

## press release

7 September 2009

Fund in Focus: JP Morgan Natural Resources fund

**Andy Parsons, Advice team manager at The Share Centre, explains how investors looking for long-term growth and exposure to the natural resources sector could benefit from the JP Morgan Natural Resources fund.**

“When investors choose to invest in natural resources one of the first things they must consider is whether they want to invest directly in the physical commodities themselves, or indirectly via companies involved with the overall operations.

“The JP Morgan Natural Resources fund is very diverse, investing in a wide range of companies spanning base materials as well as energy, gold and other precious metals and minerals. As the fund invests in companies exposed to these sectors, it tends to have a higher degree of liquidity compared to direct investment into the physical product.

“2008 proved to be a tough year for commodity prices as the ‘commodity bubble’ burst, inevitably impacting both individual companies and funds alike. Having struggled last year, the JP Morgan Natural Resources fund has rebounded during 2009 and year to date it currently ranks first quartile with a return of 62.05%.

“The fund’s manager, Ian Henderson continues to strongly defend the demand for commodities taking into account supply and demand fundamentals. However, there is a note of caution that the recent rally might lead to some short-term volatility, a view that we would agree with.

“Henderson remains optimistic for some key sectors in 2009, particularly gold. The fund is 32.5 per cent invested in gold and precious metals. The gold price has continued to soar and is currently at its highest level since February 2009, demonstrating its attraction as not only a defensive commodity, but as a hedge for any short-term economic deterioration.

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“Ian Henderson has over 25 years experience in the natural resources sector. He has been managing the JP Morgan Natural Resources fund since October 2000. The fund has returned 147.12 per cent over the last five years on a cumulative basis to 4 September 2009. Henderson aims to invest in companies throughout their life cycle, from discovery, pre-production to reserve definition.

“This fund is suitable to those investors who are willing to accept additional risk and want to diversify their portfolios towards natural resources. This fund offers great potential to boost a core portfolio, provided they are comfortable with a higher level of risk. As this is a specialist based fund it should not make a large proportion of an investor's portfolio.”

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## **Note to editors:**

As one of The Share Centre's Platinum 120 funds there is no initial charge when investing in the JP Morgan Natural Resources fund and customers will not be charged dealing commission.

## About The Share Centre's Platinum 120 range:

The Share Centre launched its Platinum 120 funds range in June 2009 in order to help investors identify the funds with the best long-term prospects and strong management. Customers who invest in a Platinum 120 fund will benefit from no purchase commission on all funds and no initial charge on almost 80%. Please visit [www.share.com/p120](http://www.share.com/p120) to view the full Platinum 120 range. Please be aware that this may require registration.

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## **Risk Warnings:**

Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

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The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

## **About The Share Centre:**

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPP's are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice Team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on [www.share.com](http://www.share.com). Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#).

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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