

- [subscription settings](#)
- [Become a member](#)
- [Submit your news](#)

December 03, 2013

- [facebook](#)
- [twitter](#)
- [google+](#)




## CSR Press Release

### Mergence High Impact Debt Fund Rated by GIIRS

Submitted by: [Mergence Investment Managers](#)  
 Categories: [Ratings & Awards](#), [Socially Responsible Investing](#)  
 Posted: Aug 09, 2013 01:09 PM EST



CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Aug. 09 /CSRwire/ - The Mergence High Impact Debt Fund, run by Mark van Wyk of Mergence Investment Managers in South Africa, has been successfully rated by the Global Impact Investing Rating System (GIIRS). The fund is classified as one of 53 global pioneer funds globally. It is one of only two funds in South Africa to have been rated by GIIRS and one of five on the African continent.

The Mergence High Impact Debt Fund was formed in 2010 to provide South African institutional investors with long-term capital growth while promoting environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria. It has key investments, among others, in the Trust for Urban Housing Finance (TUHF), Lendcor, SA Taxi Finance Solutions and Eduloan.

Mr van Wyk said: "Impact investing is rapidly becoming formalised through the GIIRS system. Investors can now get analytics on the underlying investments and measure the positive contribution that projects are making to addressing social needs.

"Impact investing provides an answer to the new Code of Responsible Investing in South Africa (CRISA) and changes to Regulation 28 of the Pension Funds Act which have increased awareness of incorporating ESG factors into fund managers' investment processes. Through their pension funds, individual South Africans can make a contribution to the country's development," he said.

#### Mergence Investment Managers

Mergence Investment Managers (Pty) Limited is a black-owned specialist fund manager founded in 2004 with R12 billion assets under management. Its clients are largely institutional and include parastatals, unions and pension funds.

Mergence has been a forerunner in the area of impact investing in South Africa. In June 2010 it launched a suite of impact funds: the Mergence Low Carbon Equity Fund, the Mergence High Impact Debt Fund and the Mergence SRI Fund, all of which have performed above their benchmarks and shown that impact investing can marry ESG impact with targeted returns.

Mergence is a signatory to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (UN PRI). [www.mergence.co.za](http://www.mergence.co.za)

#### Mergence High Impact Debt Fund

The fund factsheet is available on the [website](#) or on request.

#### GIIRS

The Global Impact Investing Rating System assesses the social and environmental impact and practices (but not the financial performance) of companies and funds using a methodology that has now been used by over 6000 companies and 50 funds.

The GIIRS recognises the positive impact generated by a fund and its investee companies and provides investors with rigorous, transparent, comprehensive and comparable ratings of a fund's impact, grading the fund's impacts on a scale of one to five



Mark van Wyk, Portfolio Manager

stars and an overall score.

The GIIRS Fund Rating is comprised of a weighted average of the fund's Investment Roll-up score and its Fund Manager Assessment score. To determine the investment roll-up, a weighted average of the scores of the investments in the fund's portfolio and the total amount invested in each investment (company) are aggregated, which comprises of four impact categories: Governance; Workers; Community; and Environment.

The Fund Manager Assessment score is measured against three categories regarding a fund's policies and practices in deploying and managing its capital: Targeted for Investment; the Investment Criteria; and Portfolio Management. [giirs.org](https://giirs.org)

---

For more information, please contact:

**Mark van Wyk** Portfolio Manager

Phone: +27 21 433 2960

Phone 2: +27 84 625 0126

**Ronel Bantjes** Business Development

Phone: +27 21 433 2960

Phone 2: +27 82 563 8610