Dr Nico Marais

Chairman and Co-Founder

Nico has extensive experience in managing international businesses combined with a broad network of individuals, corporates, and other stakeholders. Nico has compiled a Board of Directors of international standards to complement the longer-term vision and expansion of the business.

Nico's impressive career in financial services commenced in 1989 and he has assumed key executive positions in several international financial services companies including Barclays Global Investors, BlackRock, Schroders and Wells Fargo Asset Management. After spending most of his career abroad, Nico has returned to our shores in 2020.

Education

Chartered Financial Analyst (2003)

Doctor Commercii (Phd.) (Central Banking) (1991) University of South Africa (Thesis: "Determining the optimal balance between self-regulation and prudential regulation in the South African banking sector")

M. Comm., B Comm. (Hons), B. Comm. (Economics) (1982-1988)
University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Advanced Diploma in International Economic Policy Research (1987) Kiel Institute of World Economics, Germany

Work Experience

Allspring Global Investors, Senior Advisor (November 2021 to Present)

Wells Fargo Asset Management, President and then CEO (2017 – November 2021)

Schroders, Global Head of Multi Asset Investments and Portfolio Solutions
(2011 – December 2016)
- Implemented an outcome-based business model and a risk premia based investment model
- Global team of 125 portfolio managers, researchers and product strategists
- AUM increased from £31.9bn to £86.6bn. 70%+ of Schroders net new business over 5 years

BlackRock, Global Head of Portfolio Management (Active Allocation), BlackRock Multi Asset and Client Solutions (BMACS) (2009 – 2011)
- Global responsibility for portfolio management, research and investment strategy in London, New York, San Francisco, Sydney and Tokyo

Barclays Global Investors (BGI) (2000-2009)
Global Head of Investment Strategy, Client Solutions Group
- Global responsibility for investment and business strategy for Client Solutions Group (LDI, Diversified Beta, Diversified Alpha, Asset Allocation, Currency Hedging and DC Solutions)

Head of Active Equity Europe (Co-Chair of BGI Branch London)
- Managed team of 40+ portfolio managers, traders, researchers, investment strategists
- Responsible for a $85bn portfolio of long only,130/30 and market neutral strategies

Head of Investment Strategy UK/Europe
- Managed the Active Equity investment strategy team in London

Head of Active Equity Product Management
- Responsible for the commercialization and repositioning of active equity and market neutral products in the US

The World Bank Group (1994-2000) **Investment Strategist, World Bank Pension Fund** (1998 – 2000)
- Investment Management Division – $65 bn. under management
- The formulation and implementation of strategic asset allocation decisions

Senior Fixed Income Portfolio Manager Financial Market Consulting and Training
- Portfolio Management
- Financial Consulting and Training: Primary and secondary capital market developments (Mexico, Philippines), Fund management (Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia)

Investment Officer
- Technical assistance to Mexican Banking Supervisory authorities

South African Reserve Bank (1989 – 1994)
- Assistant Manager, International Banking Department
- Gold Trader
- Bank Supervision Researcher

wealth associates

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