# March 2025

# Weiss Korea Opportunity Fund

Since Inception<sup>4</sup>

78.6%

42.6%

35.5%

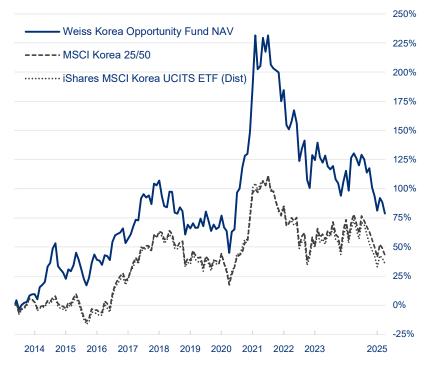
12 Month

-22.4%

-19.8%

-21.8%

Performance	Month	YTD
Weiss Korea Opportunity Fund NAV <sup>2,3</sup>	-5.1%	-1.4%
MSCI Korea 25/50 <sup>1,3</sup>	-4.2%	1.0%
iShares MSCI Korea UCITS ETF (Dist) <sup>3</sup>	-3.5%	2.1%



## **Portfolio Statistics**

Portfolio Discount <sup>8</sup>	43.3%
Average Trailing 12-Month P/E Ratio of Preference Shares Held <sup>9</sup>	5.3x
Trailing Net Dividend Yield of Preference Shares Held <sup>10</sup>	2.9%
Number of Positions <sup>11</sup>	28
Percentage of NAV Invested in Preference Shares	
Net Cash Balance <sup>12</sup>	1.6%

## Top 10 Holdings<sup>13</sup>

Samsung Kodex 200 ETF.	17%
LG Electronics Inc., Prf.	12%
CJ CheilJedang Corp, Prf.	8%
Hanwha Corporation 3rd Prf.	8%
Doosan Corporation, 1st Prf.	7%
Amorepacific Corp., Prf.	6%
Mirae Asset Daewoo Co., Ltd., 2nd Prf.	6%
LG Household & Health Care Ltd., Prf.	6%
CJ Corporation, 1st Prf.	4%
Kumho Petro Chemical Co., Ltd., Prf.	4%
Top 10 Holdings	78%

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## Fund Strategy

Weiss Korea Opportunity Fund ("WKOF") invests primarily in listed South Korean preference shares trading at a discount to common shares of the same issuers. South Korean preference shares are equity shares that are generally entitled to receive the same dividends as common shares. Unlike the common shares, preference shares typically receive an additional fixed payment and have limited voting rights. As a result of their discount to the common shares, South Korean preference shares' price-to-earnings ratios are typically lower and the dividend yields higher than their respective common shares.

The 'Portfolio Discount' in the Portfolio Statistics table represents the discount of WKOF's actual NAV to the value of what the NAV would be if WKOF held the respective common shares of issuers rather than preference shares on a one-to-one basis.

On 19 March 2025, WKOF published a circular to shareholders setting out the recommended proposal for a managed wind-down of WKOF and to convene an extraordinary general meeting, which is set to take place on 14 April 2025, to seek the approval of shareholders for certain proposals to facilitate the implementation of the managed wind-down.

## Commentary

WKOF underperformed the MSCI Korea 25/50 Index (the "Benchmark") year-to-date through March, returning -1.4% compared to 1.0% for the Benchmark. In March, major detractors were the preference shares of Doosan and Amorepacific, which returned -11.4% and -11.2%, respectively, in GBP terms. CJ Corp. preference shares were a top contributor with a GBP return of 5.9%.

March and early April 2025 proved to be an eventful period for South Korea regarding trade policy, with the Trump administration announcing a 10% universal tariff followed by a 25% reciprocal tariff on all South Korean goods. With so much uncertainty regarding tariffs, it is too early to comment on their impact on the South Korean economy or WKOF's holdings.

On 4 April 2025, the South Korean Constitutional Court, in a unanimous decision, removed President Yoon from office, four months after Yoon's decision to declare martial law in South Korea last year. A presidential election will be held on 3 June 2025.



#### **About Weiss Asset Management**

Weiss Asset Management ("WAM") is an investment management firm headquartered in Boston, MA registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment adviser and with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a commodity pool operator. WAM manages multiple investment vehicles, including private hedge funds, a London listed closed-ended fund (WKOF), and an institutional separate account. The firm was founded by Dr. Andrew Weiss, an academic economist, who launched his first fund in 1991. WAM employs deep fundamental and statistical analysis to find undervalued securities globally, and seeks to maximize risk-adjusted returns for its investor base that includes charitable foundations, pension plans, endowments, hospitals, government entities and private investors. The firm has 100+ employees and assets under management of approximately £3.0 billion as of 28 February 2025.

#### **Fund Information**

Ticker (London)	WKOF	Exchange	AIM
Net Assets	£95,624,844	ISIN	GG00B933LL68
NAV/Share <sup>2</sup>	£1.38	SEDOL	B933LL6
Price/Share	£1.37	Investment Manager	Weiss Asset Management LP
Premium/(Discount) <sup>2</sup>	(0.76%)	Broker & NOMAD	Singer Capital Markets
Median Premium/(Discount) <sup>5</sup>	(1.88%)	Auditor	KPMG Channel Islands Limited
Dividend Yield <sup>6</sup>	4.65%	Administrator	Northern Trust International Fund Administration Services
Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	2.1%	/ tarihino tator	(Guernsey) Limited
Inception	14 May 2013	Website www.weisskoreaopportunityfund.com	

### Endnotes

1. The MSCI Korea 25/50 Index (USD) (available on Bloomberg as "MSCI Korea 25/50 Net Total Return Index") is reported in United States dollars. To calculate monthly returns in British pounds sterling, the monthly values provided by the index are converted into sterling at the exchange rate taken as of 4pm New York time on the last date of the prior month and on the last day of the applicable month, and accordingly, such returns may differ from indices using other conversion methodologies such as those that use the daily closing exchange rate on each trading day during a given month. Further information relating to the Index is set forth in the Admission Document, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time. The iShares MSCI Korea UCITS ETF USD (Dist) is reported in United States dollars. To calculate the monthly returns in British pounds sterling, the monthly values provided by the ETF are converted into sterling at the exchange rate taken as of 4pm London time on the last date of the prior month and on the last day of the applicable month.

2. On 04 April 2022, WKOF began reporting the NAV based on data as at the close of business in South Korea for all assets and FX rates. Dividends from WKOF's underlying investments are accounted for in the NAV of WKOF on the relevant ex dates (or accrued on the ex date based on an estimated amount if the actual amount is unknown). Whilst the estimated dividends, and therefore the estimated NAV, are prepared in good faith, there can be no guarantee that they are accurate in all respects.

3. For WKOF, this return includes all dividends paid to WKOF's Shareholders and assumes that these dividends were reinvested in WKOF's Shares at the next date for which WKOF reports a NAV, at the NAV for that date. MSCI total return indices are calculated as if any dividends paid by constituents are reinvested at their respective closing prices on the ex date of the distribution. iShares MSCI Korea UCITS ETF USD (Dist) also assumes reinvestment of dividends.

4. Since inception of Weiss Korea Opportunity Fund on 14 May 2013. The WKOF return since inception is calculated on the basis of the Initial Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share.

5. The median premium or discount of WKOF's price per share relative to WKOF's NAV per share, for all published NAVs for the period since inception to the date of this factsheet. Data sourced from Bloomberg.

6. Calculated as the dividend per share over the last 12-months divided by the share price as of the date of this factsheet.

7. The annualised total expense ratio was 2.1% for the period ended 30 June 2024, as stated on the Unaudited Half-Yearly Financial Report. The annualised total expense ratio includes charges paid to the Investment Manager and other expenses divided by the average NAV for the period.

8. Represents the discount of WKOF's actual NAV to the value of what the NAV would be if WKOF held the respective common shares of issuers rather than preference shares on a one-to-one basis.

9. The Average Trailing 12-Month P/E Ratio of Preference Shares Held is based on the consolidated diluted earnings per share over the trailing 12month period as reported by Bloomberg, and is calculated as the total market value of WKOF's preference share portfolio on the report date divided by the total earnings allocable to WKOF based on WKOF's holdings on the report date. Investments with negative reported earnings are excluded. 10. Trailing Net Dividend Yield of Preference Shares Held represents the weighted average dividend yield of the preference shares owned by

WKOF over the 12-month period ending on the report date as reported by Bloomberg, after accounting for Korean taxes applicable to WKOF, and weighted by the market value of each investment on the report date. This figure does not estimate or forecast future dividend payments on WKOF's investments.

11. Number of Positions does not include credit default swaps or options held by the portfolio for hedging purposes.

12. Net Cash Balance includes cash and cash equivalents, net of accruals, and does not include credit default swaps or options held by the portfolio for hedging purposes, which account for the remaining percentage of NAV.

13. Top 10 Holdings is calculated using the market value of all holdings including portfolio hedges.

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### **Important Disclosures**

All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal. Investing in international and emerging markets may involve additional risks, such as social and political instability, market illiquidity, exchange-rate fluctuations, a high level of volatility and limited regulation. In addition, singlecountry and sector funds may be subject to a higher degree of market risk than diversified funds because of concentration in a specific industry, sector or geographic region. Please see WKOF's Admission Document for a more complete discussion of the investment objective, strategy and risks associated with WKOF.

Net Asset Value (NAV) performance is not linked to share price performance, and shareholders may realise individual returns that are lower or higher than the performance of NAV. The annual investment management charge and other charges are deducted from capital.

WKOF performance and NAV data used in this factsheet for the 2024 and 2025 financial year periods are estimates, based on unaudited valuations. Final performance and NAV based on audited data may differ materially from that presented herein. While the information contained herein has been prepared in good faith from sources believed to be reliable, no representations, warranties or undertakings (express or implied) are given as to, or in relation to, the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained herein, and all liability therefore is expressly disclaimed.

Given the continuing political tensions in Asia, the Manager, after consulting with the Board of Directors, caused WKOF to implement a general hedging strategy with the goal of reducing overall market risk in the portfolio. This strategy has generally included the purchase of credit default swaps on the sovereign debt of South Korea and/or put options on the iShares MSCI South Korea ETF, but the composition of the hedges and the notional value of protection held by WKOF has changed and will continue to change over time. Moreover, there is no requirement or representation that WKOF will be hedged at all times or adequately hedged at any particular time. The composition of hedges held by WKOF as of the dates of the financial statements will be disclosed in the semi-annual and annual financial reports.

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