tensions among a somewhat fragmented EU.

Despite the weak economic backdrop, the European Central Bank (ECB) hiked key interest rates by 50bps to rein in record inflation, the first time in 11 years and the largest hike since 2000, further fueling concerns of slowing growth and the (Fed) can tame inflation by slowing economic growth, the Eurozone's inflation largely depends on where natural gas prices are going. That, coupled with an already slowing economy, puts the ECB at a tough spot. This rate hike was also an attempt to support the Euro, which has slid to reach parity with the US dollar for the first time in 20 years. Relative to the Euro, European equity markets in local currency terms have yet to reflect recessionary fears to a similar extent. As we brace for increasing recession risks in Europe or, at best, a prolonged period of slow growth, investors are recommended to turn defensive in the positioning of their European investments.

Investors are concerned that aggressive monetary tightening by the Fed could push the US economy into a recession. While the Fed is indeed focused on taming inflation, it should also try to strike a delicate balance not to jeopardize economic growth. We could be moving toward the late part of the economic cycle, and the risk of recession has risen. Consumption data is still pointing toward steady growth entering the second half of 2022. An exceptionally low unemployment rate should

support personal spending despite the rising cost of living, even as fiscal support from the government dissipates. There are several potential economic soft spots to watch out for. The housing market is starting to cool in reaction to rising mortgage rates. Corporate spending is sensitive toward borrowing costs and earnings growth. Both factors are healthy at the moment, but deserve diligence since corporate spending is typically an indicator of recessions.

On the strategy front, we deployed our cash and gradually invested into companies which have high resiliency against economic downshifts. These are the names with strong ESG ratings, yet a healthy balance sheet with good cash flows generations.

#### **Investment Risks**

All investments carry risks. Policy Owners must be prepared to accept certain degree of risk associated with this Investment. The following are the nonexhaustive list of risks associated to this fund.

#### 1. Market Risk

Market risk stems from the fact that there are other economy-wide perils, which threaten all businesses. It is mainly caused by uncertainties in the economy, political and social environment.

#### 2. Liquidity Risk

Defined as the ease with which a security can be sold at or near its fair value. This risk occurs in thinly traded or illiquid securities. Should the fund need to sell a relatively large amount of such securities, such action itself may significantly depress the selling price.

#### 3. Credit Risk

This refers to the possibility that the issuer of a security will not be able to make timely payments of interest or principal repayment on the maturity date. The default may lead to a fall in the value of the funds.

#### 4. Interest Rate Risk

The level of interest rates has an impact on the value of investments. Any increase in rates will lead to a fall in the value of securities, thus affecting the value of the funds.

#### 5. Concentration Risk

Concentration risk occurs when a portfolio is overweight on a particular security, sector or asset class. As the fund invests mainly into third party collective investment scheme (CIS) and by virtue of the CIS investing in a diversified portfolio of equities as well as dynamic asset allocation strategy between equities and other financial instruments, the concentration risk is mitigated.

#### 6. Target Fund(s) Risk

The fund invests in third party CIS which is being managed by another fund manager. The CIS is carefully selected in order to ensure that the objectives of said CIS are appropriately aligned with the fund. Nevertheless, the Fund Manager does not have control over the management of the CIS and any adverse effect on the CIS will inevitably affect the fund. In such instance, the Fund Manager may replace the CIS with another CIS which the Fund Manager considers to be more appropriate or invest directly in a diversified portfolio in order to meet the objective of the fund. Please also refer to the Target Fund's prospectus for more detailed and comprehensive information on Target Fund specific risks.

#### 7. Country Risk

The foreign investments made by the fund are subjected to risks specific to the country in which it invests. Such risks include changes in a country's economic fundamentals, social and political stability, currency movements, foreign investment policies and etc. The risk may be mitigated by closely monitoring the developments in the countries in order to identify any emerging risk.

#### 8. Currency Risk

This risk applies to foreign investment, in which the investment may rise or fall due to fluctuation in the foreign currencies. Adverse movements in currencies exchange rates can result in a loss to the investment.



### HLA Global ESG Fund (HLAGEF)

### **Risk Management**

The Company has in place its authorized investment framework which forms part of the Risk Management process. The authority framework covers the nature and scope of the investment authority that is exercisable by various parties in managing the Company's investments. The potential investment risks that are taken into consideration in managing the fund include economic conditions, liquidity, qualitative and quantitative aspects of the securities. The investment manager(s) have put in place the following controls to reduce the risks through:

- a) having a flexible tactical asset allocation
- b) investing in a wide range of companies across different sectors
- c) setting prudent investment limits on various exposures
- d) taking into account the liquidity factor in selecting securities
- e) engaging in the hedging of foreign currency exposure where appropriate

#### **Basis of Unit Valuation**

1. The assets of every fund are to be valued to determine the value at which units of a particular fund can be liquidated or purchased for investment purposes.

- 2. The unit price of a unit of a fund shall be determined by the Company but in any event shall not be less than the value of fund of the relevant fund (as defined below), divided by the number of units of the given fund in issue on the business day before the valuation date, and the result adjusted to the nearest one hundredth of a cent.
- 3. The maximum value of any asset of any fund shall not exceed the following price:
  - a) The last transacted market price at which those assets could be purchased or sold on the business day before the valuation date; or
    - b) In the case of securities for which market values are not readily available, the price at which, in our Investment Manager's opinion, the asset may have been purchased on the business day before the valuation date;
  - plus any expenses which would have been incurred in its acquisition.
- 4. To ensure fair treatment to all unit holders, the cost of acquiring and disposing of assets is recouped by making a transaction cost adjustment to the net asset value per unit.

### **Exceptional Circumstances**

The Company reserves the right to defer the payment of benefits (other than death benefit) under this Policy for a period not exceeding six (6) months from the date the payment would have been normally effected if not for intervening events such as temporary closure of any Stock Exchange in which the fund is invested which the Company, in its discretion, may consider exceptional.

#### **Target Fund Details**

Hong Leong Global ESG Fund is an Equity fund managed by Hong Leong Asset Management.

#### **Basis of Calculation of Past Performance**

The historical performance of the fund is calculated based on the price difference over the period in consideration compared to the older price of the period in consideration.

 $\frac{\text{Unit Price}_{t} - \text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}{\text{Unit Price}_{t-1}}$ 

For the underlying Target Fund, past performance is calculated after adjusting for distribution and/or additional units, if any.

#### Others

HLA Global ESG Fund is managed by HLA. Any amount invested in this fund is invested by HLA on behalf of Policy Owner in equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instrument/s. If the financial institutions and/or corporations issuing the equity, fixed income, collective investment scheme, foreign asset, derivatives and money market instruments defaults or becomes insolvent, the Policy Owner risks losing part or all of his/her amount that were invested into the instruments on his/her behalf by HLA.

## THIS IS AN INSURANCE PRODUCT THAT IS TIED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDERLYING ASSETS, AND IS NOT A PURE INVESTMENT PRODUCT SUCH AS UNIT TRUSTS.

#### Disclaimer:

Policy Owner must evaluate your options carefully and satisfy yourself that the investment-linked fund chosen meets your risk appetite. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. The intention of this document is to enable Policy Owner to better understand the fund features and details in order to serve as a guide to the Policy Owner to making an informed decision. This document shall not be construed as professional advice on investment choices.