Improved Conditions, Increased Equity
VanEck NDR Managed Allocation Fund Review

By David Schassler, Portfolio Manager

Overview

The VanEck NDR Managed Allocation Fund (the “Fund”) returned +1.10% in May versus +2.20% for its blended 60/40 benchmark.

In June, the Fund lagged its benchmark due its defensive positioning. It held a 24% allocation to stocks and a 76% allocation to bonds. Being underweight stocks in June hurt performance as stocks continued to rally. The MSCI All Country World Index returned +3.2%, besting the performance of bonds, with the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index returning +0.06%. Regionally, while underweight all of the equity regions because of its defensive posture the Fund was bullish on the U.S. and Europe ex. U.K, and bearish on the Emerging Markets and the U.K. Relative to the MSCI All Country World Index, the U.S. and the U.K. lagged, while Europe ex. U.K. and the Emerging Markets outperformed. Within the U.S., the Fund favored growth over value. This worked well as the Russell 3000 Growth Index returned +4.3% and the Russell 3000 Value Index returned -0.5%.

Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Mo†</th>
<th>YTD†</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Year</th>
<th>Since Inception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class A: NAV</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>-5.54</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Inception 5/11/16)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class A: Maximum 5.75% load</td>
<td>-4.71</td>
<td>-10.97</td>
<td>-6.49</td>
<td>-0.93</td>
<td>2.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% MSCI ACWI/40% Bloomberg Barclays US Agg.</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>-0.84</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>7.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morningstar Tactical Allocation Category (average)²</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>-5.61</td>
<td>-1.20</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Annual Total Returns (%) as of March 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Mo†</th>
<th>YTD†</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Year</th>
<th>Since Inception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Inception 5/11/16)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class A: Maximum 5.75% load</td>
<td>-12.19</td>
<td>-16.89</td>
<td>-12.17</td>
<td>-2.15</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% MSCI ACWI/40% Bloomberg Barclays US Agg.</td>
<td>-8.30</td>
<td>-11.95</td>
<td>-2.82</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morningstar Tactical Allocation Category (average)²</td>
<td>-9.34</td>
<td>-13.87</td>
<td>-7.90</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

²Returns less than a year are not annualized.

Expenses: Class A: Gross 2.03%; Net 1.32%. Expenses are capped contractually until 05/01/21 at 1.15% for Class A. Caps excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest, trading, dividends, and interest payment of securities sold short, taxes, and extraordinary expenses.

The tables present past performance which is no guarantee of future results and which may be lower or higher than current performance. Returns reflect applicable fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements. Had the Fund incurred all expenses and fees, investment returns would have been reduced. Investment returns and Fund share values will fluctuate so that investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Fund returns assume that dividends and capital gains distributions have been reinvested in the Fund at net asset value (NAV). An index's performance is not illustrative of the Fund’s performance. Indices are not securities in which investments can be made. Index returns assume that dividends of the Index constituents in the Index have been reinvested.

All weighting comparisons are relative to the blended benchmark (60% MSCI ACWI/40% Bloomberg Barclays US Agg.) or neutral allocation. This represents the starting allocation point absent an alternative recommendation once the model takes into consideration the indicators that yield the global tactical allocation model.

Please see additional information regarding benchmark and Morningstar category performance on last page.

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The Fund correctly cut risk at the beginning of March by reducing its equity exposure from 72% to 47%. However, the Fund has lagged to the upside over the past few months because it reduced its stock exposure to below 30% from April through June due to the risks in the market. Over this period, the market has rebounded due to the astonishing levels of monetary and fiscal policy actions. Now, due to the price stability in the markets, the Fund has increased its equity position, but still remains defensively positioned.

Weight-of-the-Evidence
In July, the Managed Allocation Fund increased its stock exposure from 24% to 47.5% and reduced its bond exposure from 76% to 52%. The chart below shows the current reading for the NDR composition of stock/bond indicators. Readings between 45 and 55 are the neutral zone. Higher scores are associated with bullish environments and lower scores are associated with bearish environments.

The current score is 39. The score fell significantly from February to May and has since recovered, leading the Fund to a current moderate equity underweight.
The reasons for the increase in the stock/bond score are as follows:

- Global equity market breadth, as measured by what percentage of countries are rallying, changed from 0% to 100% over the past month. This is an indication that the rally is likely to continue.

- Corporate high yield bonds have posted a spectacular rebound in prices. The chart below compares the 30-day moving average to the 70-day average of global corporate high yield total returns. The 30-day above the 70-day demonstrates positive momentum in pricing. Improved pricing on the debt of borrowers in non-investment grade debt is a good indication that the condition of the market is improving.

The markets are now at a critical point. Asset prices have largely recovered, while the risks of COVID-19 remain. The Fund will continue to assess the risks within the markets and, if conditions continue to improve, the Fund will cautiously increase its exposure to equities. Alternatively, a major resurgence of risk will result in continued defensiveness.
NDR Indicator Summary, June 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stocks, Bonds, or Cash</th>
<th>Macro/Fundamental</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocks (vs. Bonds)</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds (vs. Cash)</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Regional Equity</th>
<th>Macro/Fundamental</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe ex. U.K.</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific ex. Japan</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Markets</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. Cap &amp; Style</th>
<th>Macro/Fundamental</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large-Cap</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-Cap</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Bullish</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Bearish</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allocations Since Inception
Manager Commentary  June 2020

Asset Class Positioning vs. Neutral Allocation, July 2020

Asset Class Positioning Changes, July vs. June

Global Balanced
- Stocks
- Bonds
- Cash/T-Bills

Global Regional Equity
- U.S.
- U.K.
- Europe ex U.K.
- Japan
- Pacific ex Japan
- Emerging Markets
- Canada

U.S. Market Cap and Style
- Large-Cap Value
- Large-Cap Growth
- Small-Cap Value
- Small-Cap Growth

Global Regional Equity
- U.S.
- U.K.
- Europe ex U.K.
- Japan
- Pacific ex Japan
- Emerging Markets
- Canada

Global Balanced
- Stocks
- Bonds
- Cash/T-Bills

Global Regional Equity
- U.S.
- U.K.
- Europe ex U.K.
- Japan
- Pacific ex Japan
- Emerging Markets
- Canada

U.S. Market Cap and Style
- Large-Cap Value
- Large-Cap Growth
- Small-Cap Value
- Small-Cap Growth

Manager Commentary  June 2020
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The Fund’s benchmark is a blended unmanaged index created by the Van Eck Associates Corporation (the "Adviser") consisting of 60% MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) and 40% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index. The MSCI ACWI captures large- and mid-cap representation across all developed and emerging markets countries and covers approximately 85% of the global investable equity opportunity set. The Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. This includes treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities and collateralized mortgage-backed securities.

Morningstar category averages are equal-weighted category (total) returns. The calculation is the average of the total returns for all funds in a given category. The standard category average calculation is based on constituents of the category at the end of the period. Total return reflects performance without adjusting for sales charges or the effects of taxation, but is adjusted to reflect all ongoing fund expenses and assumes reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. If adjusted, sales charges would reduce the performance quoted.

The Morningstar Tactical Allocation category includes portfolios that seek to provide capital appreciation and income by actively shifting allocations across investments. These portfolios have material shifts across equity regions, and bond sectors on a frequent basis. To qualify for the tactical allocation category, a fund must have minimum exposures of 10% in bonds and 20% in equity. Next, a fund must historically demonstrate material shifts in sector or regional allocations either through a gradual shift over three years or through a series of material shifts on a quarterly basis. Within a three-year period, typically the average quarterly changes between equity regions and bond sectors exceeds 15% or the difference between the maximum and minimum exposure to a single equity region or bond sector exceeds 50%. As of March 31, 2020, the Fund ranked 73 out of 251 funds for the 1 month period; 87 out of 251 funds for the YTD period; 104 out of 248 funds for the 1 Year period; 131 out of 234 funds for the 3 Year period; and 114 out of 229 funds since inception. As of June 30, 2020, the Fund ranked 147 out of 244 funds for the 1 month period; 110 out of 244 funds for the YTD period; 105 out of 243 funds for the 1 Year period; 154 out of 226 funds for the 3 Year period; and 133 out of 220 funds since inception.

Global stocks are measured by the MSCI ACWI and U.S. bonds are measured by the Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index. Large-cap stocks are measured by the Russell 1000 Index, an index of the largest 1,000 companies in the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 1000 Index comprises over 90% of the total market capitalization of all listed U.S. stocks. Small-cap stocks are measured by the Russell 2000 Index, an index which measures the performance of the smallest 2,000 companies within the Russell 3000 Index. Value stocks are measured by the Russell 3000 Value Index, a market-capitalization weighted equity index based on the Russell 3000 Index, which measures how U.S. stocks in the equity value segment perform. Included in the Russell 3000 Value Index are stocks from the Russell 3000 Index with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth rates. Growth stocks are measured by the Russell 3000 Growth Index, a market-capitalization weighted index based on the Russell 3000 Index. The Russell 3000 Growth Index includes companies that display signs of above average growth. Companies within the Russell 3000 Index that exhibit higher price-to-book and forecast earnings are expected to form the Russell 3000 Growth Index. U.S. stocks are measured by the Russell 3000 Index which is a capitalization-weighted stock market index that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S. stock market. It measures the performance of the 3,000 largest publicly held companies incorporated in America and is based on market capitalization. The MSCI Europe ex UK Index captures large and mid cap representation across developed markets (DM) countries in Europe. The MSCI Canada Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the Canadian market. The MSCI Pacific ex Japan Index captures large and mid cap representation across developed markets (DM) countries in the Pacific region (excluding Japan). Emerging Markets stock are measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets Index which captures large and mid cap representation across emerging markets (EM) countries. The MSCI United Kingdom Index is designed to measure the performance of the large and mid cap segments of the UK market. The S&P 500® Index consists of 500 widely held common stocks, covering four broad sectors [industrials, utilities, financial and transportation]. International stocks are measured by the MSCI EAFE captures large and mid cap representation across developed markets countries around the world, excluding the US and Canada. U.S. Dollar Index (DXY) indicates the general international value of the U.S. dollar. The DXY does this by averaging the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and six major world currencies: Euro, Japanese yen, Pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Swedish kroner, and Swiss franc. Please note that the information herein represents the opinion of the author, but not necessarily those of VanEck, and these opinions may change at any time and from time to time. Non-VanEck proprietary information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but not guaranteed. Not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results or investment advice. Historical performance is not indicative of future results. Current data may differ from data quoted. Any graphs shown herein are for illustrative purposes only. No part of this material may be reproduced in any form, or referred to in any other publication, without express written permission of VanEck.

All indices are managed and include the reinvestment of all dividends, but do not reflect the payment of transaction costs, advisory fees or expenses that are associated with an investment in the Fund. Certain indices may take into account withholding taxes. An index’s performance is not illustrative of the Fund’s performance. Indices are not securities in which investments can be made. Results reflect past performance and do not guarantee future results.

You can lose money by investing in the Fund. Any investment in the Fund should be part of an overall investment program rather than a complete program. Because the Fund is a “fund-of-funds,” an investor will indirectly bear the principal risks of the exchange-traded products in which it invests, including but not limited to, risks associated with cash and cash equivalents, debt securities, exchange traded products, exchange traded products’ underlying investments, below investment grade securities, commodities and commodity-linked derivatives, commodities and commodity-linked derivatives tax, common stock, concentration, derivatives, emerging markets, investment style, small-medium and large-capitalization companies, limited number of holdings, market, model and data, operational, portfolio turnover and regulatory risks. The Fund will bear its share of the fees and expenses of the exchange-traded products. Consequently, an investment in the Fund entails more direct and indirect expenses than a direct investment in an exchange-traded product. Because the Fund invests in exchange-traded products, it is subject to additional risks that do not apply to conventional mutual funds, including the risks that the market price of an exchange-traded product’s shares may be higher or lower than the value of its underlying assets, there may be a lack of liquidity in the shares of the exchange-traded product, or trading may be halted by the exchange on which they trade. Principal risks of investing in foreign securities include changes in currency rates, foreign taxation and differences in auditing and other financial standards. Debt securities may be subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. Investments in debt securities typically decrease in value when interest rates rise.

Please call 800.826.2333 or visit vanek.com for performance information current to the most recent month end and for a free prospectus and summary prospectus. An investor should consider the Fund’s investment objective, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this as well as other information. Please read them carefully before investing.

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