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Biography: Magda Wierzycka

Ms Magda Wierzycka qualified as a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries (Edinburgh) in 1994. With more than 20 years' experience in the South African asset management industry, she has published widely in the field and served as board member of the Actuarial Society of South Africa.

Her career began in 1993 as product development and investments actuary at Southern Life, where she designed and managed index-tracking funds, followed by two years at Alexander Forbes as an investment consultant. In 1997, she joined Coronation Fund Managers as Head of Institutional Business and as a director, where she grew the institutional assets under the management of the company fivefold. Ms Wierzycka left Coronation in 2003 to start IQvest, a hedge-fund company. Later that year, after selling IQvest to the African Harvest group, she was appointed CEO of African Harvest.

Under her stewardship, the assets under the management of the company grew from R10 billion in 2003 to R35 billion in 2006. After negotiating the sale of African Harvest Fund Managers to Cadiz Financial Services in 2006, she led the management buy-out of the remainder of the African Harvest group, which resulted in the formation of Sygnia.

Ms Wierzycka grew Sygnia's assets from R2 billion to R238 billion in September 2019, leading Sygnia to become the second largest multi-management company in South Africa. Sygnia was listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on 14 October 2015 (the share offer was 20 times oversubscribed).