

# **Copeland Funds Sector Update - September 2020**

Since the severe, but short-lived, Q1 market crash, equity markets have steadily recovered despite the significant ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 virus. The social, medical and economic impact of the virus was realized over the spring and summer, which included a massive decline in GDP in the second quarter. However, markets have been supported by massive government stimulus, both fiscal and monetary, even as investors look forward to the taming of the virus and a full reopening of the economy. Still, there are significant medical and political hurdles to clear before this bizarre year is complete. It is far from certain that a vaccine will be successful and timely, nor that massive stimulus will be extended to carry the unemployed and struggling businesses through to the actual eradication of the virus, particularly in this divisive political environment in front of the November elections.

Chart 1



Chart 2





Source: FactSet Data Systems

<u>Copeland Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund (CDGRX)</u> ~ On a total return basis, the Fund returned +3.0% in August 2020, underperforming the S&P 500 Index return of +7.2%. Sector allocation and stock selection were both negative for the month. Approximately 64% equity market exposure prevented full participation in the positive return this month. The underweight in Health Care was a positive contributor for the month. Stock selection in Technology had a negative impact on performance.

We are increasingly confident that in the upcoming days, weeks and months that higher quality dividend growth stocks will differentiate from more stressed business models. At Copeland we'll remain focused on the prospects for dividend growth in the companies in the portfolio, particularly given the rapidly changing economic environment.

There were no sector changes in September. With one positive sector, the strategy will continue to be underweighted to all sectors except Technology and have approximately 36% allocated to cash. The sector targets at present are approximately as follows: Technology (27%), Financials/REITs (8%), Industrials (5%), Health Care (7%), Utilities (5%), Consumer Staples (4%), Consumer Discretionary (5%), Energy (2%), Materials (1%) and Cash (36%).

Low volatility: due to the previous defensive sector positioning, cash levels and ownership of dividend growth stocks, the strategy has produced less volatility over the last five years than the benchmark. During the trailing five year period as of 8/31/20, beta was 0.62 and the strategy's standard deviation (volatility) was 13.5% vs. the S&P 500 Index at 17.0%.

Sector	Signal – September 2020	Target Weight 27%	
Technology	Positive		
Consumer Staples	Negative	4%	
Consumer Discretionary	Negative	5%	
Energy	Negative	2%	
Financials/REITs	Negative	8%	
Health Care	Negative	7%	
Industrials	Negative	5%	
Materials	Negative	1%	
Utilities/Telecom	Negative	5%	
Cash		36%	
Total		100%	

## CDGRX

<u>Copeland International Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund (IDVGX)</u> ~ The Fund's  $\pm 1.9\%$  return underperformed the MSCI World ex USA Index, which was up  $\pm 5.2\%$  in August. The Fund's cash allocation limited the strategy's upside participation for the period. Sector allocation and stock selection were negative for the month. The underweights to Health Care and Consumer Staples were positive contributors, but the underweight to Consumer Discretionary was a detractor to performance. Stock selection in Industrials detracted from performance.

There were no sector changes at the end of August which resulted in the fund maintaining its underweight positions in all sectors and a 50% target allocation to cash. The sector targets at present are approximately as follows: Industrials (10%), Staples (6%), Technology (5%), Utilities (6%), Financials/REITs (11%), Health Care (7%), Discretionary (4%), Energy (2%), Materials (3%), Cash (46%).

The Fund continues to have lower risk metrics vs. the benchmark for the trailing five year period, with a beta of 0.61 and standard deviation of 10.4% vs. 14.3% for the Index.

## IDVGX

Sector	Signal - September 2020	Target Weight	
Consumer Staples	Negative	6%	
Consumer Discretionary	Negative	4%	
Energy	Negative	2%	
Financials/REITs	Negative	11%	
Health Care	Negative	7%	
Industrials	Negative	10%	
Materials	Negative	3%	
Technology	Negative	5%	
Utilities/Telecom	Negative	6%	
Cash		46%	
Total		100%	

	YTD as of 8/31/20	1 Year as of 6/30/20	3 Years as of 6/30/20	5 Years as of 6/30/20	Since Inception 12/28/10 as of 6/30/20
Copeland Risk Managed					
Dividend Gr A	-6.29	-5.99	2.94	2.78	6.58
S&P 500 TR USD	9.74	7.51	10.73	10.72	12.26
Russell 3000 TR USD	9.39	6.53	10.04	10.03	11.87
US Fund Tactical Allocation	1.43	-1.60	2.06	2.28	3.10

	Load-Adj Ret YTD as of 8/31/20	Load-Adj Ret 1 Yr as of 6/30/20			Load-Adj Ret Inception as of 6/30/20
Copeland Risk Managed					
Dividend Gr A with Load	-11.68	-11.39	0.93	1.57	5.92

The maximum sales charge (load) for Class A is 5.75%. The performance data quoted here represents past performance. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted above. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Total annual operating expense ratio for Class A shares is 1.82%. The Fund's adviser has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or absorb expenses of the Fund, until at least March 31, 2021, to ensure that total annual fund operating expenses after fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement (exclusive of any taxes, leverage interest, borrowing interest, brokerage commissions, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, dividend expense on securities sold short, acquired fund fees and expenses or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) will not exceed 1.45% of the daily average net asset value of Class A shares; subject to possible recoupment from the Fund in future years on a rolling three year basis (within the three years after the fees have been waived or reimbursed) if such recoupment can be achieved without exceeding the lesser of the expense limitation in effect at the time of the deferral and at the time of the repayment. This agreement may be terminated by the Fund's Board of Trustees on 60 days' written notice to the

adviser. Please review the Fund's prospectus for more detail on the expense waiver. Results shown reflect the waiver, without which the results could have been lower. A Fund's performance, especially for very short periods of time, should not be the sole factor in making your investment decisions. You cannot invest directly in an index. For performance information current to the most recent month-end, please call toll-free 1-888-9-COPELAND.

	YTD as of 8/31/20	1 Year as of 6/30/20	3 Years as of 6/30/20	5 Years as of 6/30/20	Since Inception 12/18/12 as of 6/30/20
Copeland International Risk Managed Dividend Gr A	-10.14	-7.97	-1.10	-0.77	1.43
MSCI World ex USA NR USD	-4.44	-5.42	0.84	2.01	4.02
	Load-Adj Ret YTD as of 8/31/20	Load-Adj Ret 1 Yr as of 6/30/20	Load-Adj Ret Annizd 3 Yr as of 6/30/20	Load-Adj Ret Annizd 5 Yr as of 6/30/20	Load-Adj Ret Inception as of 6/30/20
Copeland International Risk Managed Dividend Gr A with Load	-15.31	-13.26	-3.04	-1.94	0.64

The maximum sales charge (load) for Class A is 5.75%. The performance data quoted here represents past performance. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted above. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Total annual operating expense ratio for Class A shares is 2.58%. The Fund's adviser has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or absorb expenses of the Fund, until at least March 31, 2021, to ensure that total annual fund operating expenses after fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement (exclusive of any taxes, leverage interest, borrowing interest, brokerage commissions, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, dividend expense on securities sold short, acquired fund fees and expenses or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) will not exceed 1.60% of the daily average net asset value of Class A, subject to possible recoupment from the Fund in future years on a rolling three year basis (within the three years after the fees have been waived or reimbursed) if such recoupment can be achieved without exceeding the lesser of the expense limitation in effect at the time of the deferral and at the time of the repayment. This agreement may be terminated by the Fund's Board of Trustees on 60 days' written notice to the adviser. Please review the Fund's prospectus for more detail on the expense waiver. Results shown reflect the waiver, without which the results could have been lower. A Fund's performance, especially for very short periods of time, should not be the sole factor in making your investment decisions. You cannot invest directly in an index. For performance information current to the most recent month-end, please call toll-free 1-888-9-COPELAND.

The value of an investment in the Funds and the return on investment both will fluctuate and redemption proceeds may be higher or lower than an investor's original cost. Total return is calculated assuming reinvestment of all dividends. Total returns would have been lower had the Adviser, the Distributor, the Administrator, and Custodian not waived or reimbursed a portion of their fees. For performance numbers current to the most recent month-end please call 1-888-9-COPELAND.

# Important Risk Disclosures

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Copeland Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund and the Copeland International Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund. This and other important information about the Fund is contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 1-888-9-COPELAND (1-888-926-7352). The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. The Copeland Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund the Copeland International Risk Managed Dividend Growth Fund are distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC member FINRA/SIPC. Copeland Capital Management, LLC and Northern Lights Distributors, LLC are not affiliated.

Mutual Funds involve risk including possible loss of principal. There is no assurance that the funds will achieve their investment objectives. There is no guarantee that companies will declare dividends or, if declared, that they will remain at current levels or increase over time. The Funds may invest in MLP's. Holders of MLP units have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership. In addition, there are certain tax risks associated with an investment in MLP units and conflicts of interest exist between common unit holders and the general partner, including those arising from incentive distribution payments. The Funds may invest in REIT's. A REIT's performance depends on the types and locations of the rental properties it owns and on how well it manages those properties. Real estate values rise and fall in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic conditions, interest rates and tax considerations.

The Funds may invest in small and medium capitalization companies and the value of these company securities may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than those of larger, more established companies or the market averages in general. A higher portfolio turnover will result in higher transactional and brokerage costs.

Foreign Investing Risk: Investments in foreign countries are subject to country-specific risks such as political, diplomatic, regional conflicts, terrorism, war, social and economic instability and policies that have the effect of decreasing the value of foreign securities. Foreign investments may experience greater volatility than U.S. investments.

# Index Disclosures - You cannot invest directly in an

**Index.** Indexes are unmanaged and do not account for any fees, commissions or other expenses that would be incurred. The portfolio characteristics of the indexes may differ from other providers due to the source of the data and differences in calculation methodology. Historical analytics are not indicative of future results.

The **S&P 500 Index** consists of 500 stocks chosen for market size, liquidity and industry group representation. It is a market value weighted index with each stock's weight in the Index proportionate to its market value.

The **Russell 3000** R **Index** measures the performance of the 3000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization, which represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market.

The **MSCI World ex USA® Index** captures large and mid cap representation across 22 of 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries-excluding the United States. With 1,020 constituents, the index covers approximately 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

The **CBOE VIX Index** is a real-time market index that represents the market's expectation of 30-day forwardlooking volatility. Derived from the price inputs of the S&P 500 index options, it provides a measure of market risk and investors' sentiments.

**Beta** is a measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole.

**Standard Deviation** is a measure of the variability of returns-the higher the standard deviation, the greater the range of performance (i.e., volatility).

Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized.

The information presented was prepared by Copeland or other sources believed to be reliable. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy.

The Funds are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not guaranteed by a bank.

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### Why Dividend Growth?

Please visit the Copeland Funds website for our latest research and marketing presentations.

Click here for the Copeland Funds website

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