

## PEAR TREE POLARIS INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

**FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**, the Pear Tree Polaris International Opportunities Fund's Ordinary Shares (the "Fund") underperformed its benchmark, the MSCI ACWI ex USA Index (the "Index"). The Fund had a return of (10.84%) at net asset value compared to (7.50%) for the Index.

### Market Conditions and Investment Strategies

After three quarters of market gains, the Index declined this quarter with all sectors suffering losses. The Fund was in a similar position, yet outperformed the Index in Health Care, Materials and Consumer Staples. Cyclical sectors declined including Consumer Discretionary, Information Technology (IT) and Financials. At the country level, the Fund had single-digit gains in Germany, Belgium, Singapore and a few other regions, offset by weakness in Taiwan, United Kingdom, China and Switzerland. Foreign exchange also impacted performance, as the U.S. dollar gained against most global currencies.

Barbell returns defined the Consumer Discretionary sector, with a handful of holdings in the top 10 and bottom 10 of the portfolio. Games Workshop Group was up more than 15%, after reporting strong core sales and operating profits; the company entered London's FTSE 100 Index. Sony Group posted solid gaming and music revenues, and also announced a strategic alliance with Kadokawa Corporation. Conversely, shares of Collins Foods fell on a weak outlook, strained by subdued consumer spending, rising wages and higher energy costs. Alibaba Group was down after announcing plans to sell its non-core investment in Sun Art Retail Group to a private equity firm at a significant loss.

The IT sector struggled with Also Holding, Sesa SPA and Samsung Electronics down, the latter of which was due to proposed semiconductor chip trade restrictions from the U.S. Among other decliners, chocolatier Barry Callebaut encountered higher cocoa bean prices. Equatorial Energia's underlying operations were solid; however, concerns arose that Brazil's fiscal deficit may impact consumer demand.

We must also highlight a number of standout performers for the quarter: SIXT's quarterly revenues reached an all-time high on strong operating performance and better vehicle procurement metrics. Among Financials, Singapore-based United Overseas Bank announced impressive earnings. Sparebanken Vest's stock price climbed after the Norwegian government eased restrictions on mortgage lending requirements.

### Portfolio Changes

The impetus for quarterly sales was two-fold: 1) to reduce exposure to cyclicals in favor of defensive names and 2) to reduce emphasis on European small cap names, as European markets continue to struggle. The vast majority of sales were made on an opportunistic basis, selling at a profit in advance of any potential slowdown going into 2025. Cash was redeployed to Health Care companies, Takeda Pharmaceutical and Sanofi; a few attractive buys in Information Technology, including CapGemini, Bechtel and the repurchase of TriChemical; and a new position in Sanyang Motor Co., a Taiwanese motorcycle company taking market share locally and in the greater China area.

### Outlook

Growth projections for 2025 remain muted across most of Europe, as evidenced by the mere 0.3% annual growth estimate for Germany and 0.9% for France, among other nations. China's stimulus measures met with some lopsided success (up 5% for 2024), as industry and exports gained but consumption lagged. Pending U.S. tariff hikes could cloud the outlook. Aware of these macro trends, we have reduced our small-cap exposure, added more defensive companies and sought to diversify geographically (especially in Southeast Asia) to position our portfolio for strong performance. ❖

## TOTAL EXPENSE RATIOS\*

	Gross Expense Ratio*	Net Expense Ratio*
Ordinary Shares	1.57%	1.47%
Institutional Shares	1.16%	0.84%
R6 Shares	1.09%	0.96%

\* Per Prospectus dated August 1, 2024, as amended November 1, 2024. Reflects all fee waivers and expense reimbursements currently in effect. Fee waivers and expense reimbursements may not be amended, rescinded or terminated before July 31, 2025 without the consent of the Fund's Trustees.

## A WORD ABOUT RISK

Investing in foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, can be more volatile than the U.S. market due to increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market or economic developments and can perform differently than the U.S. market.

The Fund is non-diversified, meaning it may concentrate its assets in fewer individual holdings than a diversified fund. Therefore, the Fund is more exposed to individual stock volatility than diversified funds. As a result, a decline in the value of the securities of one issuer could have a significant negative effect on the Fund. The Fund may have significant investments in one or more specific industry sectors, subjecting it to risks greater than general market risk. For example, adverse news from just one or two companies in a particular industry can hurt the prices of all stocks in that industry.

### Investment Products

- Not FDIC insured
- May lose value
- No bank guarantee

## PEAR TREE POLARIS INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS

as of December 31, 2024 (The portfolio is actively managed. Holdings and weightings are subject to change daily.)

### Top Ten Holdings

Percentage of total net assets	27.3%
SOL S.p.A.	3.6%
Cranswick plc	3.5%
Neurones S.A.	2.9%
EQB Inc.	2.6%
D'leteren S.A.	2.6%
goeasy Ltd.	2.5%
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	2.5%
ALSO Holding AG	2.5%
Sparebanken Vest	2.3%
Chailease Holding Co., Ltd.	2.3%

The companies mentioned in the commentary on page one have the following percentage of total net assets as of 12/31/2024:

Equatorial Energia	2.3%
Barry Callebaut	2.2%
SIXT	2.2%
United Overseas Bank	2.1%
Alibaba Group	1.9%
Collins Food	1.7%
Samsung Electronics	1.4%
Games Workshop Group	1.3%
Sanofi	1.0%
Sony Group	0.9%
Takeda Pharmaceutical	0.9%
TriChemical	0.9%
Sanyang Motor Co.	0.9%
CapGemini	0.8%
Bechtle	0.8%
Sesa SPA	0.7%

## PERFORMANCE

as of December 31, 2024

### Average Annual Total Returns at Net Asset Value

	Unannualized		Annualized					
	Q4	Calendar YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
Ordinary Shares	(10.84%)	(5.62%)	(5.62%)	(4.17%)	2.43%	—	5.13%	01/30/2019
Institutional Shares	(10.68%)	(5.07%)	(5.07%)	(3.66%)	2.89%	—	5.60%	01/30/2019
R6 Shares	(10.67%)	(5.14%)	(5.14%)	(3.66%)	2.91%	—	5.62%	01/30/2019
MSCI ACWI ex USA <sup>1</sup>	(7.50%)	6.09%	6.09%	1.35%	4.61%	—	6.13%	—

<sup>1</sup>The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index captures large and mid-cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries (excluding the United States) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. With 2,058 constituents as of 12/31/2024, the index covers approximately 85% of the global equity opportunity set outside the United States. You cannot invest directly in an index. For comparative performance purposes, the beginning date of the Index is 01/30/2019. The MSCI ACWI ex USA Index is maintained by MSCI Inc.

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. For the most recent month-end performance, visit the Fund's website at [www.pearreefunds.com](http://www.pearreefunds.com).

For information about the Pear Tree Polaris International Opportunities Fund, obtain the Fund's prospectus by calling (800) 326-2151 or visiting [www.pearreefunds.com](http://www.pearreefunds.com). Before investing carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.