

Brandes GQG Lazard Morningstar Sionna

2021 Interim Management Report of Fund Performance

Lazard Defensive Global Dividend Fund



## LAZARD DEFENSIVE GLOBAL DIVIDEND FUND

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete interim or annual financial statements of the Fund. The interim or annual financial statements are in a separate booklet. You may obtain a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free 1.888.861.9998, by writing to us at Bridgehouse Asset Managers, 36 Toronto Street, Suite 850, Toronto, ON, M5C 2C5, or by visiting our website: www.bridgehousecanada.com or the SEDAR website: www.sedar.com.

You may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure relating to the Fund.

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

# Results of Operations from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

## Markets & Effect

The recovery in global developed markets, as measured by the MSCI World Index, continued, as they gained 9.9% in the first six months of 2021. Broad, though bumpy, progress in global COVID-19 vaccinations, passage of \$1.9 trillion US stimulus bill and a sharp pick-up in corporate earnings continued to provide ample support for the 15-month rally. The threats of inflation and a tapering of monetary stimulus from the central banks have been largely discounted in the market rally so far; however, they remain sources of worry for the second half of the year.

The vaccination process, while gaining in efficiency, continues to be uneven with significant inoculation differences across markets causing country lockdowns and surges in certain areas. Asian markets struggled as the emergence of COVID-19 variants in Japan and India, along with weaker economic figures in China, dampened investor confidence. The steady increase in oil prices since the start of the year, due to low inventories and production cuts, also adversely affected the Asian markets.

In addition to energy stocks, financial and technology shares led the market in the first half of the year. Real estate stocks also rallied, as signs of the economic recovery benefitted the sector, which has lagged markedly in the past year. Utility stocks sold off, as concerns over higher interest rates and increased emission regulation weighed on the sector. Regionally, the economic recovery has been uneven, reflecting, in part, disproportionate vaccination progress in the developed markets, compared to the rest of the world. Looking ahead to the latter half of 2021, Lazard is cautiously optimistic, considering that most indices are at or near all-time highs and central bank stimulus will begin to be withdrawn, initially led by the U.S. Federal Reserve, placing upward pressure on interest rates.

#### Performance

The Fund's Unhedged Series A units trailed its benchmark, gaining 6.7% versus a gain of 9.9% for the MSCI World Index (the "Index"). The Fund's Hedged Series A units also trailed its benchmark, gaining 11.1% versus a gain of 14.1% for the MSCI World Index (Hedged) (the "Index").

# Asset Mix

At June 30, 2021, equities made up 97.9% of the Fund, and approximately 2.1% was in cash and other net assets.

The Fund's most significant industry exposure change was an increase in holdings in equity real estate investment trusts (REITs) to 7.0% from 3.9% at December 31, 2020.

The Manager confirms that the Fund did not borrow money during the period.

## Flows & Fees

The Fund's Net Asset Value decreased to \$36.6 million at June 30, 2021, from \$44.6 million at December 31, 2020. Of this change, an increase of \$2.7 million was due to positive investment performance (net of investment income), and a decrease of \$10.7 million was due to net outflows.

For Series A units, the annualized management expense ratio ("MER") at June 30, 2021 is 2.19%, compared to 2.20% at December 31, 2020, for the Unhedged series. The annualized MER for the Hedged series is 2.26% at June 30, 2021, compared to 2.27% at December 31, 2020.

## **Recent Developments**

There are no known changes at this time to the strategic positioning of the Fund, the manager, or portfolio sub-advisor.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus, first detected in December 2019, rapidly became a pandemic and resulted in disruptions to the economies of many nations, individual companies and the markets in general. This created closed borders, quarantines, supply chain disruptions and general anxiety, which negatively impacted global markets in an unforeseeable manner. The impact of the novel coronavirus and other such future infectious diseases in certain regions or countries may be greater or less due to the nature or level

of their public health responses or due to other factors. Health crises caused by the coronavirus outbreak or future infectious diseases may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The impact of such health crises may be quick, severe and of unknowable duration. This pandemic and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future could result in continued volatility in the financial markets and lead to increased levels of Fund redemptions, which could have a negative impact on the Funds and could adversely affect a Fund's performance.

# **Related Party Transactions**

# Manager and Portfolio Advisor

The Fund is managed and advised by Brandes Investment Partners & Co., operating as Bridgehouse Asset Managers ("Bridgehouse") which provides (or arranges for) investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. Bridgehouse receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average net assets of each series of the Fund. In addition, Bridgehouse is entitled to be reimbursed by the Fund for certain operating expenses.

Bridgehouse has retained Lazard Asset Management (Canada), Inc. who has retained Lazard Asset Management LLC, ("Lazard") as the portfolio sub-advisor in respect of the Fund. Bridgehouse pays Lazard an investment management fee to provide the Fund with investment management services.

# Forward-Looking Statements

This document may contain forward-looking statements relating to anticipated future events, results, performance, decisions, circumstances, opportunities, risks or other matters. Forward-looking statements are statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "may", "will", "should", "could", "expect", "anticipate", "intend", "plan", "believe", or "estimate" or other similar expressions. These statements require us to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Our predictions and other forward-looking statements may not prove to be accurate, or a number of factors could cause actual events, results, performance, etc. to differ materially from the targets, expectations, estimates or intentions expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. These factors could include, among others, market and general economic conditions, interest rates, regulatory and statutory developments, the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which the Fund may invest, and the

risks detailed from time to time in the Fund's simplified prospectus. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. For these reasons, it is important that readers do not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements and should be aware that the Fund may not update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### **Benchmark Index**

**MSCI World Index:** This index consists of equities from developed markets around the world, including Canada and the United States.

**MSCI World Index (Hedged):** This index consists of equities from developed markets around the world, including Canada and the United States. The hedged version minimizes the exposure of currency fluctuations on index performance.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 AND PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 TO 2020

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the six months ended June 30, 2021 and for the past five periods ended December 31, as applicable. In the year a fund or series is established, 'period' represents inception to December 31 of that year. In all other cases, 'period' represents year ended December 31. Inception date for Series A, F and I is September 9, 2015. Inception date for Series AH, FH and IH is May 9, 2016.

# The Fund's Net Assets per Unit (\$) (note 1)

		Increase (decrease) from operations			Distributions								
		Net assets, beginning of period (\$)	Total revenue (\$)	Total expenses (\$)	Realized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Unrealized gains (losses) for the period (\$)	Total increase (decrease) from operations (\$) (note 2)	From net investment income excluding dividends (\$)	From dividends (\$)	From capital gains (\$)	Return of capital (\$)	Total annual distribution (\$) (note 3)	Net assets, end of period (\$)
	2021	10.75	0.17	(0.12)	0.23	0.43	0.71	(0.30)	-	-	-	(0.30)	11.16
	2020	12.55	0.35	(0.24)	(0.01)	(0.57)	(0.47)	(0.09)	(0.01)	(0.12)	(0.28)	(0.50)	10.75
Series A	2019	11.42	0.29	(0.29)	0.70	0.85	1.55	(0.01)	-	(0.42)	-	(0.43)	12.55
001100 A	2018	11.73	0.30	(0.29)	0.43	(0.58)	(0.14)	(0.01)	-	(0.14)	-	(0.15)	11.42
	2017	11.05	0.36	(0.29)	0.50	0.64	1.21	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.41)	-	(0.48)	11.73
	2016	10.84	0.27	(0.26)	0.08	0.41	0.50	=	-	=	-	-	11.05
	2021	11.16	0.18	(0.06)	0.23	0.44	0.79	(0.30)	-	-	-	(0.30)	11.67
	2020	12.87	0.37	(0.12)	(0.22)	(0.87)	(0.84)	(0.19)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.24)	(0.50)	11.16
Series F	2019	11.63	0.30	(0.15)	0.71	0.87	1.73	(0.09)	(0.03)	(0.38)	-	(0.50)	12.87
Jenes i	2018	11.95	0.31	(0.16)	0.47	(0.64)	(0.02)	(0.11)	(0.03)	(0.15)	-	(0.29)	11.63
	2017	11.10	0.37	(0.15)	0.47	0.58	1.27	(0.17)	(0.03)	(0.27)	-	(0.47)	11.95
	2016	10.87	0.27	(0.14)	0.09	0.28	0.50	(0.09)	(0.02)	-	-	(0.11)	11.10
	2021	10.83	0.18	-	0.24	0.43	0.85	(0.29)	-	-	-	(0.29)	11.39
	2020	12.35	0.38	-	(1.00)	(2.64)	(3.26)	(0.09)	(0.04)		(0.36)	(0.49)	10.83
Series I	2019	11.41	0.29	-	0.69	0.87	1.85	(0.20)	(0.06)	(0.65)	-	(0.91)	12.35
361163 1	2018	11.65	0.29	-	0.54	(0.65)	0.18	(0.29)	(0.07)		-	(0.36)	11.41
	2017	11.10	0.35	-	0.56	0.55	1.46	(0.29)	(0.05)	(0.60)	-	(0.94)	11.65
	2016	10.88	0.26	-	0.09	0.14	0.49	(0.21)	(0.05)	-	-	(0.26)	11.10
	2021	9.77	0.16	(0.11)	0.79	0.22	1.06	(0.27)	-		-	(0.27)	10.57
	2020	11.70	0.31	(0.23)	0.38	(0.40)	0.06	(0.16)	-	(0.34)	(0.13)	(0.63)	9.77
Series AH	2019	10.29	0.26	(0.27)	0.38	1.58	1.95	-	-	(0.51)	-	(0.51)	11.70
Selles All	2018	11.25	0.29	(0.28)	0.26	(0.77)	(0.50)	(0.01)	-	(0.12)	-	(0.13)	10.29
	2017	10.59	0.35	(0.28)	1.04	0.35	1.46	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.80)	-	(0.87)	11.25
	2016	10.00	0.15	(0.17)	0.06	0.40	0.44	-	-	-	-	-	10.59
	2021	10.16	0.17	(0.06)	0.86	0.19	1.16	(0.28)	-		-	(0.28)	11.06
	2020	12.16	0.36	(0.12)	(0.21)	(1.04)	(1.01)	(0.45)	(0.01)	(0.20)	(0.12)	(0.78)	10.16
Series FH	2019	10.42	0.31	(0.14)	0.39	1.69	2.25	(0.14)	(0.05)	(0.16)	-	(0.35)	12.16
Selles FII	2018	11.43	0.30	(0.16)	0.26	(1.09)	(0.69)	(0.11)	(0.03)	(0.14)	-	(0.28)	10.42
	2017	10.60	0.37	(0.16)	0.82	0.78	1.81	(0.13)	(0.02)	(0.69)	-	(0.84)	11.43
	2016	10.00	0.17	(0.09)	0.05	0.13	0.26	(0.05)	(0.01)	-	-	(0.06)	10.60
	2021	9.79	0.16	-	0.79	0.24	1.19	(0.26)	-	-	_	(0.26)	10.72
	2020	11.43	0.32	_	0.04	(0.65)	(0.29)	(0.02)	-	(0.45)	(0.13)	(0.60)	9.79
Series IH	2019	10.08	0.27	-	0.40	1.51	2.18	(0.18)	(0.06)	(0.59)	-	(0.83)	11.43
Selles III	2018	11.09	0.27	_	0.26	(1.08)	(0.55)	(0.20)	(0.05)	(0.22)	_	(0.47)	10.08
	2017	10.60	0.34	-	1.00	0.50	1.84	(0.28)	(0.05)	(1.04)	-	(1.37)	11.09
	2016	10.00	0.17	-	0.01	0.57	0.75	(0.12)	(0.03)	-	-	(0.15)	10.60

<sup>1.</sup> The financial information presented in the Net Assets per Unit table is derived from the Fund's audited financial statements.

Net Assets and distributions per Unit of a series are based on the number
of units outstanding for that series at the relevant time. The Increase
(Decrease) from Operations per Unit of a series is based on the weighted
average number of units outstanding for that series during the financial
period.

<sup>3.</sup> Distributions per Unit of a series are based on the actual number of units outstanding for the series on the record dates for the distributions.

Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund or both

# **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

				Management				
			Number of units	expense	MER before waivers	Portfolio	Trading	Net asset value
		Net asset value	outstanding	ratio (MER)	or absorption	turnover rate	expense ratio	per unit
	0001	(\$000) (note 4)	(000) (note 4)	(%) (note 5)	(%) (note 5)	(%) (note 6)	(%) (note 7)	(\$)
	2021	27,987	2,507	2.19	2.42	51.16	0.14	11.16
	2020	33,083	3,078	2.20	2.56	180.05	0.20	10.75
Series A	2019	13,626	1,086	2.30	2.48	106.78	0.12	12.55
	2018	10,951	959	2.44	2.64	128.94	0.18	11.42
	2017	11,047	941	2.44	2.73	91.19	0.12	11.73
	2016	7,743	701	2.44	2.84	102.65	0.21	11.05
	2021	7,433	637	1.07	1.27	-	-	11.67
	2020	10,091	904	1.07	1.36	-	-	11.16
Series F	2019	10,047	781	1.15	1.33	-	-	12.87
	2018	7,256	624	1.30	1.49	-	-	11.63
	2017	7,739	648	1.31	1.61	-	-	11.95
	2016	4,643	418	1.31	1.71	-	-	11.10
	2021	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	=	11.39
	2020	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.83
Series I	2019	1,494	121	0.00	0.00	-	-	12.35
0011001	2018	1,289	113	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.41
	2017	2,567	220	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.65
	2016	2,276	205	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.10
	2021	886	84	2.26	2.58	-	-	10.57
	2020	1,032	106	2.27	2.77	-	-	9.77
Series AH	2019	368	31	2.37	2.56	-	-	11.70
Jelles All	2018	295	29	2.52	2.70	-	-	10.29
	2017	648	58	2.52	2.75	=	-	11.25
	2016	316	30	2.51	3.27	-	-	10.59
	2021	286	26	1.14	1.49	=	-	11.06
	2020	387	38	1.15	1.92	-	=	10.16
Series FH	2019	794	65	1.23	1.38	=	=	12.16
Selles FII	2018	826	79	1.37	1.54	-	-	10.42
	2017	892	78	1.36	1.68	-	-	11.43
	2016	268	25	1.37	2.25	-	=	10.60
	2021	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.72
	2020	1	-	0.00	0.00	-	=	9.79
Series IH	2019	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.43
Selles III	2018	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.08
	2017	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	11.09
	2016	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	10.60

- 4. The financial information presented in the Ratios and Supplemental Data table is derived from the Fund's Net Asset Value and is provided as at December 31 of the years shown.
- 5. The management expense ratio ("MER") is calculated as the total management fees and operating expenses paid by each series of the Fund, including GST/HST and interest and excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs and is expressed as a percentage of the average daily Net Asset Value of each series of the Fund on an annualized basis. Any management fee distributions paid by a series of the fund that effectively reduced management fees payable by some unitholders are not deducted from expenses to determine the overall MER of that series. The Manager, at its sole discretion, waives management fees or absorbs expenses. Such waivers and absorptions can be terminated at any time. The MERs of the Fund are shown both with and without the waiver and absorptions.
- 6. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated at the Fund level based on the lesser of purchases or proceeds of sales of securities for the period, excluding cash, short term notes and bonds having maturity dates at acquisition of one year or less, divided by the average value of the portfolio securities for the period. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a Fund.
- 7. The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value of the Fund. The trading expense ratio is calculated at the Fund level and applies to all series of the Fund.

## **MANAGEMENT FEES**

Bridgehouse Asset Managers, the Manager, provides or arranges for investment management, distribution, marketing and promotion of the Fund. In consideration for the services provided, Bridgehouse Asset Managers receives a monthly management fee based on the daily average Net Asset Value of Series A, Series AH, Series F and Series FH. Management fees for Series I and Series IH are negotiated and paid directly by the unitholders of Series I and Series IH, not by the Fund.

For the six months period ended June 30, 2021, the Fund paid Bridgehouse Asset Managers management fees of \$328,914. Bridgehouse uses these management fees to pay for commission payments to registered brokers and dealers and general investment management expenses. The breakdown (commission payments / investment management, administration and other) as a proportion of the management fee for each Series are:

- Series A, AH (51% / 49%)
- Series F, FH (0% / 100%)
- Series I, IH (0% / 100%)

Commission payments represent cash commissions paid by Bridgehouse Asset Managers to registered brokers and dealers during the period and includes upfront deferred sales charge and trailing commissions. This amount may, in certain circumstances, exceed 100% of the fees earned by the Bridgehouse Asset Managers during the period. For new Funds or Series the amount presented may not be indicative of longer term operating periods.

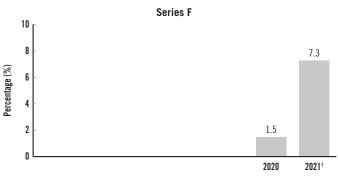
## PAST PERFORMANCE\*

This section shows the historical performance for each series of the Fund for the six months ended June 30, 2021 and each of the previous annual periods ended December 31. Historical performance is based on the change in Net Asset Value per unit, assuming reinvestment of all distributions. Management fees and operating expenses have been taken into account before calculating performance, except in the case of Series I and IH units where the management fee is calculated outside of the Fund. Historical performance does not take into account the potential impact on returns of purchases, redemptions, distribution fees or other optional charges or income taxes payable by an investor. Keep in mind that past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future.

# Year-by-Year Returns (%)

The bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the years shown. The bar chart shows how the performance of each series of the Fund has changed from year to year. It illustrates in percentage terms how much an investment in each series of the Fund made on January 1 of each year, or on the inception dates, would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year. 2021 data presented below is for the six-month period ended June 30, 2021.





 $^\dagger \text{Six-month}$  return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.

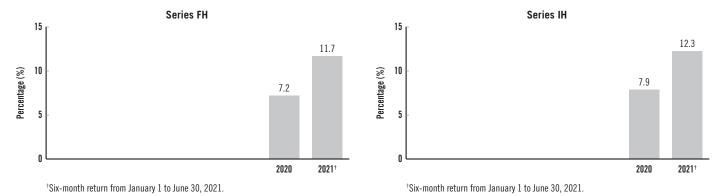
†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.





†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.

†Six-month return from January 1 to June 30, 2021.



\*On May 22, 2020, the Fund acquired assets from a Bridgehouse Fund in a material merger and the performance of the Fund was reset.

# SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT JUNE 30, 2021

# **Top 25 Positions**

The portfolio does not contain any short positions. The investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the investment fund. An updated listing is available on a quarterly basis.

	Security	Fund (%)
1.	Novo Nordisk A/S CI. B	1.4
2.	Verizon Communications Inc.	1.4
3.	Johnson & Johnson	1.4
4.	The Procter & Gamble Company	1.4
5.	Rio Tinto PLC	1.4
6.	Colgate-Palmolive Company	1.2
7.	Walmart Inc.	1.2
8.	Roche Holding AG	1.2
9.	Clorox Company	1.1
10.	Merck & Co., Inc.	1.1
11.	Republic Services, Inc.	1.1
12.	Public Storage, Inc.	1.0
13.	Dollar General Corporation	1.0
14.	Kellogg Company	1.0
15.	Lockheed Martin Corporation	1.0
16.	Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	1.0
17.	Metro Inc.	0.9
18.	Japan Post Bank Co., Ltd.	0.9
19.	Orange SA	0.9
20.	Telenor ASA	0.9
21.	Eli Lilly and Company	0.9
22.	Quebecor Inc. Cl. B	0.9
23.	Hydro One Limited	0.9
24.	The Hershey Company	0.9
25.	Orkla ASA	0.8
	% of Fund	26.9
	Total Number of Companies	201
	Total Net Asset Value (\$MM)	\$37

# **Asset Mix**

Asset Class	Fund (%)
Global Equity	91.2
Canadian Equity	6.7
Cash & Cash Equivalent	0.0
Other Net Assets	2.1
% of Total	100.0

# SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS AT JUNE 30, 2021 (CONTINUED)

# **Industry Exposure**

Industry	Fund (%)
Pharmaceuticals	8.3
Equity Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)	7.0
Food & Staples Retailing	6.2
Electric Utilities	5.8
Food Products	5.0
Diversified Telecommunications Services	4.8
Household Products	4.1
IT Services	3.5
Metals & Mining	3.1
Insurance	2.9
Commercial Banks	2.7
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	2.5
Multiline Retail	2.3
Aerospace & Defense	2.2
Biotechnology	2.1
Software	2.2
Media	2.0
Health Care Equipment & Supplies	2.0
Tobacco	1.9
Multi-Utilities	1.8
Health Care Providers & Services	1.7
Beverages	1.4
Diversified Financial Services	1.4
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	1.4
Wireless Telecommunications Services	1.4
Communications Equipment	1.3
Professional Services	1.3
Trading Companies & Distributors	1.3
Diversified Consumer Services	1.2
Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	1.2
Specialty Retail	1.2
Gas Utilities	1.1
Real Estate Management & Development	1.1
Commercial Services & Supplies	1.1
Capital Markets	1.0
Life Sciences Tools & Services	0.9
Household Durables	0.7
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	0.5
Construction & Engineering	0.5
Water Utilities	0.5
Entertainment	0.4
Industrial Conglomerates	0.4
Containers & Packaging	0.4
Machinery	0.3
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	0.3
Road & Rail	0.3
Marine	0.2
Construction Materials	0.2
Internet Software & Services	0.2
Thrifts & Mortgage Finance	0.2
Independent Power and Renewable Electricity Producers	0.2
Electrical Equipment	0.2
Cash & Cash Equivalent	0.0
Other Net Assets	2.1
% of Total	100.0
Total Number of Industries	52

# **Country Exposure**

Country	Fund (%)
United States	57.6
Japan	13.2
Canada	6.7
United Kingdom	5.1
Switzerland	2.3
Australia	2.0
Netherlands	1.9
Denmark	1.8
Norway	1.7
France	1.4
Sweden	0.9
Hong Kong	0.9
Singapore	0.8
Belgium	0.7
Ireland	0.4
Spain	0.3
New Zealand	0.2
Cash and Cash Equivalent	0.0
Other Net Assets	2.1
% of Total	100.0
Total Number of Countries	17

Note: Rounding to one decimal place may result in individual figures totalling more or less than 100%



**BRIDGEHOUSE**