

## Pengana Global Small Companies Fund

Rating issued on 27 Nov 2025 | 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	Fundamental
Equity Style	Value
RI Classification	Aware
Absolute Risk	High
Relative Risk	Active - Benchmark Unaware
Investment Timeframe	7+ Years
Zenith Benchmark	MSCI World Ex Aust Small Cap \$A
Min Investment Amount	\$10,000
Redemption Frequency	Daily
Income Distribution	Half Yearly
Fund Size (31 Oct 2025)	\$52.53M
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), after recouping underperformance
Buy / Sell Spread	0.30% / 0.30%
Inception Date	01 Apr 2015

### Fund facts

- Expected to hold between 30 and 80 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 quality/value-biased exposure to global small companies. Zenith's conviction in the Fund remains tempered following the departure of a senior member of Lizard's investment team. Whilst Lizard appointed an appropriate replacement, we consider it critical that the investment team experiences a period of consolidation. In addition, we believe the Fund would benefit from additional dedicated resourcing.

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, resulting in Jon Moog 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 ownership of Lizard, believing that it provides a strong retention mechanism for key investment personnel and alignment with investors.

Moog has ultimate responsibility for the Fund, with portfolio management support provided by Michael Ryan. Further support is provided by two investment analysts, with all members of the investment team assigned generalist stock coverage responsibilities. Ryan was assigned portfolio management responsibility in July 2023, following Li relinquishing portfolio management responsibility. In April 2024, Li departed the business. Given Li's tenure at Lizard and his significant industry experience, Zenith considers his departure a loss. Notwithstanding this, we consider Moog a capable investor with the requisite capabilities to successfully manage 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 quality/value-orientated investment approach with a focus on capital preservation. Zenith believes Lizard applies a sound investment approach.

Utilising screening tools to systematically monitor over 20,000 companies globally, the team generates financial models on attractive prospects, 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 80 (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 regarding 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 quality/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 quality/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 approximately 50% p.a. over a market cycle, which Zenith considers to be 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, the Fund's returns are expected to be delivered via both capital appreciation in the unit price and 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, this could be beneficial for investors on higher marginal tax rates, although the Fund may be more appealing to investors who are nil/low tax rate payers or high marginal tax rate payers who invest through tax-effective vehicles such as a superannuation fund.

### 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

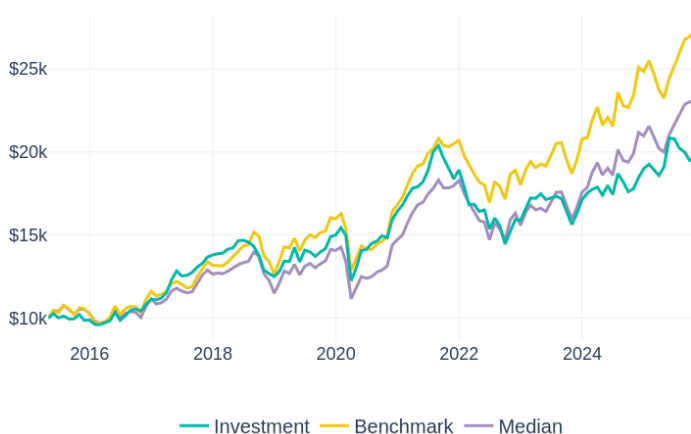
Performance as at 31 Oct 2025

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

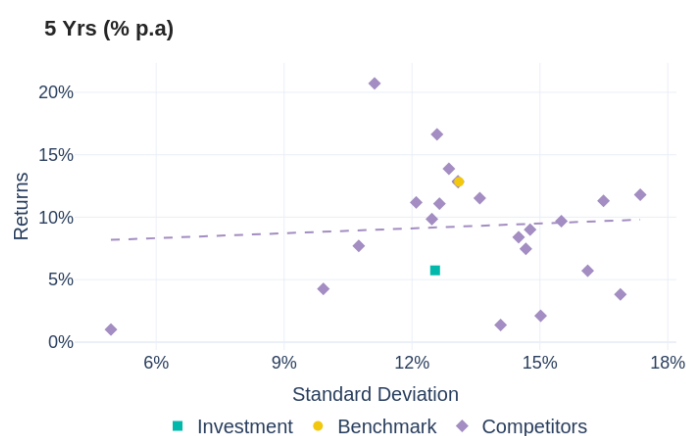
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	BM YTD*
2025	1.40%	-1.60%	-1.94%	2.79%	9.02%	-0.15%	-2.77%	-1.14%	-2.53%	0.69%			3.27%	9.95%
2024	2.31%	1.28%	0.76%	-2.67%	3.30%	-3.03%	7.21%	-2.64%	-3.26%	0.98%	3.77%	2.93%	10.88%	19.57%
2023	4.56%	3.73%	-0.10%	1.60%	-2.02%	0.67%	0.49%	-0.81%	-4.22%	-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%

\*MSCI World ex Aust Small Cap \$A

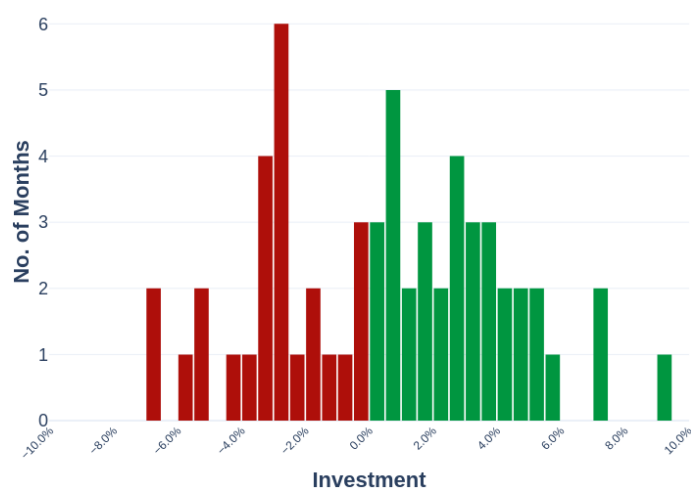
### Growth of \$10,000



### Risk / return



### Monthly histogram



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





## Absolute performance analysis

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
<b>Investment</b>	<b>10.32%</b>	<b>8.83%</b>	<b>5.74%</b>	<b>6.73%</b>	<b>6.63%</b>
Income	7.37%	3.07%	4.12%	2.40%	2.30%
Growth	2.95%	5.76%	1.62%	4.33%	4.32%
<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>16.72%</b>	<b>13.53%</b>	<b>12.84%</b>	<b>9.89%</b>	<b>10.04%</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>16.29%</b>	<b>13.27%</b>	<b>11.99%</b>	<b>8.17%</b>	<b>8.32%</b>
<b>Cash</b>	<b>4.11%</b>	<b>4.07%</b>	<b>2.58%</b>	<b>2.09%</b>	<b>2.09%</b>

## Ranking within sector (p.a.)

Ranking within Sector	1 Yr	2 Yrs	3 Yrs	5 Yrs
Fund Ranking	19 / 25	21 / 23	17 / 19	14 / 14
Quartile	3rd	4th	4th	4th

## Absolute risk

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
<b>Standard Deviation (% p.a.)</b>					
Investment	11.27%	11.17%	12.54%	12.96%	12.74%
Benchmark	11.16%	12.57%	13.10%	13.61%	13.51%
Median	10.10%	11.64%	12.69%	13.23%	13.08%
<b>Downside Deviation (% p.a.)</b>					
Investment	4.66%	5.89%	7.94%	8.98%	8.81%
Benchmark	5.50%	6.81%	6.94%	8.70%	8.58%
Median	4.70%	6.33%	7.00%	8.82%	8.67%

## Absolute risk/return ratios

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
<b>Sharpe Ratio (p.a.)</b>					
Investment	0.55	0.43	0.25	0.36	0.36
Benchmark	1.13	0.75	0.78	0.57	0.59
Median	1.21	0.79	0.74	0.46	0.48
<b>Sortino Ratio (p.a.)</b>					
Investment	1.33	0.81	0.40	0.52	0.51
Benchmark	2.29	1.39	1.48	0.90	0.93
Median	2.59	1.45	1.34	0.69	0.72

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 2025.

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 regarding return expectations and the level of risk embedded in the Fund.

The Fund has underperformed the Zenith-assigned benchmark over all periods of assessment.

The Fund's volatility (as measured by Standard Deviation) has been lower than the benchmark over all assessed periods.

The Fund's Sharpe ratio has been lower 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	10 Yrs	Inception
Excess Return	-6.40%	-4.70%	-7.10%	-3.16%	-3.41%
Monthly Excess (All Mkts)	41.67%	41.67%	38.33%	45.83%	45.24%
Monthly Excess (Up Mkts)	12.50%	26.09%	29.73%	35.62%	34.21%
Monthly Excess (Down Mkts)	100.00%	69.23%	52.17%	61.70%	62.00%

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

Statistic	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
Downside Capture	-20.57%	56.99%	90.31%	80.37%	79.68%
Upside Capture	29.85%	61.24%	68.90%	75.42%	74.14%

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

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
Investment	11.98%	9.14%	8.48%	7.98%	7.95%
Median	1.81%	1.96%	1.83%	1.90%	1.94%

### Information ratio

Instrument	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
Investment	-0.53	-0.51	-0.84	-0.40	-0.43
Median	-0.24	-0.14	-0.47	-0.91	-0.89

### Beta statistics

Statistic	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception
Beta	0.43	0.63	0.75	0.78	0.77
R-Squared	0.18	0.50	0.61	0.67	0.67
Correlation	0.43	0.71	0.78	0.82	0.82

All commentary below is as at 31 October 2025.

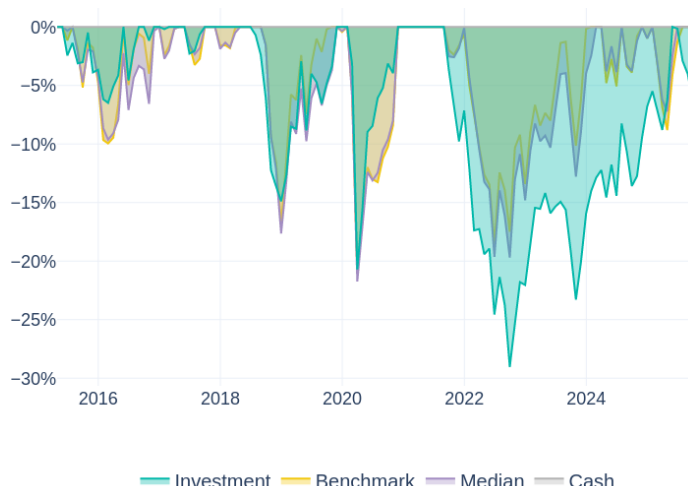
Zenith seeks to identify strategies that can outperform in over 50% of months in all market conditions, as we believe this represents consistency of manager skill. In addition, we view a strategy's ability to produce stronger upside capture ratios relative to downside capture ratios as an attractive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

Disappointingly, 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 2025.

The Fund has historically experienced drawdowns in line with the benchmark. However, we highlight that the Fund recently experienced a drawdown significantly larger than the benchmark, which is a disappointing outcome.



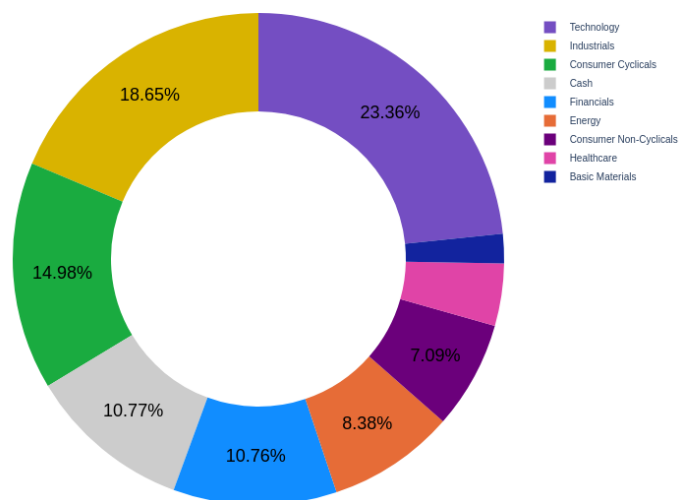
## Product exposures

Holdings as at 30 Sep 2025

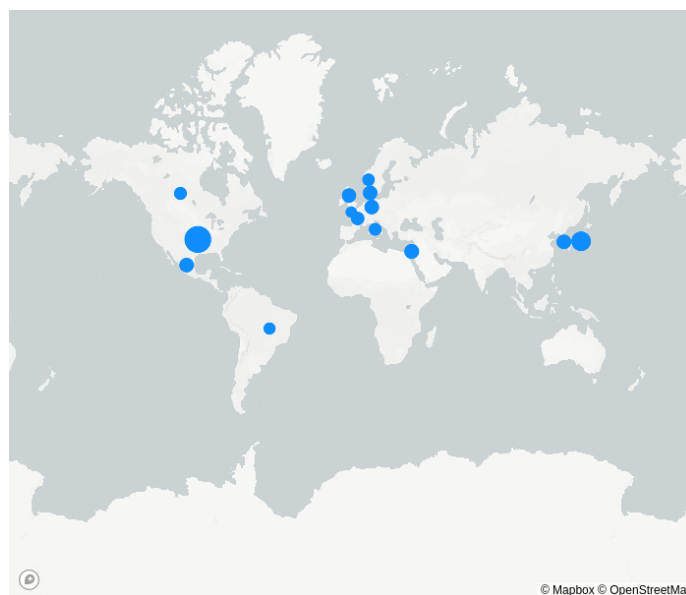
### Top 10 holdings

Stock	Weight	Country	Sector	Active Exposure
USS COMPANY LIMITED	3.64%	Japan	Technology	3.64%
NORITSU KOKI CO.LTD.	3.55%	Japan	Consumer Cyclicals	3.55%
SCOUT24 SE	3.33%	Germany	Technology	3.32%
GTT	3.29%	France	Energy	3.29%
HILAN LTD	3.28%	Israel	Technology	3.28%
IMI PLC.	3.24%	United Kingdom	Industrials	3.24%
OLLIES BGOL.HLDG.INCO.	2.96%	United States	Consumer Cyclicals	2.96%
NEXTRACKER LLC	2.91%	United States	Energy	2.91%
GPO.AERPTO.DEL CTRNOR.	2.89%	Mexico	Industrials	2.89%
CHEMOMETEC A/S	2.74%	Denmark	Healthcare	2.74%
Total	31.83%			

### 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, Moog holds a majority equity stake in Lizard, which we believe mitigates the risk of his departure over the medium term.

**Business risk:** Given Lizard's relatively low levels of funds under management (FUM), there is a risk that outflows may lead to cost-cutting initiatives and staff turnover. However, we highlight that Lizard is currently profitable, with FUM of approximately \$US 232 million, as at 31 October 2025, which somewhat mitigates our concerns.

**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 2025, FUM in the Fund was approximately \$A 53 million. Zenith will continue to monitor the Fund's level of retail traction.

**Relative performance risk:** Zenith notes that the Fund is constructed in a benchmark-unaware manner. As a result, investors should note that the 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 2025, Lizard managed approximately \$A 53 million in the strategy and \$US 232 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.

**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 invest 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 quantitative and 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, with the team then focusing on companies with 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, with active research typically being conducted on approximately 12 companies at any point in time.

Each company is allocated to one of five lifecycle stages based on metrics such as capital allocation effectiveness, valuation, return on investment, growth and shareholder return. Lizard believes this framework identifies companies best or worst positioned for sustainable value creation within each lifecycle stage.

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. In addition, Zenith views recent enhancements to Lizard's quantitative screens positively, believing they effectively focus the team's research.

### Responsible investment approach

Lizard has an established Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy, last updated in April 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 screens, 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 its 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 past two years, the Fund's cash exposure has averaged approximately 5%. Zenith believes that actively managed equities funds should remain fully invested and that the asset allocation decision should be left to the individual investor. As such, we believe there is scope for the cash limit to be reduced.

Positions are considered for selling under the following circumstances:

- Price target has been reached
- Violation in the original investment thesis
- A superior investment opportunity has been identified

Portfolio turnover is expected to average approximately 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.

Lizard uses proprietary tools and Bloomberg to assess absolute and benchmark-relative risk, monitoring portfolio exposures, liquidity and unintended risks.

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.	1.08% p.a.
Management Fees and Costs	1.10% p.a.	0.94% p.a.
Transaction Costs	0.63% p.a.	0.06% p.a.
Performance fees as at 30 Jun 2024	0.00%	0.11%
Performance fees description	20.5% of outperformance of the MSCI All Country World SMID Cap Index (after fees), after recouping underperformance	
Management Cost	1.10% p.a.	0.93% p.a.
Buy / Sell spread	0.30% / 0.30%	0.20% / 0.20%

*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 2025).

*The fees mentioned above are reflective of the flagship version only and may differ when the product is accessed through an alternative 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, resulting in Jon Moog 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 ownership of Lizard, believing that it provides a strong retention mechanism for key investment personnel and alignment with investors.

As at 31 October 2025, Lizard managed approximately \$US 232 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 3.8 billion in funds under management, as at 31 October 2025.

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 31 October 2025, Lizard managed approximately \$A 53 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	25	17	Chicago, USA
Michael Ryan	Deputy Portfolio Manager	12	10	Chicago, USA

The investment team of four is led by Jon 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 David Li relinquishing portfolio management responsibility. Given this is Ryan's first portfolio management role, we continue to build conviction in his portfolio management competencies.

In April 2024, Li departed the business. Li was co-portfolio manager of the Fund alongside Moog from its inception in April 2015 until July 2023. Given Li's tenure at Lizard and his significant industry experience, Zenith considers his departure a loss. In addition, we consider it critical that the investment team experiences a period of consolidation.

Sudin Poddar, who has over 17 years of experience, joined the team in June 2024 as Head of Risk. Poddar has led the development of tools that Lizard believes supports and improves the efficiency of its fundamental process, including a comprehensive, quantitative screening tool. Poddar is involved in managing portfolio risk and contributing to the team's research. Zenith believes Poddar is a solid addition to the team, viewing his experience favourably.

Further support is provided by one analyst with eight years of experience.

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 managed. 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 3,700 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 August 2025, 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 63%, 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
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Zenith rating

Report certification

Date of issue: 27 Nov 2025

Role	Analyst	Title
Analyst	Tom Goodrich	Senior Investment Analyst
Sector Lead	Quan Nguyen	Head of Equities

Association & relationship

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Rating history

As At	Rating
27 Nov 2025	Approved
28 Nov 2024	Approved
03 May 2024	Approved
29 Nov 2023	Recommended
30 Nov 2022	Recommended
24 Nov 2021	Recommended



As At	Rating
25 Nov 2020	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.



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