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Global Fund Exchange vehicle to invest in agriculture, water and natural resources

March 15, 2011 By [admin](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Global Fund Exchange has launched the AquaTerra Fund which invests in global opportunities in agriculture, water and natural resources.

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The fund is a carve-out of the existing agriculture, water and natural resources strategies of the asset manager's flagship portfolio, Earth Wind Fire Fund. This is a diversified, global macro, multi-manager investment portfolio of the global specialists in all areas of new energy. The fund takes a broad-spectrum approach to investing across the entire energy grid, allowing the manager to diversify the strategy by geography, sector, asset classes and themes.

The AquaTerra Fund, which opens to investors on March 22 (World Water Day), is a more concentrated portfolio investing in agriculture, water and other scarce natural resources across equities, commodities and futures. It is managed by the same multi-manager team at Global Fund Exchange, headed by CEO and chief operating officer Lauralouise Duffy and Anric Blatt.

The company also plans to launch the Liquid Earth Fund later this year, a diversified liquid portfolio of exchange traded funds (ETFs) and notes (ETNs) with dynamic allocations to energy, commodities, agriculture, water, clean energy and carbon with a systematic hedging overlay.

The fund, domiciled in the Cayman Islands as a master/feeder structure, will make investments across all available asset classes: public equities, bonds, options, futures and physical commodities.

Global Fund Exchange said the universe of specialist managers, even those grouped in traditional energy, have differing styles and approaches. For example, one manager may specialise in long/short trading equities of publicly listed energy-related stocks while another on trading only the futures of oil and gas with specific skills in trading the crack spreads found in the differing products that can be produced from a barrel of oil.

This, believes Global Fund Exchange, should give the fund's portfolio diversity and help keep it uncorrelated to markets.

The portfolio will focus on opportunities in clean energy, traditional energy, water, carbon and emissions trading, natural resources and agriculture.

Managers are strategically located throughout the world in order to capture niche markets and remain focused on and close to their target investments

The fund will take a broad-spectrum approach across the entire energy grid, helping to diversify the strategy by geography, sector, asset class and themes. This combined with a macro overlay and active portfolio management style should significantly reduce volatility.

Investments will also be made in systematic traders to provide highly liquid, uncorrelated assets focused on absolute returns.

The portfolios will be first weighted in three primary sectors and sub-sectors: equity-sensitive sectors (predominantly long-biased and including clean energy, water and agriculture); commodity (energy, carbon and emissions and commodity and natural resources) and alpha or trend-sensitive sectors (showing negative bear market correlation to equity-sensitive sectors and includes systematic traders and uncorrelated hedges cash and equivalents.

The fund will have monthly dealing with quarterly redemption. The minimum investment is \$1 million.

Global Fund Exchange specialises in tailor-made multi-manager portfolios and manages over \$2 billion for a broad range of clients including pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and other institutions in global tactical asset allocation, alternative investments, energy, commodity and multi-strategies.

Duffy has been a principal and the CEO of Global Fund Exchange since 2006. She has a 21-year career in finance and hedge funds across a range of asset classes in emerging and developed markets.

Blatt has been with the Global Fund Exchange group since its founding in 2005. His principal areas of focus include strategy allocation, portfolio management, manager research, due diligence and new product development and structuring.

Global Fund Exchange was originally established in Hong Kong and Switzerland to provide fund establishment, seeding and legal infrastructure, independent risk monitoring and compliance for emerging managers. The group relocated to the US in 2007 where it carries out fund management including portfolio construction, manager selection, due diligence, macro overlay, asset allocation and portfolio management. The group companies provide independent risk monitoring and ongoing due diligence to institutional clients across all asset classes and managers in its portfolios.

Fund facts

Name of fund: AquaTerra Fund

Fund management company: Global Fund Exchange

Portfolio managers: Lauralouise Duffy and Anric Blatt

Contact details: Contact: 222 Townsend Square, Oyster Bay, New York 11771 (+1 212 570 7970; www.globalfundexchange.com)

Launch date: March 22, 2011

Strategy: global agriculture, water and natural resources

Domicile: Cayman Islands master/feeder structure

Minimum investment: \$1 million

Custodian: Deutsche Bank (Cayman)

Auditor: Eisner

Administrator: Deutsche Bank Alternative Fund Services

Redemption/liquidity: monthly dealing, quarterly redemption

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