# 2020 Annual Report

Fortress Mutual Fund Limited
Caribbean Growth Fund





Fortress Fund Managers is a Barbados-based investment manager. We have been providing top-ranked returns, open communication and accessible service to our clients since 1996.

We offer a range of funds and investment products to meet the needs of individuals and institutions. In each case, our main goal is to achieve consistent long-term returns for our clients. We do this by applying sound, disciplined processes to our investments in equities, fixed income and real estate. We offer products with global reach, as well as those that focus primarily on the Caribbean region.

Please feel free to contact us to learn more about this Fund, or any of our products.

Fortress Fund Managers Limited Radley Court Upper Collymore Rock St. Michael, BB14004 Barbados BB11144 TEL (246) 431 2198 FAX (246) 431 0514 invest@fortressfund.com www.fortressfund.com



Fortress Mutual Fund Limited Caribbean Growth Fund

## Investment Objectives & Fund Details

The Fund's primary objective is capital growth over the long-term. The Manager uses a value approach to invest primarily in Caribbean and international equities.

All income, including interest, dividends and capital gains earned by the Fund, is automatically re-invested and this income is reflected in the quoted net asset value (NAV) of the shares. The Fund does not pay dividends.

FUND NAME: Fortress Mutual Fund Limited (Fortress Caribbean Growth Fund)

LAUNCH DATE: December 9, 1996

LAUNCH PRICE: \$1.00 per share

MINIMUM INVESTMENT: \$100.00

\$100.00 for subsequent investments \$50.00 for monthly savings plan

FUND STATUS: Open

**NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE** 

9/30/2020 \$5.6813

**NET ASSETS** 

9/30/2020 \$466,382,564

**MANAGEMENT EXPENSES:** 

Investment Manager: 1.75% per annum on the net assets

Administrator: 0.10% per annum on the first \$30 million of net assets

0.0875% per annum on the remaining balance of net assets

Custodian: 0.0875% per annum on the first \$30 million of the net assets

0.075% per annum of the remaining balance of net assets

INITIAL CHARGES: 2%

**REDEMPTION CHARGES:** None

**INVESTMENT MANAGER** 

**& ADMINISTRATOR:** Fortress Fund Managers Limited

CUSTODIAN: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited

Wealth Management Division

**FUND VALUATIONS:** Weekly on Fridays

NAV QUOTATIONS: Internet: www.fortressfund.com

Local Barbados newspapers Bloomberg: FORCAGF BA

## **Directors & Administrators**

#### **DIRECTORS**

Sir Geoffrey Cave, K.A., C.B.E., B.C.H., L.L.D. (Hon) - Chairman John Howard Maria Nicholls Tracey Shuffler John Williams

Roger Cave - Investment Director

#### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Hanna M. Chrysostom Broad Street Bridgetown St. Michael Barhados

#### **FORTRESS FUND MANAGERS AUDIT COMMITTEE**

John Howard Maria Nicholls

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

Radley Court Upper Collymore Rock St. Michael, BB14004 Barbados

#### ATTORNEY AT LAW

Clarke Gittens Farmer Parker House Wildey Business Park Wildey Road St. Michael Barbados

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Ernst & Young Ltd.
One Welches
Welches
St. Thomas
Barbados

#### **CUSTODIAN**

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited Wealth Management Division Ground Floor Michael Mansoor Building Warrens Barbados

#### **INVESTMENT MANAGER & ADMINISTRATOR**

Fortress Fund Managers Limited Radley Court Upper Collymore Rock St. Michael, BB14004 Barbados

Tel: (246) 431 2198 Fax: (246) 431 0514

Internet: www.fortressfund.com Email: invest@fortressfund.com

Fortress Caribbean Growth Fund ("the Fund", legally named Fortress Mutual Fund Limited) is an open-ended mutual fund company and was incorporated on December 4, 1996 under the provisions of the Mutual Funds Act of Barbados. The Fund maintains its registered office at Radley Court, Upper Collymore Rock, St. Michael, BB14004, Barbados. The principal activity of the Fund is investment in domestic, regional and international markets with the aim of achieving long-term capital appreciation.

Important information about this Fund is contained in its prospectus, which we encourage you to read before making an investment. The indicated returns in this document are net of all fees and expenses. Returns are historical and are not necessarily indicative of future performance. Investors should be aware that there are risks involved where the value of the Fund's shares may go down as well as up. A copy of the prospectus may be obtained from the offices of Fortress Fund Managers, or downloaded at www.fortressfund.com.



Directors' Report

"It was a challenging year for the Fund and for investors, but our portfolio held up relatively well and a sustainable recovery appears to be well underway."

## Directors' Report

Investment Director Roger Cave

It was a challenging year for the Fund and for investors, but our portfolio held up relatively well and a sustainable recovery appears to be well underway. The Fortress Caribbean Growth Fund declined 7% for the year ended September 30, 2020 as its portfolio of Caribbean and global investments felt the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic on business and financial markets. The net asset value (NAV) of the Fund declined to \$5.6813 as of September 30 from \$6.1110 the same time last year. The Fund's net assets were \$466.4 million, down from \$492 million in 2019. The decline in net assets was entirely due to the Fund's investment performance as there were positive net subscriptions into the Fund during the year. We were gratified to see so many investors adding new money in such a volatile and uncertain time, because lower prices today typically lead to higher returns in the future. The Fund's annual compound rate of return since inception in 1996 is now 7.6% and, as we like to point out, none of that was accomplished in a straight line.

During the year, the Fund's NAV had one of the more volatile periods in its history. This was a real-life reminder that the Fund is a long-term investment. Over the short-term values can and will fluctuate, often significantly. The Fund reached an all-time high of \$6.56 on January 3, 2020, a level that put it up 7% just over three months into the financial year. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck and global financial markets dropped sharply through February and March. The Fund declined almost 25% in just a few weeks to reach \$4.94 on March 20th, before recovering by

approximately 15% into the end of September. This year has also shown the benefits of diversification for investment portfolios. Regional Caribbean stock markets have yet to show any meaningful recovery from the sharp declines caused by the pandemic while some of the world's major stock markets have since recovered significantly and a few areas are now at all-time highs. With almost seventy percent of the Fund invested across global markets, investors continued to benefit from the wide geographical spread of the Fund's portfolio.

In terms of day-to-day operations, I am pleased to report that the Fund remained completely operational through the challenges and everyday stresses brought about by the lockdowns early in the year. In line with the Fortress Fund Managers business continuity plan our team worked remotely from home until returning to the office in June. Investors were able to access their accounts, redeem shares and invest new money. Reports were prepared and posted to our website and we communicated regularly about market conditions both directly with clients and indirectly via the press. Investment operations, fund administration and financial functions were all uninterrupted. Investors might have noticed some new (online) processes for facilitating things like subscriptions and redemptions which were brought about by necessity, but which we now find ourselves keeping by choice. I would like to thank especially our clients, our team, and our business partners and suppliers for their support and adaptability during that time.

#### **2020 Investment Performance**

The Fund had sharply negative performance in early 2020 followed by a substantial recovery in its global investments into September to arrive at a more modest 7% overall decline for the year. Unfortunately, regional Caribbean investments fell and did not see a recovery. A year like this underscores the vital importance of the global diversification in the Fund with more than two thirds of the portfolio invested outside the Caribbean.

Global financial markets ended 2019 on a high note with the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) already in easing mode, investor optimism surrounding U.S.-China trade relations, and fundamental data pointing to a modest expansion of the global economy. By the end of the first quarter of 2020, though, global equities had sold off sharply in one of the guickest, most severe declines in history on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial market volatility spiked, and liquidity dried up in markets ranging from corporate bonds to U.S. Treasuries to stocks as institutions and investors all scrambled to raise cash to weather the uncertainty that lay ahead. Policymakers shut down large parts of their economies, and the price of nearly every asset in the world fell substantially, stabilising only as enormous government spending and central bank programmes were introduced in the largest economies. Global equity markets rebounded sharply in the second quarter of 2020 as many countries took steps towards reopening their economies. Better than anticipated economic data, unprecedented government and central bank support, and hopes for a vaccine, all contributed to an ensuing global equity market rally that defied expectations, as daily life was still so cleary affected by the pandemic. The U.S. was the star performer, with technology shares outperforming significantly. The month of September introduced a slight trend reversal amid an uptick in COVID-19 cases, renewed U.S.-China trade tensions,

U.S. election risk, and an economic recovery path still filled with uncertainty. After all the ups and downs, the Fund's global investments finished the year marginally lower.

Closer to home, and in stark contrast to the experience in global markets, pressure from COVID-19 was unabating in the Caribbean. Regional share indices fell markedly and have yet to show any meaningful recovery. This is perhaps not surprising. Given the Caribbean region's exposure to international travel and tourism, the economic fallout from COVID-19 may take longer to recover from and share prices may likewise take longer to see a recovery. Following a five-year bull market, Jamaica shares fell 30% during the year. Trinidad meanwhile was down 6% and Barbados lost 16%. The Fund's holdings in Jamaica such as GraceKennedy, PanJam, and NCB Financial Group saw declines that were partially offset by recoveries in Trinidad's Massy and Guardian from their March lows. The Fund's position in Goddard Enterprises was affected by the lack of commercial air travel as a significant portion of the company's revenues is tied to commercial flights. Sagicor Financial fell 30% and announced an issuer bid, signaling that it believes its shares to be undervalued. There was continued consolidation in the Caribbean financial sector, with the majority-share acquisition of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Limited (ICBL). The consolidation trend illustrates the structural challenges of providing banking, insurance and investment services in fragmented, slow-growth markets with significant regulatory, tax and other burdens.

The Fund's recent performance and performance since inception in 1996 are summarized in the table and graph following.

Performance Summary as of 9/30/20*					
	3 month	1 year	3 year	5 year	Inception
Fortress	1.8%	-7.0%	-0.5%	3.9%	7.6%
Jamaica	-0.4%	-29.7%	9.9%	27.1%	7.7%
Trinidad	0.0%	-6.4%	1.8%	1.4%	8.6%
Barbados	-5.7%	-16.3%	-4.2%	4.6%	3.3%
Global Index	8.0%	11.0%	8.3%	11.1%	7.0%

\*periods longer than one year are annual compound returns

#### Caribbean Growth Fund Performance vs Indices - Since Inception



#### **Portfolio Positioning**

The Fund's portfolio continues to be diversified within the Caribbean region and globally, across a range of industries, countries and individual holdings. The focus as always is on owning shares in good, profitable companies at reasonable prices. Approximately one third of the portfolio is invested in the Caribbean region and two-thirds is invested in U.S., international and emerging markets. It is worth noting that our ability to invest actively in local, regional and global equities continues to be constrained by exchange controls in Barbados and by relatively small, illiquid stock markets in the region.

Market weakness in March was an opportunity to increase allocations to global investments with prices marked down by 30% or more. We added to the Fund's holdings in U.S., international and emerging markets during that period and continued to do so in the months following as some attractive opportunities remained. We continue to find the best value in the world among international and emerging markets shares which together make up approximately half of the Fund's total portfolio. The average valuations of our holdings in these areas are excellent and we

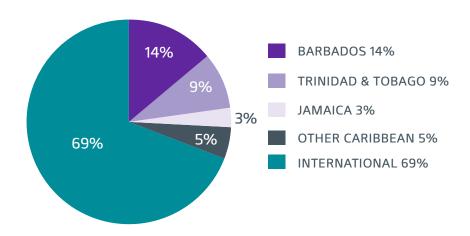
think are consistent with well above average future returns. A substantial part of this global exposure is accomplished through the Fortress Global Funds, which are also managed by Fortress. These funds allow the Fund to gain efficient exposure to high-quality, value-oriented global portfolios with far better characteristics than the broad indexes, at no additional cost. Management fees related to the Fund's investments in these funds are rebated by Fortress to the Fund.

We also continued to reduce the Fund's holdings in Jamaica through the year as valuations rose to far less attractive levels. We added a small position in Sagicor Jamaica during the year but overall, we have been net sellers of Jamaica shares. At the same time,

we were buyers of Massy and Guardian in Trinidad using cash generated by selling cross-listed Jamaica shares in Trinidad early in the year. We may add more in Trinidad if prices continue to be attractive. Cash is currently 6% of the Fund, a level at which we consider the portfolio to be substantially fully invested, while still leaving nearly \$30 million of flexibility for investment or client redemption needs. This reflects our positive outlook on the kinds of well-valued holdings that make up the portfolio.

The following graph summarises the Fund's geographic distribution as of September 30, 2020. For a complete list of the Fund's holdings as of year-end please see the notes to the accompanying financial statements.

#### **Geographic Distribution of Portfolio**



Holding	Country/Region	Sector	Weight
Fortress Emerging Markets Fund	International	Various	14%
ortress International Equity Fund	International	Various	14%
ortress Income Builder Int'l Fund	International	Various	6%
ortress OAM Overseas Fund	Europe/Asia	Various	5%
Fortress US Equity Fund	US	Various	5%

#### **Outlook**

2020 saw widely diverging investment results from different parts of the global stock market. After early weakness, the largest technology shares soared, while energy, travel and tourism-related areas (for example) dropped and saw only limited recoveries. Financials and various industrials also fell. The U.S. was relatively strong while much of the rest of the world – including the Caribbean – saw shares remain under pressure. This has set up an equally diverse set of opportunities for the future that demand a keen focus on *today's prices* as opposed to yesterday's returns. The opportunities for future returns are not everywhere – we believe they are specifically in the kinds of well-valued, highquality shares where the Fund invests.

Over the last decade the split in performance in global markets between popular "growth" companies with very high valuations and more reasonably priced "value" shares has become increasingly wide. The impact of COVID-19 drove this differential to extreme levels not seen since the technology and telecom bubble of the late 1990's. Technology companies have been the overwhelming beneficiaries of the "work from home" trend, which has driven shares prices of some of the largest technology companies to nosebleed levels. The below graph shows the performance of "growth" vs "value" of the U.S. stock market going back for the last five years. The growth index is in blue and the value index is in black.



Source: Bloomberg

Not surprisingly, this divergence in historical performance has led to a divergence in today's valuations, too. The most expensive shares have become even more expensive, and the cheaper shares by and large have not. It is now not uncommon to encounter companies in the U.S. trading at price/earnings ratios of 30-60x, and some particularly special stocks 100x or more. At the same time, it is still possible to buy, as we do regularly, shares of good, profitable companies in currently less fashionable industries at price/earnings ratios of 10x. The former are priced in our view for eventually disappointing future returns while the latter are priced for eventually satisfying future returns.

History tells us that at some point this wide valuation gap should narrow, and while we do not know when that turn may happen, we do know that the "value" companies represent a wonderful opportunity today, and value is in broad terms where the Fund's portfolio (as always) is focused.

The broad market indexes, which have attracted so much 'passive' investment in recent times through exchange traded funds (ETF's) that mirror these indexes, may fail to meet investors' expectations because under the hood they carry the burden of so many large companies priced at high valuations. Our research shows that many good companies around the world have steady and growing earnings but still have been left behind in this technology-driven rally. We believe this presents a significant opportunity going forward and the Fund is well positioned to benefit from this attractive sub-set of the global equity markets.

In the Caribbean, we suspect recovery will be slower. Long-distance travel and tourism may take years to recover and the recovery may not be straight back to the patterns that prevailed before COVID-19. Assets in the Caribbean are not cheap, so we think that with a few notable exceptions a low-return environment will prevail here as profits stay under pressure and valuations gradually settle into the reality. We remain extremely selective in our regional holdings. In addition, the Fund's global diversification should stand it in good stead as

recovery elsewhere potentially takes a more robust path and monetary policy supports financial markets directly and indirectly.

There were some changes to the Board of Directors of Fortress Fund Managers and the funds during the year. Tracey Shuffler and Maria Nicholls both joined the boards in early 2020, and David Simpson retired in August. Over his many years with us, Mr. Simpson contributed to the governance of the company and its progress and growth. We thank him wholeheartedly for his accomplished work on the behalf of Fortress and the funds' investors. All our Directors have all done an outstanding job in guiding and supporting us through a most volatile and challenging year and we thank them for their focus and dedication.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks to you our shareholders for your continued support in what has been an extremely challenging year for all of us. There are hopes that progress on vaccines and treatments will allow a gradual return to some form of new normal in daily life and travel, but no one can know what the future holds. This may or may not be an easy path. From an investment point of view, we do not need to know. It seems a fair assumption that there will be a return to more normal economic activity in world economies in 2021 and thereafter. There are well-valued shares of large, profitable, resilient companies available in the market today and we own many of them. We look forward to reporting to you on the Fund's progress in the year ahead.

Roger Cave, CA, CFA Investment Director

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**Financial Statements** 



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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF FORTRESS MUTUAL FUND LIMITED

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Fortress Mutual Fund Limited ("the Fund"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 September 2020, and the statement of net assets attributable to holders of redeemable mutual fund shares, statement of comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as at 30 September 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs").

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' (IESBA) International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) ("IESBA Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management and the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF FORTRESS MUTUAL FUND LIMITED

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements** (Continued)

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Fund to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF FORTRESS MUTUAL FUND LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

We communicate with the Audit Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **Other Matter**

This report is made solely to the Fund's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Section 147 of the Companies Act of Barbados. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law and subject to any enactment or rule of law to the contrary, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and the Fund's shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Ernet + Young Ita BARBADOS 11 December 2020

Statement of Financial Position As at September 30, 2020

(expressed in Barbados dollars)		
	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Assets	42.C 022.CEC	160 117 622
Financial assets (note 5)	436,833,676	469,415,632
Due from brokers (note 6) Accounts receivable	1,962 191,706	1,962 208,112
Cash and cash equivalents (note 7)	29,494,272	22,487,185
Cash and Cash equivalents (note 1)	27,77,272	22,407,103
Total assets	466,521,616	492,112,891
		., _,, _
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	99,052	94,885
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to holders		
of redeemable mutual fund shares)	99,052	94,885
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable mutual fund	466 202 564	401.070.006
shares (note 10)	466,382,564	491,978,006
Total liabilities	466,481,616	492,072,891
Total habilities	400,401,010	492,072,091
Share capital (note 11)	40,000	40,000
		10,000
Liabilities and shareholder funds	466,521,616	492,112,891
Net asset value per redeemable mutual fund share	5.6813	6.1110

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Directors on December 11, 2020

Geffy lave		Atum S	
	Director		Director

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Mutual Fund Shares

For the year ended September 30, 2020

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

	Number of shares	Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable mutual fund shares \$
Balance at September 30, 2018	78,687,352	479,553,428
Issue of shares	4,535,124	27,318,575
Redemption of shares	(2,715,936)	(16,223,920)
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,329,923
Balance at September 30, 2019	80,506,540	491,978,006
Issue of shares	7,229,891	42,441,661
Redemption of shares	(5,646,146)	(32,715,457)
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(35,321,646)
Balance at September 30, 2020	82,090,285	466,382,564

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended September 30, 2020

(expressed in Barbados dollars)		
	2020 \$	<b>2019</b> \$
Revenue		
Net fair value (losses)/gains on financial assets at fair value through profit		
and loss (note 5)	(33,908,610)	763,246
Dividend income	6,149,455	7,935,316
Interest income (note 8)	75,532	65,049
Net foreign currency losses on cash and cash equivalents	(185,791)	
Total investment (loss)/income	(27,869,414)	8,763,611
Expenses		
Management fees (note 9)	6,202,521	6,145,605
Administrator and custodian fees (note 9)	793,891	773,020
Brokerage and investment fees	193,905	261,322
Operating expenses	104,261	94,700
Professional fees	91,165	99,875
Withholding taxes	66,489	59,166
Operating expenditure	7,452,232	7,433,688
Net (loss)/income and total comprehensive (loss)/income	(35,321,646)	1,329,923

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended September 30, 2020

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

(expressed in Barbados dollars)		
	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities	·	·
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income	(35,321,646)	1,329,923
Adjustments for:	, , , ,	, ,
Net fair value losses/(gains) on financial assets at fair value		
through profit and loss	33,908,610	(763,246)
Dividend income	(6,149,455)	(7,935,316)
Interest income	(75,532)	(65,049)
Operating loss before working capital changes	(7,638,023)	(7,433,688)
Decrease in accounts receivable		1,243,772
Decrease in due from brokers	_	23,846
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,167	(9,776)
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	(29,075,950)	(76,092,400)
Proceeds on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	27,750,087	58,860,374
Cash used in operations	(9 050 710)	(22 407 972)
Interest received	(8,959,719) 74,741	(23,407,872) 137,982
Dividends received	6,165,861	7,939,349
Dividends received	0,105,001	1,939,349
Cash used in operating activities	(2,719,117)	(15,330,541)
Cash flows from financing activities	10 111 221	0= 010 ===
Issue of mutual fund shares	42,441,661	27,318,575
Redemption of mutual fund shares	(32,715,457)	(16,223,920)
Cash generated from financing activities	9,726,204	11,094,655
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	7,007,087	(4,235,886)
Cash and cash equivalents – beginning of year	22,487,185	26,723,071
Cash and cash equivalents – end of year	29,494,272	22,487,185
Cash and cash equivalents — the or year	<u> </u>	22,707,103

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 1 Incorporation and principal activity

Fortress Mutual Fund Limited ("the Fund") was incorporated in Barbados on December 4, 1996, is registered under the Companies Act of Barbados and is licensed under the Mutual Funds Act 2002-22 as an authorised Mutual Fund. The Fund maintains its registered office at Radley Court, Upper Collymore Rock, St. Michael, Barbados. The Fund's primary objective is capital growth over the long term.

The Fund's investment and administration activities are managed by Fortress Fund Managers Limited ("the Investment Manager").

The Fund is an open ended fund and offers its shares to a broad group of investors.

These financial statements of the Fund were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on December 11, 2020.

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss and joint ventures which are carried at fair value.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Fund's accounting policies. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and conditions, actual results could differ from these estimates. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement on complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial assets are disclosed in note 3.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### a) Basis of preparation...continued

#### New and amended standards and interpretations

There are no standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that are effective for annual periods beginning on January 1, 2019 that have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

#### b) Foreign currency translation

#### Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of the Fund are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ("the functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in Barbados dollars which is the Fund's functional and presentation currency.

#### Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rate prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Translation differences on non-monetary financial assets and liabilities such as securities held at fair value through profit or loss are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as part of the fair value gain and loss.

#### c) Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

#### i) Classification

#### Assets

The Fund classifies its investments based on both the Fund's business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The portfolio of financial assets is managed and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. The Fund is primarily focused on fair value information and uses that information to assess the assets' performance and to make decisions. The Fund has not taken the option to irrevocably designate any equity securities as fair value through other comprehensive income. The contractual cash flows of the Fund's debt securities are solely principal and interest, however, these securities are neither held for the purpose of collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Fund's business model's objective.

Consequently, all investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets in the category at fair value through profit or loss have been so designated by management at inception since the assets form part of the managed portfolio whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented investment strategy.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### c) Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss...continued

#### i) Classification ... continued

Liabilities

The Fund makes short sales in which a borrowed security is sold in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security, or it may use short sales for various arbitrage transactions. Short sales are held for trading and are consequently classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

As such, the Fund classifies all of its investment portfolio as financial assets or liabilities as fair value through profit or loss.

The Fund's policy requires the Investment Manager and the Board of Directors to evaluate the information about these financial assets and liabilities on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

#### ii) Recognition, derecognition and measurement

Regular purchases and sales of investments are recognised on the trade date, which is the date the Fund commits to purchase or sell the investments. Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred in the statement of comprehensive income which include the bid-ask spread, fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from these assets have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

When the Fund purchases an option, an amount equal to fair value which is based on the premium paid is recorded as an asset. When the Fund writes an option, an amount equal to fair value which is based on the premium received by the Fund is recorded as a liability. When options are closed, the difference between the premium and the amount paid or received, net of brokerage commissions or the full amount of the premium, if the option expires worthless, is recognised as a gain or loss and is presented in the statement of comprehensive income within other net changes in fair value of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### c) Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss...continued

#### ii) Recognition, derecognition and measurement...continued

The Fund's interests in jointly controlled entities are initially recognised at fair value and are subsequently carried at fair value based on the Fund's proportionate share of the underlying fair value of the entity's net assets.

Investments in other investment funds are valued on the basis of the net asset value per share as determined by the administrators of those investment vehicles in accordance with industry practice. All other financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently carried at fair value.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within other net changes in fair value of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

Dividend income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income within dividend income when the Fund's right to receive payments is established. Interest on debt securities at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### iii) Fair value estimation

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives and trading securities) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Fund is the current exit price; the quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current exit price. If a significant movement in fair value occurs subsequent to the close of trading on the year end date, valuation techniques will be applied to determine the fair value. A significant event is any event that occurs after the last market price for a security, close of market or close of the foreign exchange, but before the Fund's valuation time that materially affects the integrity of the closing prices for any security, instrument, currency or securities affected by that event so that they cannot be considered 'readily available' market quotations.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### c) Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss...continued

#### iii) Fair value estimation ... continued

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined using valuation techniques or from other sources. The Fund uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each reporting date. Valuation techniques used include the use of comparable recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants making the maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity-specific inputs. Investments in other funds are measured on the net asset value per share as determined by the administrator of the fund.

#### iv) Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to have occurred at the beginning of the reporting period.

#### d) Derivative contracts

Open contracts held for trading purposes are included in the statement of financial position at fair value. Fair value is based generally on market prices or broker quotations. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value.

The fair value of open contracts, which are comprised of call and put options, is included in investments where the fair value represents an asset of the Fund. Where the fair value of the options represents an obligation of the Fund, the fair value is included in derivative financial liabilities as a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss. Amounts are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position if, and only if, there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise an asset and settle the liability simultaneously. This is not generally the case and the related assets and liabilities are presented gross in the statement of financial position. Gains and losses arising from the application of this policy are taken to the statement of comprehensive income.

#### e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash which are subject to insignificant changes in fair value. Cash includes deposits held at call with banks.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### f) Income

#### Interest income

Interest is recognised on a time-proportionate basis using the effective interest method. Interest income includes interest from cash and cash equivalents. Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss includes interest from debt securities.

#### **Dividend income**

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the Fund's right to receive payment is established.

#### g) Expenses

Expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Expenses are charged to the statement of comprehensive income. In addition to the management fees and administration expenses, the Fund is responsible for the payment of all direct expenses relating to its operations such as audit, legal and professional fees.

#### h) Due from and due to brokers

Amounts due from and to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased, that have been contracted for but not yet settled or delivered by the statement of financial position date, respectively.

#### i) Redeemable mutual fund shares/ Net asset value

The Fund issues redeemable mutual fund shares which are redeemable at the holder's option and are classified as financial liabilities. Redeemable mutual fund shares can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value. The redeemable mutual fund shares are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at the statement of financial position date if the holders were to exercise the right to put the shares back to the Fund.

Redeemable mutual fund shares are issued and redeemed at the holder's option at prices based on the Fund's net asset value per share at the time of issue or redemption. The Fund's net asset value per redeemable mutual fund share is calculated by dividing the net assets attributable to those shares by the number of outstanding redeemable mutual fund shares. In accordance with the provisions of the Fund's regulations, investment positions are valued based on the procedures described in note 2c for the purpose of determining the net asset value per share for subscriptions and redemptions.

#### j) Distributions payable to holders of redeemable mutual fund shares

The Fund does not pay dividends or distributions to the holders of redeemable mutual fund shares. All income, including interest, dividends and capital gains earned by the Fund, is automatically reinvested and this income is reflected in the quoted net asset value of the shares.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies...continued

#### k) Taxation

The Fund is licensed as an authorised mutual fund under the Mutual Funds Act, 2002-22 of Barbados. The Board of Directors have resolved that all of the net income of the Fund is attributable to the Fund's Class "A" redeemable mutual fund shareholders. In calculating the assessable income of the Fund for tax purposes, the Act provides for a deduction of up to 100% of the income that is designated to be the income of the Fund shareholders.

#### 3 Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Management makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are outlined below.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying value of assets and liabilities within the next financial year relate to the valuation of unquoted investments and the determination of impairment provisions. The fair value of such securities not quoted in an active market may be determined by the Fund using reputable pricing sources (such as pricing agencies) or indicative prices.

The Fund would exercise judgement and estimates on the quantity and quality of pricing sources used. The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgement by the Fund. The Fund considers observable data to be market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market. Management policies surrounding these estimates and assumptions are disclosed in note 4.

#### 4 Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (which includes price risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund is also exposed to operational risks such as custody risk. Custody risk is the risk of loss of securities held in custody occasioned by the insolvency or negligence of the custodian. Although an appropriate legal framework is in place that eliminates the risk of loss of value of the securities held by the custodian, in the event of its failure, the ability of the Fund to transfer securities might be temporarily impaired.

The Fund's overall risk management programme seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed and seeks to minimise the potential adverse effect on the Fund's financial performance. The Fund's policy allows it to use derivative financial instruments to moderate certain risk exposures.

All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum loss of capital on purchased options, long equity and debt securities is limited to the fair value of those positions. On written call options, short future positions and on equity and debt sold short, the maximum loss of capital can be unlimited. The maximum loss of capital on written put options, long futures and forward currency contracts is limited to the notional contract values of those positions.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

The risk management policies employed by the Fund to manage these risks are discussed below. There are no changes in the risk management policies from the prior year.

The management of these risks is carried out by the investment manager under policies approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board''). The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, the use of derivative financial instruments and non-derivative financial instruments and the investment of excess liquidity.

#### Market risk

#### (i) Price risk

The Fund is exposed to equity securities price risk. Equity price risk is the risk of unfavourable changes in the fair values of equity instruments or equity-linked derivatives as the result of changes in the levels of equity indices and the value of individual shares.

The equity price risk exposure arises from the Fund's investments in equity securities and units in managed equity funds. To manage this risk the Fund holds a diversified portfolio of investments in accordance with its investment policy. A summary of the overall statement of financial position market exposures at September 30, 2020 is disclosed in note 5.

Sensitivity

Management's best estimate of the effect on profit or loss for a year due to a reasonably possible change in equity indices, with all other variables held constant is indicated in the table below. The analysis is based on the assumptions that the MSCI All Country World Index increased by 24% (2019- 14%), with all other variables held constant. In practice, the actual trading results may differ from the sensitivity analysis below and the difference could be material. An equivalent decrease in each of the indices shown below would have resulted in an equivalent, but opposite, impact.

2020	2019
\$	\$

## Effect on net assets attributable to redeemable shares of an increase in the indices

MSCI All Country World Index

**74,546,589** 38,984,337

The Investment Manager uses the MSCI All Country World Index as a reference point in making investment decisions. However, the Investment Manager does not manage the Fund's investment strategy to track the MSCI All Country World Index or any other index or external benchmark.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

Market risk ... continued

#### (ii) Cash flows and fair value interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on the fair value of financial assets and liabilities and future cash flow. The majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are non-interest bearing. The Fund's debt securities are fixed rate securities. As a result the Fund is not subject to significant amounts of cash flow interest risk due to fluctuation in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. Any excess cash and cash equivalents are invested at short-term market interest rates. The effective yield is disclosed on cash and cash equivalents in note 7.

#### (iii) Foreign exchange risk

The Fund holds financial assets denominated in currencies other than the Barbados dollar, the functional currency of the Fund. Consequently, except where assets and liabilities are denominated in currencies fixed to the Barbados dollar, the Fund is exposed to currency risk. The Fund's policy is not to enter into hedging transactions to mitigate currency risk.

When the Investment Manager formulates a view on the future direction of foreign exchange rates and the potential impact on the Fund, the Investment Manager factors that into its portfolio allocation decisions.

While the Fund has direct exposure to foreign exchange rate changes on the price of non-Barbados dollar-denominated securities, it may also be indirectly affected by the impact of foreign exchange rate changes on the earnings of certain companies in which the Fund invests, even if those companies' securities are denominated in Barbados dollars. For that reason, the below sensitivity analysis may not necessarily indicate the total effect on the Fund's net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares of future movements in foreign exchange rates.

Foreign currency risk arises as recognised monetary assets and monetary liabilities denominated in other currencies fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates. IFRS 7 considers the foreign exchange exposure relating to non-monetary assets and liabilities to be a component of market price risk not foreign currency risk. However, management monitors the exposure on all foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

Market risk ...continued

#### (iii) Foreign currency risk...continued

The table below summarises the Fund's exposure to direct currency risk in Barbados dollars:

	JMD \$	GBP \$	GYD \$
September 30, 2020	Ψ	Ф	Φ
Financial assets			
Investments	13,985,112	16,320,928	20,527,533
Due from broker	1,962		_
Account receivable	43,772	_	2,333
Cash and cash equivalents	74,585	_	
Total financial assets	14,105,431	16,320,928	20,529,866
Total financial liabilities			
Net position	14,105,431	16,320,928	20,529,866
<b>September 30, 2019</b>			
Financial assets			
Investments	27,240,939	16,705,352	18,328,475
Due from broker	1,962	_	_
Cash and cash equivalents	1,612,993	_	
Total financial assets	28,855,894	16,705,352	18,328,475
Total financial liabilities			
Net position	28,855,894	16,705,352	18,328,475

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

Market risk ... continued

#### (iii) Foreign currency risk...continued

Sensitivity

The Fund is most exposed to currency risk in its operating currencies whose values have noticeably fluctuated against the Barbados dollar. These currencies include the Jamaica dollar (JMD), the Great Britain Pound Sterling (GBP) and the Guyanese dollar (GYD).

The theoretical decrease in net assets had these currencies depreciated by 5% against the Barbados dollar with all other variables held constant is considered below:

	Effect of a 5%	Effect of a 5%
	depreciation as of	depreciation as of
	<b>September 30, 2020</b>	September 30, 2019
	<u> </u>	\$
Balances denominated in JMD	705,272	1,442,795
Balances denominated in GBP	816,046	835,268
Balances denominated in GYD	1,026,493	916,424

A 5% appreciation in the currencies will have an equal and opposite effect to that disclosed above.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or counterparty to a financial instrument will be unable or unwilling to meet a commitment thereby causing a financial loss to the Fund. It is the Fund's policy to enter into financial instruments with reputable counterparties.

The main concentration to which the Fund is exposed arises from the Fund's investments in debt securities. The Fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on cash and cash equivalents, amounts due from brokers and other receivable balances.

Credit risk from debt securities is minimised through holding a diversified portfolio of investments, purchasing securities after careful assessment of the borrower and placing deposits with financial institutions with a strong capital base.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

All transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal since delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has delivered payment. On a purchase, payment is made once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet their obligation.

The maximum exposure of the Fund to the credit risk is set out in the following table:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Debt securities	332,224	181,433
Due from brokers	1,962	1,962
Accounts receivable	191,706	208,112
Cash and cash equivalents	29,494,272	22,487,185
	30,020,164	22,878,692

The Fund measures credit risk and expected credit losses using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management consider both historical analysis and forward looking information in determining any expected credit loss. At September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2019, all other receivables, amounts due from brokers, cash and short-term deposits are held with counterparties with a credit rating of BBB+ or equivalent and are due to be settled within 1 week. Management consider the probability of default to be close to zero as the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. As a result, no loss allowance has been recognised based on 12-month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be wholly insignificant to the Fund.

#### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

The Fund is exposed to weekly cash redemptions of Class "A" Redeemable Mutual Fund Shares (note 10). It therefore invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed of. The table below analyses the Fund's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the statement of financial position date to the contractual maturity date.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management...continued

#### **Liquidity risk**...continued

The amounts disclosed in the table below are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying amount, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

	Less than 1 month \$	1 - 3 months \$
September 30, 2020		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable mutual fund shares	5,156 466,382,564	93,896
Total financial liabilities	466,387,720	93,896
September 30, 2019		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable mutual fund shares	7,184 491,978,006	87,701
Total financial liabilities	491,985,190	87,701

Redeemable shares are redeemed on demand at the holder's option (note 10). In the event of unusual circumstances and redemption requests representing more than 20% of the Fund's assets being received within 30 consecutive days, the directors of the Fund reserve the right to suspend redemptions and to hold a special meeting of the Fund shareholders to determine the future of the Fund, including the liquidation of the Fund's assets.

At September 30, 2020, 61% (2019- 60%) of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, comprise of investments in other funds that have been fair valued in accordance with the policies set out in note 2c. Since the shares of the other funds are not publicly traded, redemption can only be made by the Fund on the redemption dates and subject to the required notice periods specified in the offering documents of each of the other funds.

The rights of the Fund to request redemption of its investments in other funds may vary in frequency from daily to monthly redemptions. As a result, the carrying values of the other funds may not be indicative of the prevailing values ultimately realised on redemption. In addition, the Fund may be materially affected by the actions of other investors who have invested in funds in which the Fund has invested.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

#### **Liquidity risk**...continued

The Fund manages its liquidity risk by investing predominantly in securities that it expects to be able to liquidate within 1 week or less. The following table illustrates the expected liquidity of assets held.

September 30, 2020	Less than 1 week \$	1 week- 1 month \$	1 - 3 months \$	Over 3 months \$
Total assets	91,044,166	355,233,791	2,764,407	17,479,252
<b>September 30, 2019</b>				
Total assets	82,351,712	385,183,311	2,696,085	21,881,783

#### Capital risk management

The capital of the Fund is represented by the net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares. The amount of net asset attributable to holders of redeemable shares can change significantly on a weekly basis as the Fund is subject to weekly subscriptions and redemptions at the discretion of shareholders. The Fund's objective when managing capital is to safeguard the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for shareholders and to maintain a strong capital base to support the development of the investment activities of the Fund.

#### Fair value estimation

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives and trading securities) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the year end date. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Fund is the current exit price; the quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current exit price. If a significant movement in fair value occurs subsequent to the close of trading on the year end date, valuation techniques will be applied to determine the fair value.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

The Fund is required to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1).
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (level 2).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (level 3).

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

#### Fair value estimation ... continued

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgment by the Fund. The Fund considers observable data to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

The following tables analyse within the fair value hierarchy the Fund's financial assets and liabilities (by class) measured at fair value:

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
September 30, 2020 Assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Listed equity securities	143,689,015	4,771,051	_	148,460,066
Mutual funds	2,621,485	267,236,082	597,828	270,455,395
Hedge funds	_	1,028,151	_	1,028,151
Debt securities	_	332,224	_	332,224
Joint arrangements	_	_	16,541,941	16,541,941
Unlisted equity securities		8,640	7,259	15,899
	146,310,500	273,376,148	17,147,028	436,833,676

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

September 30, 2019 Assets Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Listed equity securities	157,627,021	4,716,652	_	162,343,673
Mutual funds	8,204,975	276,016,732	1,823,110	286,044,817
Hedge funds	_	959,829	_	959,829
Debt securities	_	181,433	_	181,433
Joint arrangements	_	_	19,869,981	19,869,981
Unlisted equity securities		8,640	7,259	15,899
	165,831,996	281,883,286	21,700,350	469,415,632

Investments whose values are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and therefore classified within level 1, include active listed equities, listed close-ended mutual funds and traded government debt securities. The Fund does not adjust the quoted price for these instruments.

Financial instruments that trade in markets that are not considered to be active but are valued based on quoted market prices, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within level 2. These include investment-grade corporate bonds, untraded government securities and unlisted mutual funds. As level 2 investments include positions that are not traded in active markets and/or are subject to transfer restrictions, valuations may be adjusted to reflect illiquidity and/or non-transferability, which are generally based on available market information.

Investments classified within level 3 have significant unobservable inputs, as they trade infrequently, are unquoted or are determined by a third party. Level 3 instruments include unlisted hedge funds, mutual funds and securities.

Level 3 valuations are reviewed on a weekly basis by the Fund's investment committee who report to the Board of Directors. The committee considers the appropriateness of the valuation model inputs, as well as the valuation result using various valuation methods and techniques generally recognised as standard within the industry.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

The level 3 hedge and mutual funds that amounts to \$597,828 (2019 - \$1,823,110) consists of hedge and mutual funds. The Fund invests in funds for which observable prices are not available as they are not listed in active markets.

The fair value of these mutual funds in this category is determined by the administrators of these investments in accordance with industry practice.

The level 3 unlisted equity securities amounts to \$7,259 (2019- \$7,259). The Fund values these instruments using prices from prior transactions or third party pricing information.

The following table presents the transfers between levels for the year ended September 30, 2020:

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3
<b>September 30, 2020</b>	•	·	•
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:			
Mutual funds	(5,773,472)	5,773,472	_
September 30, 2019			
Financial assets at fair value through			
profit or loss:			
Listed equity securities	(781,554)	781,554	_
Mutual funds		(2,682,609)	2,682,609

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy, for the purpose of preparing the above table, are deemed to have occurred at the beginning of the reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

The following tables present the movement in level 3 instruments by class of financial instrument:

	M	Iutual funds \$ a	Joint arrangements \$	Other \$	Total \$
<b>September 30, 2020</b>			Ψ	Ψ	Ψ
Opening balance Sales/distributions Losses recognised in the statement	ent of	<b>1,823,110</b> (1,184,736)	<b>19,869,981</b> (1,269,987)	<b>7,259</b>	21,700,350 (2,454,723)
comprehensive income	——————————————————————————————————————	(40,546)	(2,058,053)		(2,098,599)
Closing balance Change in unrealised losses for	lovel 3	597,828	16,541,941	7,259	17,147,028
assets held at year end and inclu other net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value thro	ded in n	(40,546)	(2.059.052)		(2,008,500)
profit or loss		(40,340)	(2,058,053)		(2,098,599)
September 30, 2019	Mutual funds \$	Hedge funds \$	Joint arrangements	Other \$	Total \$
Opening balance Sales/distributions Transfers in Gains/(losses) recognised in	<b>2,504</b> (2,504) 2,682,609	77,77 <b>4</b> - -	19,310,444 - -	7,259 _ _	19,397,981 (2,504) 2,682,609
the statement of comprehensive income	(859,499)	(77,774)	559,537		(377,736)
Closing balance	1,823,110	_	19,869,981	7,259	21,700,350
Change in unrealised gains/ (losses) for level 3 assets held at year end and included in other net changes in fair value on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(859,499)	(77,774)	559,537		(377,736)
unough profit of 1088	(027,477)	(77,774)	337,331		(311,130)

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

The below table provides information about fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3).

Description	Fair value at September 30, 2020 \$	Valuation technique	Unobservable Input	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Mutual funds	597,828	Third party valuation of net asset value per share	Net asset value per share	The higher the net asset value per share the higher the fair value
Joint arrangements	16,541,941	Proportionate share of the net assets of the joint arrangements	Fair value of underlying assets	The higher the fair value of the underlying assets of the joint arrangement the higher the fair value
Other	7,259	Net tangible assets	Net book value of underlying assets	The higher the net book value per share the higher the fair value
Description	Fair value at September 30, 2019 \$	Valuation technique	Unobservable Input	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
<b>Description</b> Mutual funds	<b>September 30, 2019</b>	Valuation technique  Third party valuation of net asset value per share		unobservable inputs to
•	September 30, 2019 \$	Third party valuation of net asset value per	Input  Net asset value per	unobservable inputs to fair value  The higher the net asset value per share the higher

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

#### Assets and liabilities not carried at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed

The following table analyses within the fair value hierarchy the Fund's assets and liabilities (by class) not measured at fair value at September 30, 2020 but for which fair value is disclosed.

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3	Total \$
September 30, 2020	Ψ	*	*	4
Assets Accounts receivable	_	191,706	_	191,706
Due from brokers	_	1,962	_	1,962
Cash and cash equivalents	29,494,272			29,494,272
Total	29,494,272	193,668	_	29,687,940
Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses Net assets attributable to holders of	_	99,052	_	99,052
redeemable mutual fund shares	_	466,382,564	_	466,382,564
Total		466,481,616		466,481,616
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
September 30, 2019 Assets				
Accounts receivable	_	208,112	_	208,112
Due from brokers	_	1,962	_	1,962
Cash and cash equivalents	22,487,185			22,487,185
Total	22,487,185	210,074	_	22,697,259
Liabilities Accounts payable and accrued expenses Net assets attributable to holders of	-	94,885	_	94,885
redeemable mutual fund shares	_	491,978,006	_	491,978,006
Total	_	492,072,891	_	492,072,891

The remaining assets and liabilities, except for the redeemable mutual fund shares, included in the above table are carried at amortised cost; their carrying values are a reasonable approximation of fair value. Margin accounts, cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held with banks and other short-term investments in an active market.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 4 Financial risk management ... continued

Fair value estimation ... continued

#### Assets and liabilities not carried at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed ... continued

Amounts due from brokers and other receivables include the contractual amounts for settlement of trades and other obligations due to the Fund. Amounts due to brokers and accruals represent the contractual amounts and obligations due by the Fund for settlement of trades and expenses.

The puttable value of redeemable shares is calculated based on the net difference between total assets and all other liabilities of the Fund in accordance with the Fund's offering memorandum. These shares are not traded on an active market. A demand feature is attached to these shares, as they are redeemable at the holders' option and can be put back to the Fund at any dealing date for cash equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the share class (note 2i). The fair value is based on the amount payable on demand, discounted from the first date that the amount could be required to be paid. The impact of discounting in this instance is not material. As such, level 2 is deemed to be the most appropriate categorisation for net assets attributable to holders of redeemable shares.

#### 5 Financial assets

The classification of the Fund's financial assets is detailed below:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Designated at fair value through profit or loss at inception:		
- mutual funds	270,455,395	286,044,817
- listed equity securities	148,460,066	162,343,673
- joint arrangements	16,541,941	19,869,981
- hedge funds	1,028,151	959,829
- debt securities	332,224	181,433
- other	15,899	15,899
Total financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	436,833,676	469,415,632
Net gains/ (losses) recognised in relation to investments		
- realised	12,293,149	5,352,666
- change in unrealised	(46,201,759)	(4,589,420)
	(33,908,610)	763,246

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 5 Financial assets....continued

The detailed portfolio of investments is as follows:

	2020		2019	
Security Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	Cost \$	Market value \$	Cost \$	Market value \$
Barbados				
Goddard Enterprises Limited	12,080,855	21,486,609	12,275,368	30,379,781
Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd	6,166,402	4,101,075	6,166,402	6,542,192
FirstCaribbean International Bank Ltd	5,749,137	3,600,000	5,749,137	5,040,000
Eppley Caribbean Property Fund- Value Fund	1,466,958	1,260,745	1,409,958	1,075,666
Barbados Dairy Industries Ltd	877,117	567,273	877,117	567,273
Eppley Caribbean Property Fund- Dev Fund	1,001,101	366,759	989,191	392,834
Sagicor Financial Corporation			8,496,592	11,280,635
<u>-</u>	27,341,570	31,382,461	35,963,765	55,278,381
Jamaica				
Pan Jam Investments Trust Co.	1,164,850	5,932,195	1,184,065	9,562,247
GraceKennedy Limited	1,231,061	2,573,258	2,307,229	6,101,733
Sagicor Group Jamaica Ltd	2,163,155	2,416,952		-
National Commercial Bank of Jamaica Ltd	366,965	1,703,168	1,237,316	9,720,528
Stanley Motta Limited	801,810	720,384	801,810	888,000
JMMB Group Limited	213,460	639,155	213,460	968,431
	5,941,301	13,985,112	5,743,880	27,240,939
m · · · · ·				
<b>Trinidad</b> Massy Holdings Ltd	15,285,736	16,734,249	12,453,007	13,211,904
Guardian Holdings Limited	12,001,283	13,627,751	6,829,336	8,098,447
Agostini's Holdings Ltd	5,938,611	5,819,073	5,938,611	5,967,158
CLICO Investment Fund	808,801	993,981	808,801	963,003
Praetorian Property Mutual Fund	4,862,536	597,828	4,862,536	1,823,110
	.,002,000	277,020	1,002,000	1,025,110
<u>-</u>	38,896,967	37,772,882	30,892,291	30,063,622

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

## 5 Financial assets...continued

-	2020		2019	
	<b>a</b> .	Market	<b>Q</b>	Market
G	Cost	Value	Cost	Value
Security Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	\$	\$	\$	\$
East Caribbean				
St Lucia Electricity Services	534,208	1,736,256	534,208	1,736,256
East Caribbean Financial Holdings Ltd	2,932,344	1,471,710	2,932,344	1,474,988
Trading & Development Co Ltd	526,249	725,729	526,249	614,078
_	3,992,801	3,933,695	3,992,801	3,825,322
Guyana				
Banks DIH Ltd	2,167,152	11,675,966	2,167,152	11,062,229
Demerara Bank Limited	919,239	5,457,916	919,239	4,418,313
Demerara Distilleries Ltd	233,674	2,464,928	233,674	2,075,729
Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Ltd	520,268	820,467	520,268	772,204
	3,840,333	20,419,277	3,840,333	18,328,475
International	3,040,333	20,419,277	3,040,333	10,320,473
Fortress Emerging Markets Fund	62,861,263	64,233,531	62,861,263	67,406,307
Fortress International Equity Fund	61,826,203	64,183,811	61,826,203	65,788,829
Fortress Income Builder Intl Fund	31,870,574	26,592,633	31,870,574	30,852,649
Fortress US Equity Fund	22,912,521	25,611,605	22,912,521	26,513,950
Fortress OAM Overseas Fund Ltd	23,975,492	25,457,840	23,975,492	26,638,779
Templeton Asian Smaller Companies	20,799,948	21,358,959	20,799,948	22,652,047
Fortress Income Builder US Fund	18,273,347	17,906,001	18,273,347	20,176,837
Ishares TR Nasdaq Biotechnology	12,209,376	16,682,512	12,209,376	12,258,400
C G Portfolio Fund Ltd	4,027,134	9,827,700	4,027,134	9,120,666
Sagicor Financial Company Ltd	14,002,933	8,908,093	_	_
Ishares TR MSCI EAFE Index EFA	7,543,545	7,447,050	7,543,545	7,629,570
Fortress Global Opportunity Wealth Fund	5,999,920	6,966,255	5,999,920	6,866,668
Caledonia Investment UK Ord shares	5,822,784	6,493,228	5,822,784	7,584,686
Templeton Frontier Markets	6,561,818	5,097,747	6,561,818	5,773,472
Ishares TR MSCI Emerging Mrkt Ind	3,951,336	4,276,730	3,951,336	3,964,390
ChapleGate Credit Opportunity Fund Ltd	444,040	1,028,151	444,040	959,829
	303,082,234	312,071,846	289,079,301	314,187,079

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 5 Financial assets....continued

	2020		2019	
Security Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	Cost \$	Market Value \$	Cost \$	Market Value \$
Other				
CS&C Joint Venture	8,961,228	9,569,275	8,961,228	12,814,080
Emerald City Trust	3,051,745	3,498,470	3,051,745	3,503,429
Sunset Joint Venture	936,000	3,474,196	936,000	3,552,472
	12,948,973	16,541,941	12,948,973	19,869,981
Holdings less than 0.05%	725,163	726,462	596,274	621,833
Total financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	396,769,342	436,833,676	383,057,618	469,415,632

### 6 Due from brokers

Due from brokers represents security purchases and sales transactions contracted for but not yet delivered at the end of the year.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Funds advanced for purchases	1,962	1,962

## 7 Cash and cash equivalents

	2020 \$	<b>2019</b> \$
Cash at bank Money market funds	23,687,877 5,806,395	21,349,605 1,137,580
	29,494,272	22,487,185

The effective yield on cash and cash equivalents and money market funds is nil (2019- nil).

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

#### 8 Interest income

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Debt securities at fair value through profit or loss Cash and cash equivalents	67,786 7,746	56,880 8,169
	75,532	65,049

### 9 Related party transactions

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions.

Fortress Fund Managers Limited serves as manager, registrar and administrator of the Fund. As a result of providing investment advisory, management, registrar and administrator services, Fortress Fund Managers Limited receives a weekly management and administration fee based on the actual net asset value of the Fund, calculated weekly and payable in arrears. The gross management fee amounted to \$8,458,570 (2019-\$8,244,060) for the year. The administrator fees amounted to \$421,604 (2019-\$415,953) for the year.

Management fees of \$2,256,049 (2019 - \$2,098,455) were refunded by Fortress Fund Managers Limited being 0.65% - 1.00% of the net asset values of Fortress OAM Overseas Fund, Fortress International Equity Fund Limited, Fortress Emerging Markets Fund, Fortress Income Builder US Fund, Fortress US Equity Fund, Fortress Income Builder International Fund and Fortress Global Opportunity Wealth Fund shares held by the Fund during the year. This is to avoid double charging of management fees on assets invested in related Funds which have the same Manager.

The Fund holds 11,402,328 (2019 - 11,402,328) shares valued at \$25,457,840 (2019 - \$26,638,779) in the Fortress OAM Overseas Fund.

The Fund holds 280,022 (2019 - 280,022) shares valued at \$64,233,531 (2019 - \$67,406,307) in the Fortress Emerging Markets Fund SP.

The Fund holds 29,999 (2019 - 29,999) shares valued at \$6,966,255 (2019 - \$6,866,668) in the Fortress Global Opportunity Wealth Fund SP.

The Fund holds 153,901 (2019 - 153,901) shares valued at \$26,592,633 (2019 - \$30,852,649) in the Fortress Income Builder International Fund SP.

The Fund holds 87,417 (2019 - 87,417) shares valued at \$17,906,001 (2019 - \$20,176,837) in the Fortress Income Builder US Fund SP.

The Fund holds 266,246 (2019 - 266,246) shares valued at \$64,183,811 (2019 - \$65,788,829) in the Fortress International Equity Fund SP.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 9 Related party transactions...continued

The Fund holds 91,498 (2019- 91,498) shares valued at \$25,611,605 (2019 - \$26,513,950) in the Fortress US Equity Fund SP.

Directors fees of \$70,000 (2019 - \$60,000) were paid during the year. Directors' interest (including beneficial interests) in class "A" redeemable mutual fund shares are as follows:

	Number of shares at start of year	Number of shares acquired in the year		Number of shares at year end
Shareholder Directors	322,549	243,661	(83,570)	482,640

Related party interests in participating redeemable mutual fund shares are as follows:

	Number of shares	
	2020	2019
Fortress Caribbean Pension Fund Limited	36,780,928	34,009,771
Fortress Insurance Company Limited	308,232	308,232

### 10 Redeemable mutual fund shares

Class 'A' Redeemable Mutual Fund Shares (Fund shares)

Each Fund share is entitled to an equal share in the distribution of net income and net capital gains of the Fund and participates equally in all other respects. Fund shareholders shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of shareholders of the Fund save and except as permitted under the Companies Act, CAP 308, for the following:

- i) Disposal of substantially all of the Assets of the Fund, other than the course of ordinary business.
- ii) Any change or abrogation of the rights of the shares or any variation affecting the rights of the shares.
- iii) Any proposed amalgamation of the Fund or any amalgamation of the Fund.

Notes to the Financial Statements **September 30, 2020** 

(expressed in Barbados dollars)

### 11 Share capital

	2020		2019	
Common shares An unlimited number of common shares	Number of shares	\$	Number of shares	\$
Issued	1,000	40,000	1,000	40,000

### **Common shares**

The 1,000 common shares, held by the Fund Manager, carry full voting rights, but do not share in the profits of the Fund. On winding up of the Fund, the shares would be repaid at issued value.

#### 12 Covid-19

In December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus, ("COVID-19"), surfaced in Wuhan, China. This virus continues to spread around the world, resulting in business and social disruption. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020. The operations and business results of the Fund could be materially adversely affected. As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and the near term worldwide economic outlook remains uncertain, we cannot reasonably estimate the length or severity of this pandemic, or the extent to which the disruption may materially impact our financial statements.

As at the reporting date any impact on the balances as of 30 September 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have been appropriately accounted for in accordance with the reporting framework.

Management does not believe there is any risk to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future from the reporting date linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have evaluated all significant activities through to 11 December 2020, the date these financial statements were available to be issued and concluded that no additional subsequent events occurred that would require recognition in the financial statements or disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

