

## Pengana Global Small Companies Fund

Rating issued on 28 Nov 2024 | APIR: PCL0022AU

### Investment objective

To outperform the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index \$A (after fees) over rolling three-year periods.

Manager	Lizard Investors
Distributor	Pengana Capital Group
Sector	International Shares Small Companies
Investment Style	Value
RI Classification	Aware
Absolute Risk	High
Relative Risk	Active - Benchmark Unaware
Investment Timeframe	7+ Years
Benchmark	MSCI World Ex Aust Small Cap \$A
Min Investment Amount	\$10,000
Redemption Frequency	Daily
Income Distribution	Half Yearly
Fund Size (31 Oct 2024)	\$79.76M
Management Cost	1.10% p.a. Incl. GST
Performance Fee	20.5% of outperformance of the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index (after fees), subject to the recoupment of all prior benchmark underperformance
Buy / Sell Spread	0.30% / 0.30%
Inception Date	01 Apr 2015

### Fund facts

- Expected to hold between 30 and 50 stocks
- Targets companies with market capitalisations less than \$US 2 billion at initiation
- Portfolio turnover is expected to average 40% p.a. over a market cycle

### Viewpoint

The Fund, managed by Lizard Investors LLC (Lizard) and distributed by Pengana Capital Limited (Pengana), provides investors with a value-biased exposure to global small companies. Zenith's conviction in the Fund has tempered following the departure of a senior member of Lizard's investment team. Whilst we note that Lizard has since appointed an appropriate replacement, we believe it is important the investment team experience a period of consolidation.

Founded in 2008 by Leah Zell, Chicago-based Lizard specialises in the management of small and mid-cap equity strategies. In February 2023, senior Lizard employees acquired Pengana's stake in Lizard, with Jon Moog now controlling a majority stake. This change in ownership followed Pengana's acquisition of 65% of Lizard's equity in January 2020, when Moog and David Li sold their equity stakes. Zenith has a favourable view of the investment team's increased ownership of Lizard, believing that it provides a stronger retention mechanism for key investment personnel and greater alignment with investors.

Moog has ultimate responsibility for the Fund, with portfolio management support provided by Michael Ryan. Ryan was assigned portfolio management responsibility in July 2023, following Li relinquishing portfolio management responsibility to focus on idea generation and stock research. In April 2024, Li departed the business. Given Li's tenure at Lizard and his significant industry experience, Zenith considers his departure a loss for the Fund. Notwithstanding this, we consider Moog a capable investor with the requisite capabilities to successfully manage the Fund.

Further support is provided by two investment analysts, with all members of the investment team assigned generalist stock coverage responsibilities. Zenith considers it crucial that the investment team experience a period of consolidation.

Lizard believes that the market is inefficient, with unique opportunities existing due to limitations in available research, corporate actions and negative investor perception. The investment team applies a value-orientated investment approach with a focus on capital preservation. Zenith believes Lizard applies a sound investment approach.

Analysts generate financial models, assessing the sustainability of a company's earnings to determine bear and base-case scenarios. Prospective companies must generally offer a 20% p.a. return over a three-year time period. A detailed research note is produced, outlining the investment thesis, target entry and exit prices, an assessment of company management, its ownership structure, key share price drivers and risks. Zenith believes Lizard's stock-selection process is implemented in a consistent manner.

Moog retains ultimate responsibility for constructing the portfolio, with support provided by Ryan. The portfolio is constructed in a benchmark-unaware manner, with position sizes driven by the team's level of conviction, risk and liquidity. Overall, Zenith believes Lizard's portfolio construction process follows a logical framework.



## Fund analysis

### Fund characteristics

Constraint	Value
Number of Stocks	30 to 50 (Expected)
Absolute Stock Weight	Max: 10% (Soft Limit)
Absolute Sector Weight	Max: 35% (Soft Limit)
Absolute Country Weight (ex-US)	Max: 25% (Soft Limit)
Absolute US Weight	Max: 55% (Soft Limit)
Cash	Max: 20%

### Investment objective and philosophy

The Fund's investment objective is to outperform the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index \$A (after fees) over rolling three-year periods.

Zenith would prefer to see the delineation of a specific outperformance target, as opposed to a descriptive, qualitative objective. Zenith believes this would provide investors with greater transparency with regard to return expectations and the level of risk embedded in the Fund.

Lizard believes that the market is inefficient, with unique opportunities existing due to limitations in available research, corporate actions and negative investor perception. The investment team applies a value-orientated investment approach with a focus on capital preservation, seeking to identify quality small and mid-cap companies that create shareholder value.

Zenith believes Lizard applies a sound investment approach.

### Portfolio applications

In general, compared to most other asset classes, equities offer investors the opportunity for higher capital growth over the longer term with some income. However, this higher growth is also often associated with higher volatility. International equities provide investors with broad exposure to industries and countries. With such a broad universe, it is expected that managers can deliver superior returns to more conservative asset classes. However, the expectation of greater returns comes with increased volatility, especially when currency movements are considered. Therefore, it is recommended that investors adopt a longer time frame when investing in international equities. It is also recommended that investments in international equities are blended with domestic equities and other asset classes such as fixed income to improve portfolio diversification.

Given Lizard's value-focused investment style, Zenith expects the Fund to have stronger performance relative to peers in flat or falling market environments. As the Fund is relatively concentrated and benchmark-unaware, investors should be cognisant that its returns and volatility may vary considerably relative to both the benchmark and its peers.

Given the risks inherent in global small and mid-cap companies, Zenith believes a more diversified exposure to international equities can be achieved by blending the Fund with other large-cap equity strategies. In addition, Zenith believes

international small and mid-cap funds are most appropriate for investors with an investment time horizon of at least seven years.

The Fund's portfolio turnover is expected to average 20% p.a. to 50% p.a. over a market cycle, which Zenith considers to be low to moderate. Lizard has indicated that approximately 50% of the expected turnover is attributed to resizing existing positions and approximately 50% is due to initiating and closing positions. Given this expected level of turnover, a sizeable proportion of the Fund's returns are expected to be delivered via capital appreciation in the unit price, rather than through the realisation of capital gains in income distributions. In addition, realised capital gains are likely to be eligible for the capital gains tax discount. As such, holding all else equal, the Fund may be more appealing to investors who are high marginal tax rate payers as it will result in superior after-tax return outcomes.

### Fund responsible investment attributes

Key Information	Description
Zenith RI classification*	Aware
Has Responsible Investment Policy	Yes

PRI Status	
PRI Signatory	Yes

\*Zenith RI Classification scale:

- Traditional
- Aware
- Integrated
- Thematic
- Impact



# Absolute performance

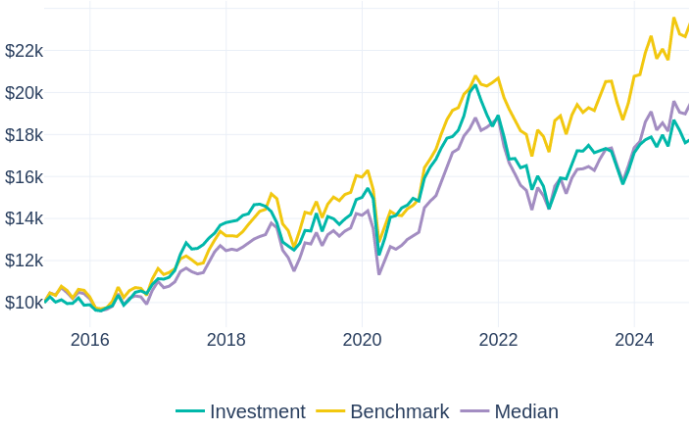
## Performance as at 31 Oct 2024

### Monthly performance history (% , net of fees)

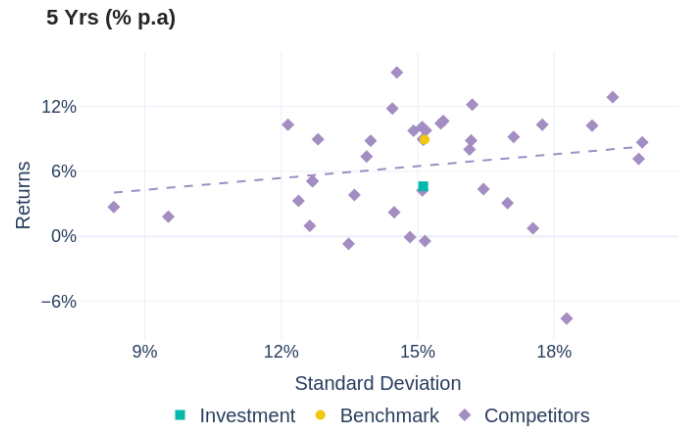
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	BM YTD*
2024	2.31%	1.28%	0.76%	-2.67%	3.30%	-3.03%	7.21%	-2.64%	-3.26%	0.98%			3.80%	12.63%
2023	4.56%	3.73%	-0.10%	1.60%	-2.02%	0.67%	0.49%	-0.81%	-4.22%	-5.09%	4.15%	5.23%	7.84%	15.33%
2022	-5.36%	-5.99%	0.14%	-2.60%	0.60%	-6.94%	4.26%	-3.05%	-6.93%	5.24%	4.72%	-0.32%	-16.04%	-12.92%
2021	2.28%	3.12%	2.74%	0.44%	1.67%	3.75%	5.97%	1.81%	-3.67%	-3.47%	-2.97%	2.91%	15.01%	22.88%
2020	2.93%	-3.19%	-18.09%	6.31%	7.99%	0.56%	2.59%	0.91%	2.21%	-0.84%	7.33%	3.30%	9.61%	5.36%

\*MSCI World ex Aust Small Cap \$A

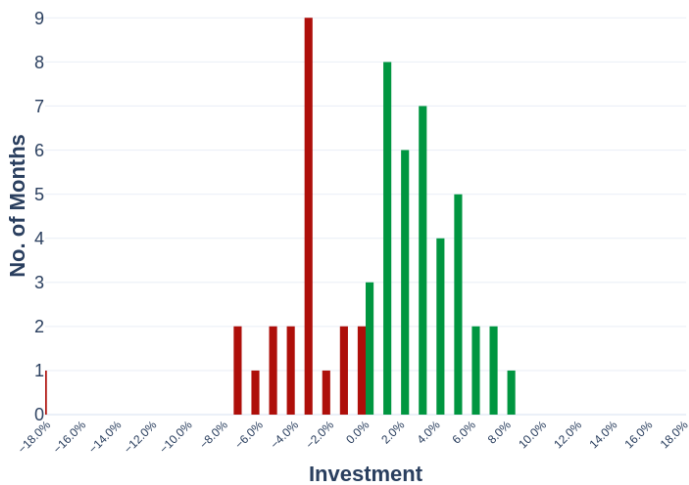
### Growth of \$10,000



### Risk / return



### Monthly histogram



### Minimum and maximum returns (% p.a.)





## Absolute performance analysis

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
<b>Investment</b>	<b>13.75%</b>	<b>-2.10%</b>	<b>4.62%</b>	<b>4.23%</b>	<b>6.24%</b>
Income	0.42%	2.50%	2.97%	2.27%	1.78%
Growth	13.34%	-4.59%	1.66%	1.96%	4.47%
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>25.15%</b>	<b>4.83%</b>	<b>8.94%</b>	<b>8.78%</b>	<b>9.36%</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>23.98%</b>	<b>2.14%</b>	<b>7.60%</b>	<b>6.69%</b>	<b>7.31%</b>
<b>Cash</b>	<b>4.41%</b>	<b>2.93%</b>	<b>1.86%</b>	<b>1.83%</b>	<b>1.88%</b>

## Ranking within sector (p.a.)

Ranking within Sector	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Inception
Fund Ranking	32 / 34	22 / 24	15 / 17	8 / 10
Quartile	4th	4th	4th	4th

## Absolute risk

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
<b>Standard Deviation (% p.a.)</b>					
Investment	11.59%	12.89%	15.12%	14.00%	12.88%
Benchmark	14.08%	14.09%	15.15%	14.44%	13.73%
Median	12.36%	14.01%	15.13%	14.19%	13.34%
<b>Downside Deviation (% p.a.)</b>					
Investment	5.83%	9.45%	11.24%	10.27%	9.14%
Benchmark	6.36%	8.29%	10.10%	9.63%	8.85%
Median	5.76%	9.26%	10.67%	9.99%	9.09%

## Absolute risk/return ratios

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
<b>Sharpe Ratio (p.a.)</b>					
Investment	0.81	-0.39	0.18	0.17	0.34
Benchmark	1.47	0.13	0.47	0.48	0.54
Median	1.58	-0.06	0.38	0.34	0.41
<b>Sortino Ratio (p.a.)</b>					
Investment	1.60	-0.53	0.25	0.23	0.48
Benchmark	3.26	0.23	0.70	0.72	0.85
Median	3.40	-0.09	0.54	0.49	0.60

Investors should note that Lizard benchmarks the Fund against the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index. For consistency purposes, Zenith benchmarks all products in the International Shares - Small Companies sector against the MSCI World ex-Australia Small Cap Index \$A. Accordingly, all performance and risk measurements are calculated with Zenith's assigned index.

All commentary below is as at 31 October 2024.

The Fund's investment objective is to outperform the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index \$A (after fees) over rolling three-year periods.

Zenith would prefer to see the delineation of a specific outperformance target, as opposed to a descriptive, qualitative objective. Zenith believes this would provide investors with greater transparency with regard to return expectations and the level of risk embedded in the Fund.

The Fund has underperformed the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index \$A and its Zenith-assigned benchmark over all periods of assessment.

The Fund's volatility (as measured by Standard Deviation) has been less than the benchmark since its inception.

The Fund's Sharpe ratio has been less than the benchmark over all assessed periods, which indicates that investors have been insufficiently compensated for its risk.

Investors should be aware that Lizard does not target a specific level of income for the Fund, with distributions made semi-annually where possible.



## Relative performance

### Excess returns

Statistic	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
Excess Return	-11.39%	-6.93%	-4.32%	-4.56%	-3.11%
Monthly Excess (All Mkts)	33.33%	38.89%	43.33%	44.05%	45.61%
Monthly Excess (Up Mkts)	25.00%	31.58%	38.89%	37.25%	36.76%
Monthly Excess (Down Mkts)	50.00%	47.06%	50.00%	54.55%	58.70%

### Capture ratios (% p.a.)

Statistic	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
Downside Capture	104.04%	101.63%	99.54%	94.04%	86.96%
Upside Capture	72.67%	70.82%	83.21%	77.96%	79.27%

### Tracking error (% p.a.)

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
Investment	6.62%	7.53%	7.29%	7.44%	7.40%
Median	2.83%	3.01%	2.91%	2.69%	2.52%

### Information ratio

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
Investment	-1.72	-0.92	-0.59	-0.61	-0.42
Median	-0.41	-0.89	-0.46	-0.78	-0.81

### Beta statistics

Statistic	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	7 Yrs	Inception
Beta	0.73	0.78	0.88	0.84	0.80
R-Squared	0.78	0.72	0.78	0.75	0.72
Correlation	0.88	0.85	0.88	0.86	0.85

All commentary below is as at 31 October 2024.

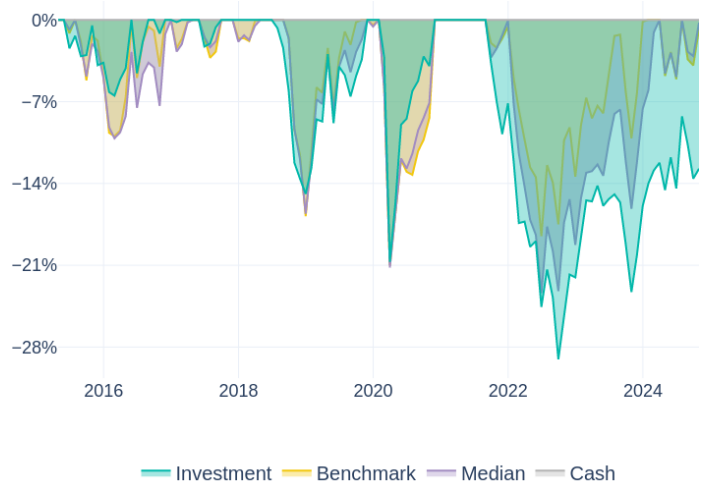
Zenith seeks to identify strategies that can outperform in over 50% of months in all market conditions, as we believe this represents consistency of manager skill. In addition, we view a strategy's ability to produce stronger upside capture ratios relative to downside capture ratios as an attractive feature.

The Fund has not achieved either outcome since its inception.

The Fund has typically exhibited stronger outperformance consistency in declining markets relative to rising markets, which Zenith believes is consistent with Lizard's quality and value-biased investment approach.

### Drawdown analysis (since inception)

Drawdown analysis assesses the relative riskiness of a Fund versus the benchmark, in reference to capital preservation. The maximum Drawdown is recorded as the percentage decline in the value of a portfolio from peak to trough (before a new peak is achieved). All Drawdown analysis is calculated commencing from the inception date of the Fund in question, and Drawdown analysis for the Fund and benchmark(s) are calculated independently. That is, the largest drawdown for the Fund and benchmark(s) will not always refer to the same time period.



All commentary below is as at 31 October 2024.

The Fund has generally experienced drawdowns in line with the benchmark. However, we highlight that the Fund experienced a drawdown significantly larger than the benchmark in late 2021 and in 2022. Zenith notes that the drawdown is primarily attributable to the Fund's underweight exposure to US equities during the period.

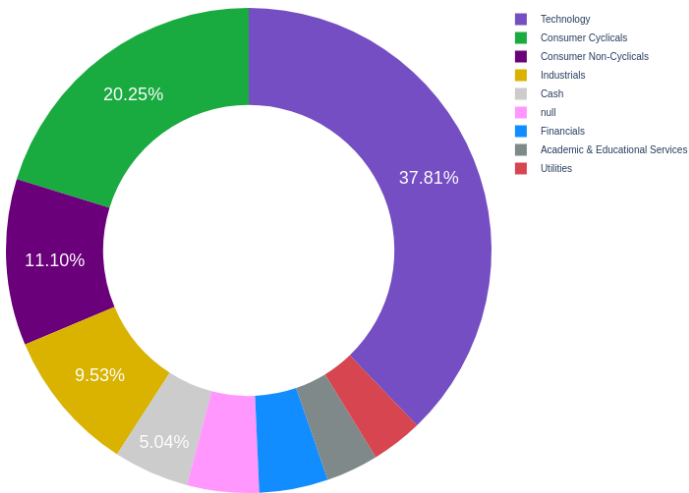


## Product Exposures

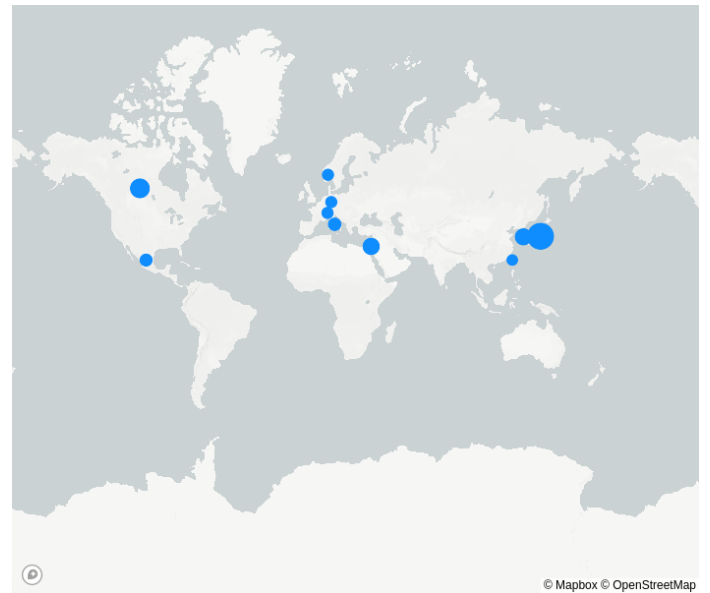
### Holdings as at 30 Sep 2024

Stock	Weight	Country	Sector	Active Exposure
DERIVATIVE	4.78%			4.78%
EPLUS INCO.	4.51%	United States	Technology	4.51%
BALTIC CLASSIFIEDS GP.	4.49%	United Kingdom	Technology	4.49%
NORITSU KOKI CO.LTD.	4.47%	Japan	Consumer Cyclicals	4.47%
INTEGRAFIN HOLDINGS PLC.	3.68%	United Kingdom	Technology	3.68%
ON THE BEACH GROUP PLC.	3.63%	United Kingdom	Consumer Cyclicals	3.63%
SAPIENS INTL.CORP.NV	3.62%	Israel	Technology	3.62%
GRAND CANYON ED.INCO.	3.50%	United States	Academic & Educational Services	3.50%
TELECOM PLUS PLC.	3.42%	United Kingdom	Utilities	3.42%
GILDAN ACTIVEWEAR INCO.	3.37%	Canada	Consumer Cyclicals	3.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.47%</b>			

### Equity sector exposure



### Equity country exposure







## Fund commentary

### Fund risks

Zenith has identified the following key risks of the Fund. Although Zenith believes the risks noted are all significant, we have listed them in order of importance. In addition, we have not intended to highlight all possible risks.

**Key person risk:** Zenith believes Lizard's key person risk is heightened given the compact nature of the investment team. Zenith considers Jon Moog as integral to the success of the Fund and the firm, with his departure triggering an immediate reassessment of our rating. However, we note that Moog holds a majority equity stake in Lizard which mitigates the risk of his departure over the medium term.

**Business risk:** In 2022 Moog, Li and Zell bought back their equity stake from Pengana, returning to the previously determined sub-advisory agreement. Zenith notes there is a risk that this change in ownership structure leads to staff turnover and/or cost-cutting. However, Lizard is currently profitable with funds under management (FUM) of approximately \$US 270 million, as at 31 October 2024. Notwithstanding this, we will continue to monitor business stability going forward.

**Relative performance risk:** Zenith notes that the Fund is constructed in a benchmark-unaware manner. As a result, investors should note that its performance may diverge substantially from the benchmark and peers. Specifically, Zenith highlights that the Fund has typically exhibited a significant underweight to US equities relative to the benchmark.

**Capacity risk:** Excessive levels of FUM can inhibit a manager's ability to trade portfolio positions effectively, thereby limiting outperformance potential. Lizard has a stated capacity limit of \$US 500 million for the strategy and \$US 2 billion firmwide.

As at 31 October 2024, Lizard managed approximately \$US 52 million in the strategy and \$US 270 million firmwide. Whilst Zenith does not believe the Fund is currently impacted by capacity limitations, we will continue to monitor Lizard's FUM to ensure performance is not impeded.

**Longevity risk:** Funds that fail to grow FUM to a scalable level could be wound up and terminated by the Responsible Entity. The risks associated with a fund wind up are principally that of timing, performance slippage, and forcing a crystallisation of tax consequences to investors, which may be unsuitable. As at 31 October 2024, FUM in the Fund was approximately \$A 80 million. Zenith will continue to monitor the Fund's level of retail traction.

**Focus risk:** In addition to the Fund, Lizard's investment team is also responsible for three other strategies, which includes two international small cap variants and an international small cap long/short strategy. Whilst Zenith notes that there is a high degree of overlap between the strategies, we believe that the team's research focus may be diluted.

**Emerging market risk:** The Fund may exist in emerging market securities. While exposure to emerging markets adds diversification, it can also be a source of added volatility and may be detrimental to the preservation of capital. Zenith would prefer to see an appropriate hard limit on the Fund's exposure to emerging markets.

### Security/asset selection

Lizard's investment universe comprises all globally listed companies with market capitalisations less than \$US 10 billion. However, Lizard typically targets companies with market capitalisations less than \$US 2 billion.

The team applies a qualitative overlay, seeking companies with:

- Sustainable business models
- Strong balance sheets
- Disciplined management
- Strong corporate governance
- Compelling valuations

It is expected that approximately 5,000 companies will display each of these attributes. Given the subjective nature of the screens and the investment team's limited level of resourcing, we believe the application of a more defined investment filter would assist in narrowing the Fund's investment universe.

The investment team seeks companies that exhibit either of the following characteristics:

- Under-researched
- Price dislocations created by short-term problems
- Corporate reorganisations or spin-offs

Lizard expects that approximately 300 companies will display one of the above attributes and progress to its detailed fundamental research process. The investment team meets weekly to discuss prospective holdings and prioritise its research agenda. Lizard expects to conduct active research on approximately 12 companies at any point in time.

Lizard generates financial models, assessing the sustainability of a company's earnings to determine bear and base-case scenarios. Prospective companies must generally offer a 20% p.a. return over a three-year time period.

A detailed research note is produced, outlining the investment thesis, target entry and exit prices, an assessment of company management, its ownership structure, key share price drivers and risks. In assessing company management, Lizard undertakes a significant stakeholder engagement schedule, meeting with management, key customers, suppliers and industry experts. The research note is discussed during the weekly investment team meetings.

Overall, Zenith considers Lizard's stock selection process to be sound and implemented in a consistent manner.

### Responsible investment approach

Lizard has an established Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy, last updated in 2021, that guides its investment decisions. To be in line with industry best practice, Zenith believes Lizard's responsible investment policy should be updated every 12 months, at a minimum, to reflect the constantly evolving nature of responsible investing.

While the Fund has no specific ESG exclusions, Lizard takes an active approach to ESG issues during the fundamental analysis stage. Lizard believes that considering ESG factors as part of the investment process is an important source of value add and risk management.



Zenith believes that this qualitative analysis of a company's operations is crucial on a forward basis, given that a company's performance with regard to ESG considerations is increasingly being reflected in the company's share price. Overall, Zenith is comfortable with Lizard's approach to ESG.

### Portfolio construction

Moog retains ultimate responsibility for constructing the portfolio, with support provided by Ryan.

The portfolio is constructed in a benchmark-unaware manner, with position sizes driven by the team's level of conviction, risk and liquidity. Although an absolute position limit of 10% is applied, position sizes typically range between 2% and 5%. The Fund typically holds between 30 and 80 stocks.

Lizard places an informal absolute position limit of 3% on companies that exhibit any of the following characteristics:

- Single product
- High customer concentration
- Limited liquidity
- Excessive geographic risk

A maximum cash exposure of 20% is permitted. Over the most recent five-year period, the Fund's cash exposure has averaged 8%. Zenith views this as a disappointing outcome as we believe that actively managed equities funds should remain fully invested and that the asset allocation decision should be left to the individual investor.

Positions are considered for selling under the following circumstances:

- Its price target has been reached
- There's a violation in the original investment thesis
- A superior investment opportunity has been identified

Portfolio turnover is expected to average between 20% p.a. and 50% p.a. over a market cycle, which Zenith considers low to moderate.

Overall, Zenith believes Lizard's portfolio-construction process follows a logical framework.

### Risk management

Given that the Fund has no formal constraints, Lizard's primary layer of risk management is its fundamental stock research process, which includes the stress testing of each potential company under a number of earnings environments, including base and bear-case scenarios.

In addition to Lizard's risk management framework, Pengana has a monitoring process in place to ensure the Fund remains compliant with its investment mandate. This includes a bi-monthly portfolio management risk review and daily monitoring performed by a member of Pengana's risk team, to ensure the Fund is managed in accordance with its risk limits.

Lizard's trading function is performed by a third-party broker, Williams Trading LLC (Williams), that is responsible for executing all portfolio trades. Williams provides an execution platform to a pool of external fund managers. Moog is primarily responsible for communicating trades to Williams via an online order system. Although Zenith understands that this arrangement is efficient with respect to Lizard's resourcing capacity, we would prefer to see dedicated traders who are able to exercise greater control over trading activities. In addition, we believe that the information flow that is gained through the dealing desk is an important aspect of small-cap investing, given it is a relatively inefficient segment of the market.

Overall, Zenith considers Lizard's execution and risk management processes and systems to be satisfactory. However, investors should be aware there is significant reliance on the investment team's judgement and skill.

### Investment fees

	Fund	Sector Average
Total Fees and Costs (RG 97)	1.73% p.a.	1.34% p.a.
Management Fees and Costs	1.10% p.a.	1.02% p.a.
Transaction Costs	0.63% p.a.	0.12% p.a.
Performance fees as at 30 Jun 2024	0.00%	0.27%
Performance fees description	20.5% of outperformance of the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index (after fees), subject to the recoupment of all prior benchmark underperformance	
Management Cost	1.10% p.a.	1.03% p.a.
Buy / Sell spread	0.30% / 0.30%	0.22% / 0.22%

*All fees and costs are inclusive of GST unless indicated otherwise. The Performance Fee shown is the performance fee disclosed in the PDS. It is calculated by taking the average performance fees charged over the last five financial years (or less if the investment or performance fee mechanism has not been in place for five financial years).*

*The sector average management cost is based on the average management cost of all flagship International Shares - Small Companies products surveyed by Zenith.*

The performance fee is accrued daily and paid semi-annually. Zenith believes there is scope for the payment period to be extended, with an annual frequency being the preferred structure. We are of the view that a longer payment frequency is better aligned with the Fund's longer-term investment objectives.

For any fund that charges a performance fee, Zenith would prefer to see in place an additional excess return hurdle (i.e. a target return greater than the index plus the management cost) and considers this best practice.

Prior to 1 April 2022, the Fund's management cost was 1.33% p.a. Zenith views the fee reduction positively.





Overall, Zenith believes the Fund's fee structure is expensive, relative to peers, given its stated objectives. In addition, we believe that investors have been insufficiently compensated by way of risk-adjusted performance given the fees paid over the past three years (ending 30 June 2024).

*The fees mentioned above are reflective of the flagship version only and may differ when the product is accessed through an alternate investment vehicle such as a platform.*

## About the fund manager

### Organisation

Founded in 2008 by Leah Zell, Chicago-based Lizard Investors LLC (Lizard) specialises in the management of small and mid-cap equity strategies.

In February 2023, senior Lizard employees acquired Pengana Capital Limited's (Pengana) stake in Lizard, with Moog now controlling a majority stake. This change in ownership followed Pengana's acquisition of 65% of Lizard's equity in January 2020, when Jon Moog and David Li sold their equity stakes. Zenith has a favourable view of the investment team's increased ownership of Lizard, believing that it provides a stronger retention mechanism for key investment personnel and greater alignment with investors.

As at 31 October 2024, Lizard managed approximately \$US 270 million firmwide.

The Fund is offered in Australia by Pengana, an Australian funds management boutique founded in 2003. Pengana is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane. Pengana's goal is to find and support experienced fund managers with long track records. Pengana provides staff and support for its fund managers, leaving the investment staff responsible for the management of its funds. In June 2017, Pengana completed a merger with Hunter Hall International Limited (ASX:HHL). As a result, HHL was renamed Pengana Capital Group Limited (ASX: PCG). The combined entity offers a diversified range of equity-based strategies totalling \$A 3 billion in funds under management, as at 31 October 2024.

Despite Pengana's recent divestment of its equity stake in Lizard, the Fund continues to operate under the previously determined sub-advisory agreement. Zenith has a favourable view of the arrangement between Lizard and Pengana, believing it allows the investment team to focus on investment research and portfolio management.

As at the same date, Lizard managed approximately \$A 80 million in the strategy, all of which was in the Fund.

### Investment personnel

Name	Title	Industry Experience (yrs)	Tenure (yrs)	Location
Jon Moog	Chief Investment Officer & Portfolio Manager	24	16	Chicago, USA
Michael Ryan	Deputy Portfolio Manager	11	9	Chicago, USA

The investment team of four is led by Moog, who joined Lizard at its establishment in October 2008 and has ultimate responsibility for the Fund. Prior to joining Lizard, Moog held a number of investment industry roles at Brightpoint Capital, Investor Group Services and Loomis Sayles. Zenith considers Moog a capable investor with the requisite capabilities to successfully manage the Fund.

Portfolio management support is provided by Michael Ryan. Ryan was assigned portfolio management responsibility in July 2023, following Li relinquishing portfolio management responsibility to focus on idea generation and stock research. Zenith notes that this is Ryan's first portfolio management role and, as such, we will continue to look to build conviction in his portfolio management competencies.

In April 2024, Li departed the business. Li was co-portfolio manager of the Fund alongside Jon Moog from its inception in April 2015 until July 2023. Li's departure follows the departure of a senior analyst in February 2021. Given Li's tenure at Lizard and his significant industry experience, Zenith considers his departure a loss for the Fund. Notwithstanding this, we consider Moog a capable investor with the requisite capabilities to successfully manage the Fund.

Further support is provided by two analysts with analyst with 11 years of industry experience. Given the size of Lizard's investment team, Zenith believes that the Fund would benefit from additional analytical resources. In addition, we believe it is important that the investment team experienced a period of consolidation.

Portfolio managers are also considered analysts, with all members of the investment team assigned generalist stock coverage responsibilities.

The investment team is incentivised through a remuneration structure consisting of a base salary with the potential to participate in a discretionary bonus. Participation in the bonus is determined by Moog, with individual performance and the individual's contribution to the team as key considerations. Zenith notes that prior to the equity change in 2023, Lizard staff operated under a profit-share arrangement for the strategies that they manage. Zenith considers the current ownership structure a more robust retention mechanism.

Zenith considers the portfolio managers to have the experience and expertise to successfully manage the Fund. However, we believe the Fund would benefit from additional dedicated resourcing.

## About the sector

### Sector characteristics

International equities offer Australian investors the ability to access a broader opportunity set, with the potential to invest in segments not well represented in the Australian equity market. Given that international markets are not perfectly correlated with the Australian equity market, funds that invest internationally can provide diversification benefits to a portfolio.

The Zenith' International Shares – Small Companies' sector consists of long-only funds that invest in global equity markets. The sector incorporates both benchmark-aware and benchmark-unaware strategies that focus predominantly on smaller capitalisation stocks.



Zenith benchmarks all products in this sector against the MSCI World ex-Australia Small Cap Index (Index). The index is market-capitalisation weighted, resulting in companies with the largest market capitalisations receiving the highest weightings. Zenith expects rated international equity funds to outperform the index over the long term.

The index consists of over 3,800 securities listed in 22 developed markets (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States). As at 31 October 2024, the United States, Japan and United Kingdom represented a significant portion of the MSCI World ex-Australia Small Cap Index, with each country accounting for 64%, 13% and 5% respectively. In addition, the top 10 stocks represented approximately 2% of the index. Although the index excludes emerging and frontier markets, many products retain mandate flexibility to invest in these markets.

Products in this sub-asset class are currency unhedged, resulting in their returns being affected by fluctuations in the Australian Dollar (AUD) relative to other global currencies.

### Sector risks

Products within the 'International Shares – Small Companies' sector are exposed to the following broad risks:

**Market and economic risk:** A sustained downturn across international equity markets is a risk to the absolute performance of products in the sub-asset class. Additionally, changes in economic, social, technological or political conditions, as well as market sentiment, could also lead to negative fund performance. Investors adhering to a fund's prescribed investment timeframe can significantly reduce this risk.

**Australian dollar (AUD) currency risk:** The AUD has historically experienced declines during weaker market environments, and appreciation in market upturns. A hedged global equities fund is likely to benefit relative to an unhedged fund in periods when the AUD appreciates. Conversely, an unhedged global equities fund is likely to benefit relative to hedged funds in periods where the AUD depreciates.

Zenith believes that the currency impact on performance will be minimal over the long term and therefore does not advocate retail investors making active currency decisions based on near-term currency predictions. For investors who are concerned about the short-term risks associated with taking fully unhedged or hedged currency positions, Zenith suggests blending hedged and unhedged global equity exposures to reduce short-term volatility.

**Specific security risk:** This is the risk associated with an individual security. The price of common shares in a company may be affected by unexpected changes in company operations, such as changes in management or the loss of a significant customer.

**Liquidity risk:** This is the risk that a security or asset cannot be traded promptly, due to insufficient trading volumes in equity markets. When trading volumes are low, buyers/sellers can significantly impact the price of a security when entering or exiting a position.

**Style bias risk:** International equity managers employ different investment styles such as Growth, Value or Neutral (a

combination of Value and Growth). Each style is conducive to certain market conditions. Investors adhering to a fund's prescribed investment timeframe can significantly reduce this risk.

**Capacity risk:** High levels of funds under management (FUM) can present additional challenges to an equity manager. High FUM has the potential to restrict a manager's ability to trade efficiently and/or be forced to disclose substantial shareholdings to the market (more common in smaller companies).

**Regulatory risk:** All investments risk being affected by changes to government policies, regulations and laws. Security prices in which funds may have exposure are also subject to certain risks arising from government intervention across international equity markets. Such regulation or intervention could adversely affect fund performance.

## Administration and operations

Responsible Entity	Pengana Capital Limited
--------------------	-------------------------

## Zenith rating

### Report certification

Date of issue: 28 Nov 2024

Role	Analyst	Title
Analyst	Jock Allen	Senior Investment Analyst
Sector Lead	Quan Nguyen	Head of Equities

### Association & relationship

ASIC Regulatory Guide RG79.164 requires Research Houses to disclose certain associations or relationships that they may have with a product issuer. We may receive remuneration from an issuer or investment manager for subscription to our other research/ data services or the research/ data services of our related entities. Conflict management arrangements are in place where we or our related entities provide research services to the product issuer or financial advisory businesses who provide financial planning services to investors and are also associated entities of product issuers. This is in accordance with the Zenith Group's Conflict of Interests Policy. Further details in relation to our relationships and associations are available on request.

### Rating history

As At	Rating
28 Nov 2024	Approved
03 May 2024	Approved
29 Nov 2023	Recommended
30 Nov 2022	Recommended
24 Nov 2021	Recommended
25 Nov 2020	Recommended
27 Nov 2019	Recommended



*Last 5 years only displayed. Longer histories available on request.*

In March 2021, Zenith implemented a new ratings methodology for products classified as Traditional Index. Any rating issued from this date forward for Traditional Index products only reflect this change in methodology, with the relevant Traditional Index ratings being Index Approved, Index Recommended and Index Highly Recommended. Ratings issued for Traditional Index products prior to March 2021 are retained for historical purposes in line with our regulatory requirements and were issued in line with Zenith's Fund Research Methodology. Further information in relation to Zenith's Traditional Index Research Methodology and Traditional Index Ratings can be found on the Zenith website.



## Disclaimer and disclosure

---

Zenith Investment Partners (ABN 27 103 132 672) is the holder of Australian Financial Services Licence 226872 and is authorised to provide general financial product advice. This Product Assessment Report (report) has been prepared by Zenith exclusively for Zenith clients and should not be relied on by any other person. Any advice or rating contained in this report is limited to General Advice for Wholesale clients only, based solely on the assessment of the investment merits of the financial product. This report is current as at the date of issue until it is updated, replaced or withdrawn and is subject to change at any time without notice in line with Zenith's regulatory guidelines. Zenith clients are advised to check the currency of reports and ratings via Zenith's website for updates and should also verify information in relation to the fund with the relevant Fund Manager. Any advice contained in this report has been prepared without taking into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of any specific person who may read it, including target markets of financial products, where applicable. It is not a specific recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the relevant product(s). Investors should seek their own independent financial or tax advice, obtain a copy of, and consider any relevant PDS or offer document and consider the appropriateness of this advice in light of their own objectives prior to making any investment decision. Zenith charges an upfront flat fee to the Product Issuer, Fund Manager or other related party to produce research on funds that conform to Zenith's Research Methodology. Zenith's fee and Analyst remuneration are not linked to the rating outcome in any way. Views expressed in Zenith reports accurately reflect the personal, professional, reasonable opinion of the Analyst who has prepared the report. Zenith may also receive a fee for other non-research related services such as subscription fees for Zenith's research services and/or for the provision of investment consultancy services. Conflicts management arrangements are in place where Zenith provides research services to financial advisory businesses who provide financial planning services to investors and are also associated entities of the product issuers, with any such conflicts of interest disclosed within reports as appropriate. Full details regarding such arrangements are outlined in [Zenith's Conflicts of Interest Policy](#).

Zenith's research process seeks to identify investment managers considered to be the 'best of breed' through a comprehensive, multi-dimensional selection process. Zenith utilises both quantitative and qualitative factors in its ratings models. Models maximise commonality across different asset classes while retaining flexibility for specialist asset classes and strategies. The selection process is rigorous in both its qualitative and quantitative analysis and each component is equally weighted. Zenith does not manage any proprietary assets and as such Zenith is able to choose investment managers with absolute independence and objectivity. More detailed information regarding Zenith's fund research methodology and Zenith's traditional index research methodology, coverage and ratings is available on Zenith's website at [Fund Research Methodology](#) and [Traditional Index Research Methodology](#).

This report is subject to copyright and may not be reproduced, modified or distributed without the consent of the copyright owner. The information contained in this report has been prepared in good faith and is believed to be reliable at the time it was prepared, however, no representation, warranty or undertaking is given or made in relation to the accuracy or completeness of the information presented in this report. Except for any liability which cannot be excluded, Zenith does not accept any liability, whether direct or indirect arising from the use of information contained in this report. Past performance is not an indication of future performance.

Third Party data may be sourced from Financial Express, Refinitiv, Bloomberg and/or MSCI. Third party data and content used in this document has not been independently verified by Zenith and Zenith provides no warranty, representation or responsibility to update this document. Third Party data is the intellectual property of that third party and must not be reproduced, stored or transmitted without their consent.

Full details regarding the methodology, ratings definitions and regulatory compliance are available at [Fund Research Regulatory Guidelines](#).

Zenith is not required to be licensed under New Zealand law or be registered on the FSPR. Zenith has not engaged or authorised any party to provide financial advice on its behalf to New Zealand investors.

Zenith ratings and research are prepared by Zenith and are not connected in any way to research and ratings prepared by any of our related entities.

This report refers to the Australian unit trust for the fund, and the fund and benchmark returns are all in AUD.

© 2024 Zenith Investment Partners. All rights reserved.

Zenith has charged Lizard Investors a fee to produce this report.