Desjardins SocieTerra Canadian Bond Fund



QUARTERLY COMMENTARY AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

PORTFOLIO MANAGER:

Desjardins Global Asset Management

INCEPTION DATE:

June 8, 2015

CIFSC CATEGORY*:

Canadian Fixed Income

Contributors to relative performance

→ Value added of 18 basis points for the quarter was primarily due to the portfolio's overweight position in corporate securities of approximately 25% relative to its benchmark. This asset class outperformed government securities, regardless of the term chosen.

Detractors from relative performance

→ The steepening of the interest rate curve between the two- and 10year terms that occurred during the period has diminished in value given the portfolio's positioning on that term. However, the duration which was slightly shorter than that of the benchmark counteracted its effect.

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Major changes to portfolio in the period

→ The allocation to federal agencies was doubled during the quarter for valuation reasons. As such, the longer duration could be done without reducing the portfolio's forward yield despite the inversion of the interest rate curve. This is explained by the increased spread of return that this asset class offers. The goal is to gradually increase the portfolio as rates rise, given signs of an increasingly discernible economic downturn.

ESG Analysis

The allocation in green, sustainability and social bonds represents 8% of the portfolio, unchanged from the previous quarter.

We take the scope of climate change risk into account when selecting issuers. In the third quarter, the portfolio had a lower carbon footprint than the FTSE Canada bond index average.

*CIFSC refers to Canadian Investment Funds Standards Committee. The CIFSC has the mandate to standardize the classification of mutual funds in Canada. http://www.cifsc.org/.

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