# KOPERNIK INTERNATIONAL FUND

Dear Kopernik Investor,

Second Quarter 2024

Below, please find the mutual fund performance of the Kopernik International Fund ("International" or "Fund") as of June 30, 2024.

Class	Q2 2024	YTD	1 Year	3 Year <sup>1</sup>	5 Year <sup>1</sup>	Since Inception <sup>1</sup>
Class I <sup>2</sup>	1.11%	-0.44%	7.85%	-0.43%	7.07%	6.94%
Investor Class <sup>3</sup>	0.97%	-0.59%	7.53%	-0.70%	6.78%	8.07%
MSCI ACWI ex-USA (Net)4	0.96%	5.69%	11.62%	0.46%	5.55%	4.90%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Annualized

Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance. Current returns and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost, and current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. For the most recent month-end performance please call Kopernik Funds at 1-855-887-4KGI (4544) or visit www.kopernikglobal.com.

Gross expense ratios for the fund - Class I: 1.04%, Investor Class: 1.29% Expense ratios shown are reflective of the Fund's current prospectus.

## WHY KOPERNIK?

Philosophically, we view ourselves as owners of businesses. Our job is to appraise these businesses and take advantage at times when an inefficient, emotional marketplace offers securities at a price that is significantly different from our appraisal. Like our namesake, Kopernik (better known by his Latin name – Copernicus), we trust the results of our own analysis even when (especially when) it generates vastly different conclusions from those of the crowd and/or those taught by many academics. Similarly, we commonly question the data issued by governments, central bankers, and companies themselves. We understand that bargains appear often because people focus on fear or panic, and other forms of risk that are not relevant to the investment portfolio. High tracking error, bad headlines or unpopular stocks/countries/ regions/industries can present a degree of risk to a manager's career, while often lowering the potential of permanent loss of capital (due to lower initiation prices and higher potential upside) to the portfolio. Similarly, Kopernik believes volatility and other measures of past price movements are not relevant to long-term investors' assessment of risk. It can be indicative of potential risk to short-term speculators or to highly levered players but can often present opportunity for true long-term investors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Class I inception date: 06/30/2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Investor Class inception date: 12/10/2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>MSCI ACWI Since Inception period in the table above begins on Class I inception date 06/30/2015.

## **QUARTER REVIEW**

In the second quarter of 2024, the NAV of Class I Shares of the Kopernik International Fund (the "Fund") increased 1.1% compared to a 1.0% increase for the MSCI All Country World ex USA Index¹ (the "Index").

The materials sector contributed 1.9% to total Fund returns during the quarter, and many of the Fund's mining companies performed well. The Fund's largest contributor during the second quarter was Newmont Corp ("Newmont"), the world's largest gold producer, which had a total return of 20.7% and contributed 1.0% to total Fund returns. The stock has recouped all the losses from its inexplicable drop in January and February. Late last year, Newmont acquired Newcrest (of which we were shareholders) in a value accretive deal. The now-combined company has significant optionality to higher gold prices, something that we have seen signs of thus far in 2024. We trimmed the Fund's position in Newmont on higher prices.

Other positive performers in the materials sector included Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd, a leading producer of platinum, which had a total return of 19.6%, a 0.8% contribution to total Fund returns. Wheaton Precious Metals Corp ("Wheaton Precious"), a streaming company that can reap the benefits of higher gold prices with limited exposure to mining risk, had a total return of 12.3%, a 0.4% contribution. Like Newmont, Wheaton Precious fell in January and February, seemingly without reason, but has since rebounded to year-to-date highs. Novagold Resources Inc, ("Novagold"), which owns 50% of the Donlin project, an Alaska gold project with a long mine life that is fully permitted, had a total return of 15.5%, while Pan American Silver Corp ("Pan American"), the world's largest silver producer, had a total return of 32.1%. Novagold and Pan American each contributed 0.2% to total Fund returns. We trimmed the Fund's holdings of all four companies.

Many of the Fund's companies in Emerging Markets (EMs) continued to perform well during the second quarter; EMs contributed 1.1% to total Fund returns. NAC Kazatomprom JSC ("Kazatomprom"), the world's largest uranium miner, had a total return of 5.13%, a 0.2% contribution to total Fund returns. Following the rise in uranium prices last year, many of the world's uranium producers and explorers have reached our estimates of what they are worth risk adjusted; however, we still see significant upside in Kazatomprom. In China, CGN Power Co Ltd, a leading producer of cheap, clean, carbon-free nuclear power, built on its first quarter gains and had a total return of 53.4%, a 0.7%. China Communications Services Corp Ltd, which builds telecommunications infrastructure, had a total return of 22.0%, a 0.3% contribution. We trimmed the Fund's positions in all three companies.

EM financials also performed well during the quarter. Halyk Savings bank of Kazakhstan JSC, Kazakhstan's dominant bank, had a total return of 14.4%, a 0.2% contribution to total Fund returns. We trimmed the position on higher prices throughout the quarter. In Russia, Sberbank of Russia PJSC ("Sberbank"), the country's dominant bank, had a total return of 12.8%, while Moscow Exchange MICEX-RTS PJSC ("MOEX"), Russia's major financial exchange, had a total return of 20.3%. Sberbank and MOEX each contributed 0.2% to total Fund returns. This is inclusive of the 70% haircut that we have applied to these securities. We believe these Russian securities have value and applying an appropriate discount to such securities, rather than pricing at zero as others in the industry have, provides our best estimate of fair value to shareholders. As a reminder, we are unable to trade Russian securities due to a combination of sanctions from the U.S. and Russian governments. First put into place immediately following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, these sanctions were heightened this quarter when the U.S. issued additional sanctions, including on MOEX directly. We continue to actively monitor events and any new developments or changing requirements.

The Fund's largest detractor for the quarter was the put option on the S&P 500 Index², which detracted 1.6% from total Fund returns. The S&P 500 Index is up over 17% year to date, building on 2023's 25% increase. As we have previously discussed, the put option was re-initiated in January 2023 and rolled as risk/reward remained compelling. Market valuations and investor optimism continue to be high, and implied volatility remains at a very attractive level. The Fund currently has options with expiry dates in July, August, September, and October. For more information on the put option investment rationale, please see our recent webinar and whitepaper. We believe that the importance of having an "antifragile" portfolio continues to be paramount given the current market environment.

While the materials sector as a whole was a positive contributor (discussed in more detail above), several companies within that sector detracted. Anglo American Platinum Ltd ("Amplats"), the world's largest producer of platinum group metals (PGMs), had a total return of -19.4%, a 0.5% detraction from total Fund returns. During the second quarter, Amplats' parent company Anglo American PLC ("Anglo American") received an unsolicited all-share takeover offer from BHP Group Ltd ("BHP") that would have required the parent to divest of Amplats. While rejecting BHP's offer, Anglo American announced a restructuring that will spin off Amplats and other assets, ostensibly in order to allow it to pivot towards resources that will support the global green-energy transition while at the same time reducing costs. Platinum and palladium (which is frequently mined as a byproduct of platinum) both have important industrial uses, notably in catalytic converters for internal combustion engines, where the metals assist in emissions control. Growing demand for automobiles in emerging markets coupled with more stringent environmental standards globally is expected to maintain demand for PGMs in the near future, although longer-term the increased penetration of electric vehicles ("EVs") may result in a decrease in demand, particularly for palladium. They are also monetary metals, which could become increasingly important in the near future. Even with Platinum prices at less than half of their 2008 levels, Amplats is trading at only 12 times earnings. We added to the Fund's position in Amplats throughout the quarter.

Other materials companies detracted as well. Equinox Gold Corp, a Canadian gold miner with 13.8 million ounces of reserves, reversed some of its gains from last month. It had a total return of -13.5%, a 0.2% detraction from total Fund returns. K+S AG ("K+S"), a German potash producer, had a total return of -9.4%, a 0.3% detraction. We added to the Fund's holding in K+S.

Other detractors were spread across multiple sectors and geographies. Two EM electric utility companies detracted. In South Korea, Korea Electric Power Corp ("Kepco") had a total return of -13.6%, while Brazil's Centrais Eletricas Brasileiras SA ("Eletrobras") had a total return of -21.7%. Kepco detracted 0.3%, while Eletrobras detracted 0.2% from total Fund returns. Gazprom PJSC ("Gazprom"), the world's largest natural gas producer, had a total return of -21.2%. (Please see above for a detailed discussion of the Fund's treatment of Russian securities.) Carrefour SA ("Carrefour"), a France-based grocery retailer, had a total return of -12.8%. Gazprom and Carrefour each detracted 0.2% from total Fund returns (Gazprom inclusive of the 70% haircut). We added to the Fund's holdings in Kepco, Eletrobras, and Carrefour.

The Fund initiated two new positions during the quarter. Both companies are lithium miners. Sociedad Quimica y Minera de Chile SA is one of the largest lithium producers in the world, and also has dominant positions in potassium nitrate and iodine production. Arcadium Lithium PLC is a lithium producer with a diversified portfolio of assets in Argentina, Western Australia, and Canada; the company is a low-cost producer of lithium with over 100 years of reserves at current production levels. In contrast to other commodities, like gold, which have demonstrated centuries of use, lithium is a nascent industry that has been around for just a few decades. Lithium is a key input in batteries, particularly for EVs. Should demand for EVs continue to grow, more lithium supply will need to come online to meet demand, which would likely require higher lithium prices. As of this writing, lithium prices are down more than 80% from early 2023 levels.

The Fund eliminated positions in Mitsui & Co Ltd and MEG Energy Corp as prices appreciated.

In closing, we continue to be focused on appraising businesses and mitigating risk through diversification across sectors and countries. Our investment process is centered on buying and holding companies trading at significant discounts to their risk-adjusted intrinsic value, and we view volatility as an opportunity to add and trim. You can count on us to employ our disciplined, fundamentals-based, long-term approach that has produced a proven track record throughout full market cycles. We are grateful to our long-term investors who understand the art and science of value investing and adhering to its discipline. As always, thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

Kopernik Global Investors, LLC

The value of local Russian security holdings and Russian GDR/ADR holdings as of 6/30/2024 reflect fair value pricing. During the second quarter, Russian securities represented approximately 6.6% of the portfolio and overall contributed 0.4% to returns. We remain unable to trade any Russian securities due to decisions by both the U.S. and Russian governments. We continue to actively monitor events and any new developments or changing requirements.

Information presented herein refer to multiple broad-based securities market indices. These indices differ from the strategy in a number of material respects, including but not limited to, being much more diversified among companies, having no exposure to emerging market and small cap companies, and having no ability to invest in fixed income or derivative securities. Broad-based securities indices are unmanaged and are not subject to fees and expenses typically associated with managed accounts or investment funds. Investments cannot be made directly in an index. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

<sup>1</sup>The MSCI All Country World ex-USA Index is a broad-based securities market index that captures over 2,000 primarily large and mid-cap companies across 22 developed and 24 emerging market countries as of June 30, 2024.

<sup>2</sup>The S&P 500 Index is a broad-based securities market index that captures 500 large cap companies in the United States as of June 30, 2024.

#### Important Information

Mutual fund investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its stated objectives. Equity funds are subject generally to market, market sector, market liquidity, issuer, and investment style risks, among other factors, to varying degrees, all of which are more fully described in the fund's prospectus. Investments in foreign securities may underperform and may be more volatile than comparable U.S. securities because of the risks involving foreign economies and markets, foreign political systems, foreign regulatory standards, foreign currencies and taxes. Investments in foreign and emerging markets present additional risks, such as increased volatility and lower trading volume. For more information on the Kopernik International Fund, call our toll-free number at 1-855-887-4KGI or email funds@kopernikglobal.com.

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This report may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, and we might not be able to achieve the predictions, forecasts, projections and other outcomes we may describe or imply. A number of important factors could cause results to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions we express in these forward-looking statements. We do not intend to update these forward-looking statements except as may be required by applicable laws.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond our control and are difficult to predict. As a result, actual results could differ materially from those expressed, implied or forecasted in the forward-looking statements.

The top ten holdings of the Kopernik International Fund as of June 30, 2024, are as follows: 1. Newmont Corp (5.0%), 2. KT Corp (4.0%), 3. LG Uplus Corp (3.6%), 4. Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (3.6%), 5. NAC Kazatomprom JSC (3.0%), 6. Barrick Gold Corp (3.0%), 7. K+S AG (2.9%), 8. Anglo American Platinum Ltd (2.8%), 9. Golden Agri-Resources Ltd (2.8%),10. Wheaton Precious Metals Corp (2.4%). These positions may change over time without notice. The holdings listed should not be considered recommendations to purchase or sell a particular security. It should not be assumed that securities bought or sold in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities in this portfolio. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

Please consider all risks carefully before investing. An investment in a Kopernik Fund, or any other vehicle using the same strategy, is subject to many risks including sudden changes in general market valuations and market liquidity. Investments in small and mid-capitalization companies also tend to involve greater risk and portfolio price volatility than investments in larger capitalization stocks. Further, investing in non-U.S. markets, including emerging and frontier markets, involves certain additional risks, including potential currency fluctuations and capital controls, restrictions on foreign investments, less governmental supervision and regulation, less liquidity, less disclosure, and the potential for higher market volatility, share expropriation, confiscatory taxation, and social, economic and political instability. Further, investments in energy and other natural resources companies tend to be greatly impacted by developments in global commodities markets, which can be more volatile than equity markets.

The Fund may purchase or sell options, which involve the payment or receipt of a premium by the investor and the corresponding right or obligation, as the case may be, to either purchase or sell the underlying security for a specific price at a certain time or during a certain period. Purchasing options involves the risk that the underlying instrument will not change price in the manner expected, so that the investor loses its premium. Selling options involves potentially greater risk because the investor is exposed to the extent of the actual price movement in the underlying security rather than only the premium payment received (which could result in a potentially unlimited loss). Over-the-counter options also involve counterparty solvency risk. For instance, a long put position would ordinarily realize a gain if, during the option period, the value of the underlying securities decreased below the exercise price sufficiently to cover the premium and transaction costs. However, if the price of the underlying instrument does not fall enough to offset the cost of purchasing the option, a put buyer would lose the premium and related transaction costs.

#### Past performance herein should not be construed as an accurate indication of future returns.

The MSCI All Country World ex-USA Index is an un-investable index that captures over two thousand primarily large and mid-cap companies across 22 developed and 24 emerging market countries as of June 30, 2024. The MSCI indices returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Individuals cannot invest directly in an Index. Additionally, The MSCI All Country World ex-USA Index is different from the strategy in a number of material respects, including being much more diversified among companies and countries, having less exposure to emerging markets, and having no ability to invest in fixed income or derivative securities. MSCI ACWI ex-USA performance includes theoretical dividends distributed. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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Investors should carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. For this and other information, please call 1-855-887-4KGI (4544) or download a free prospectus at <a href="www.kopernikglobal.com">www.kopernikglobal.com</a>. Read it carefully before investing.

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