

### **AUGUST 2018 / MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

## **About Orionis**

Orionis Gold Company is a Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) registered in Isle of Man. The CIS operates an 'Artisan Mine' in the Republic of Mali and makes monthly distribution of net profits to its investors. The CIS operates its business in compliance to 'Sharia Principles' and has a Sharia Supervisory Board.

The fund adopts strict adherence to its investment objective in order to mitigate any unforeseen risk. Orionis ensures prudent workforce management, does the required investments in simple technologies / machinery & adopts optimal artisan mining techniques which support sustainable mining practices.

# **Monthly Results**

Orionis Gold Company Limited has declared a dividend of 1.45% for the month of August'18.

The CIS follows a unique value proposition where dividend distribution is done on a monthly basis. Since its inception in Jan'15 until Aug '18, the fund has paid over '112.41%' as dividends to its investors. In the first eight months of 2018 alone, the fund has distributed a total of '19.98%' as dividends.

#### **Orionis Results**

Aug '18	YTD Augʻ18 (8 months)	Since Inception i.e. Jan '15 (44 months)
1.45%	19.98%	112.41%

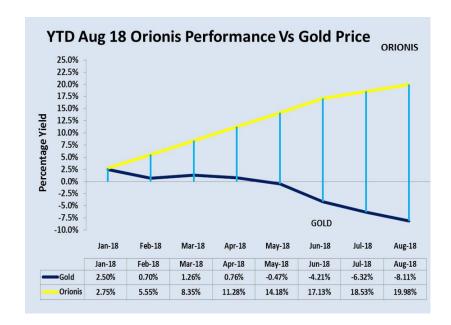
The prevailing monsoon season has seen a drop in activity resulting in lower output. CIS expects this trend to continue until Sep '18' after which there will be a resumption in artisanal mining activities to its optimal level further to which yield is expected to reverse to the normalcy levels of 2.0% and above. During monsoon, the mine will have lower man hours which correlate to lower average yield. Post monsoon season, CIS expect to average out it's preceding quarter's performance as it may achieve the target yields.

# Orionis Gold insulated from Gold Price Volatility

The price of gold during 2018 witnessed a slump in comparison to previous year end levels. Although price had peaked in Jan 2018 up 2.5%, it started declining and by Aug '18 had dropped from the previous year closing price of USD 1,200.3 per ounce by 8.11%.

Meanwhile, Orionis Gold during this period has yielded a thumping '19.98%' return to its investors. This clearly reflects the non-correlation of 'gold price' to the performance of the fund. The fund adopts a unique trading model whereby, the resultant yield is insulated from price volatility. Since inception, the fund has maintained profitable operations and consistently continues to offer value to investors.

The fund adopts strict adherence to the investment objective to mitigate any unforeseen risk. Orionis continues its prudent risk controlled mining practices strictly complying to WGC's 'Conflict Free Gold Standards'.



 $Source: Gold\ prices\ from\ www.bullionvault.com$ 

# Aug '18 Portfolio Comparison of Orionis Gold vs Leading Global Gold ETFs

Fund Flow Position (As of 31/08/2018)				
	AUM	Net Flows	Net Flows (As %ge of AUM)	
Gold Backed ETFs - North America	\$ 45.6 bn	\$ 2,799.6M (-)	-6.14%	
Gold Backed ETFs - Europe	\$ 40.5 bn	\$ 2,320.9M (+)	5.73%	
Gold Backed ETFs - Asia	\$ 3.6 bn	\$ 322.6M (+)	9.07%	
Gold Backed ETFs - Rest of World	\$ 1.3 bn	\$ 373.9M (-)	-29.05%	
ORIONIS GOLD COMPANY	\$ 86.5 M	\$ 20.99M (+)	24.26%	

+ net flows denote inflow of investments and – inflows denote outflow.

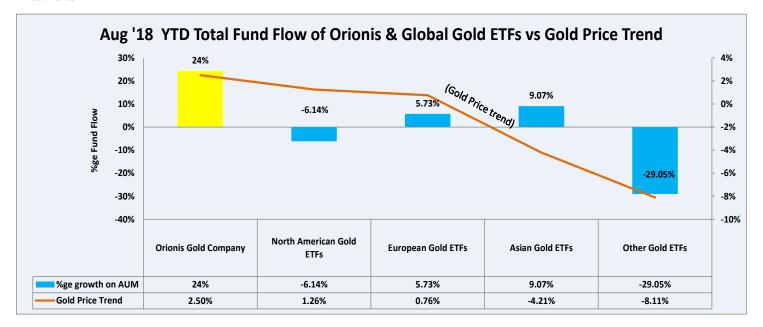
Source: www.gold.org



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During 2018, the markets witnessed the North American ETFs and Rest of World Gold ETFs augmenting withdrawal of investments resulting in a net negative fund out flow position. A stronger US Dollar and a declining US Dollar gold price had weighed negative investor sentiments on ETF Holdings.

Though ETFs had a 'negative fund flow', Orionis Gold had an additional influx of \$ 20.99M as new investment for the eight months to Aug '18 resulting in a 24.26% increase in its Assets Under Management. The upward funds flow trend is a testimony to increased investor interest mainly owing to superior performance of the fund yielding 19.98% over eight months to Aug '18. The graph below combines the gold price trend in 2018 versus the trend of 'funds flow'. Whilst leading Gold ETFs witnessed 'out flow' of investments during dip in gold prices, Orionis Gold continued attracting investments.



# **Global Markets Outlook**

#### Global Markets Resilient, yet Risk Remain

Global equity markets posted gains, proving resilient in spite of the lurking trade uncertainty and geopolitical risks. US equities outperformed, mainly led by the tech sector as US 2Q GDP was revised higher while the US and Mexico made positive progress in NAFTA talks. European equities were mostly unchanged in spite of positive Brexit comments as Italy fiscal concerns persisted. On the other hand, emerging market equities ended in the positive territory as the dollar halted its rally with some improvement in risk sentiment. However, there was no respite for the emerging market currencies which remained under pressure with renewed risks emerging from Argentina. The pause in dollar rally boosted the sentiment in the oil market and industrial metals also partially reversed their losses. Dollar weakness failed to spur a rally in gold- which ended the week almost flat. The 10-year US treasury yields rose slightly on strong economic growth and inflation readings. Nevertheless, the rises in yields were contained with the Trump administration hinting at imposing further tariffs on Chinese imports. In terms of economic releases, eyes will be mainly on the US jobs employment report which could signal if the rising trade tensions have had any impact on the hiring yet. Elsewhere, focus will also be on the PMI releases across the globe which could also reflect the impact of recent trade tensions.

## **GOLD PRICE FORECAST - Q4 2018**

Gold has tumbled more than 12% from a peak of \$1,365.23 in April '18 which is attributed to rising interest rates, global trade tensions and an emergency-market currency crisis, with investors parking their money in the dollar. The inverse relationship between US Dollars and gold price remained evident where strengthening of USD vs other EM currencies remained the major reasons of the gold price drop. In addition, the trade concerns have been continuing to keep investors nervous, with a deadline looming in the US-China trade dispute and expectations of possible additional trade tariff impositions by US on Chinese Imports. Also, major ETFs continued offloading gold and gold futures continued to have net short positons. However, the bottoming gold price invoked increased retail spends in markets like India and China as well as had increased gold investments in South East Asia.

Despite the bear run in preceding quarter, the wide expectations among investors remain that prices will increase during Q4 as materialization of any macroeconomic risks can result in gold price shoot owing to its safe haven nature. China and India holds only less than 10% of gold under reserves against more than 60% in advanced economies and if central banks increase the gold holdings, this can result in price rise. In addition, any down side

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in the jittery equity markets also will see an influx of investments into gold. The retail consumer demand during second half of the year remains supportive but we believe much will depend on the strength on US Dollars which will depend on expected fed rate hikes and developments in US economic trade regulations.

### **Summary**

Gold as an asset has been continuing as a strong investment haven to hedge any unforeseen events among the investors. However, benefiting from rate hikes, trade tariff tensions and a healthy economic activity, the U.S. currency proves a nut too tough to crack for the shiny metal. The greenback has risen sharply, by more than 6.5%, against a basket of foreign currencies in the past few months as the Federal Reserve seems determined to increase interest rates. Another issue for gold prices is the attractiveness of U.S. Treasuries as they pay interest, as opposed to the dollar-denominated bullion. The benchmark U.S. 10-year Treasury note yield remains elevated, at 2.83%, and allures money managers while diverting funds from classic safe havens like gold.

Orionis Gold Company, the Collective Investment Scheme declared a dividend of 1.45% for Aug'18 and YTD performance was '19.98%'. The fund continues to leverage its inherent strength of operating a top layer concentrated mine, having an experienced senior management team, best in class precious metal agent & necessary logistics support which all ensures a regular production off take. We maintain our opinion that Gold remains as a risk hedge against ongoing political and potential inflationary risks and Orionis offers an opportunity for potential investors to earn monthly dividends by investing in this Gold Centric Collective Investment Scheme.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar Al Sayegh

Chairman

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