

FIXED-INCOME FUND

# BLUEBAY EMERGING MARKETS LOCAL CURRENCY BOND FUND (CANADA)

December 31, 2024

Portfolio Manager RBC Global Asset Management Inc. ("RBC GAM")

Sub-Advisor: RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited, London, England

The Board of Directors of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. approved this annual management report of fund performance on March 10, 2025.

#### A Note on Forward-looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, its future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action. The words "may," "could," "should," "suspect," "outlook," "believe," "plan," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "forecast," "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Fund and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement made in relation to the Fund. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

This annual management report of fund performance ("MRFP") contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-800-463-FUND (3863), by writing to us at RBC Global Asset Management Inc., P.O. Box 7500, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P9, or by visiting our website at www.rbcgam.com/regulatorydocuments or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca. Security holders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.



(in USD)

#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (in USD)

#### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

The Fund seeks to provide total returns comprised of interest income and modest capital appreciation.

To achieve its objective, the Fund invests primarily in sovereign and quasi-sovereign fixed-income securities in emerging market countries in local currencies. The Fund may also invest in fixed-income securities issued by corporations based in emerging market countries in local currencies. The sub-advisor conducts a detailed analysis of each relevant country's economic growth, inflation and fiscal and monetary policies and, for corporate bonds, a detailed company credit and industry analysis to identify opportunities offering higher probabilities of superior rates of return while minimizing the prospect of default.

#### Risk

There were no significant changes to the investment objective and strategies that affected the Fund's overall level of risk during the reporting period. The risks of investing in the Fund and the suitability of the Fund for investors remain as discussed in the Simplified Prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net asset value rose to \$153 million as of December 31, 2024, from \$141 million at the end of 2023. The increase was due to net inflows, partially offset by investment losses.

Over the past year, the Fund's Series F units lost 4.9%, which underperformed the 2.4% decline in the benchmark. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, while benchmark and broad-based index returns do not include any costs of investing. See the Financial Highlights section for the management expense ratios and the Past Performance section for the returns of any other series, which may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses.

The Fund's returns were negatively affected by overall U.S.-dollar strength given the Fund's sensitivity to exchange-rate fluctuations. The Fund fell in local-currency terms as yields rose — pushing down bond prices — in some of the Fund's biggest holdings. Emerging-market bonds denominated in local currency bore the brunt of negative perceptions associated with the re-election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, an outcome that accelerated the U.S. dollar's year-long ascent.

An overweight position in Brazil held back the portfolio's returns, as central-bank intervention to counter concerns about government spending proved unsuccessful. The currency fell after a fiscal package meant to allay the spending concerns disappointed investors.

Aiding returns were positions in the Turkish lira and Egyptian pound, which offer relatively high interest rates. The Fund also benefited from successful bets on declines in the Colombian peso, Peruvian sol and Chilean peso. The Fund's overweight exposure to South Africa gained after the results of elections in May 2024 were deemed business friendly.

#### **Recent Developments**

The U.S. dollar is likely to stay higher given the new administration's economic policies and could result in further pressure on local-currency emerging-market securities. Emerging-market interest rates remain higher than those offered in developed markets, and the sub-advisor expects this trend to continue in 2025, especially in Latin America. Poland and Hungary also offer the potential for decent returns given attractive valuations, tighter fiscal policies and higher potential for economic growth.

The sub-advisor has a more cautious outlook on Asia. In addition to the potential for tariffs, the region faces a number of headwinds, particularly in China, where low growth and deflation remain concerns. That said, higher tariffs on China could encourage the country to amplify fiscal spending, which would be positive for other Asian countries through Chinese consumer demand.

#### **Related-Party Transactions**

#### Manager, Trustee and Portfolio Manager

RBC GAM is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada ("Royal Bank") and is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the Fund. RBC GAM is responsible for the Fund's day-to-day operations, holds title to the Fund's property on behalf of its unitholders, provides investment advice and portfolio management services to the Fund and appoints distributors for the Fund. RBC GAM is paid a management fee by the Fund as compensation for its services. The Fund pays a fixed administration fee to RBC GAM, which, in turn, pays certain operating expenses of the Fund. Both the management fee and fixed administration fee are calculated and accrued daily as a percentage of the net asset value of each series of units of the Fund. RBC GAM, as trustee, earns a fee, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn fees and spreads in connection with various services provided to, or transactions with, the Fund, such as banking, brokerage, securities lending, foreign exchange and derivatives transactions. RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn a foreign exchange spread when unitholders switch between series of funds denominated in different currencies. The Fund also maintains bank accounts and overdraft provisions with Royal Bank for which Royal Bank may earn a fee. Affiliates of RBC GAM that provide services to the Fund in the course of their normal businesses are discussed below.



(in USD)

# Sub-Advisor

RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited is the sub-advisor and provides investment advice for the Fund. The sub-advisor earns a fee which is calculated and accrued daily as a percentage of the net asset value of each series of units of the Fund. The sub-advisor is paid by the manager from the management fee paid by the Fund.

#### **Distributors**

RBC GAM, Royal Mutual Funds Inc., RBC Direct Investing Inc., RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and Phillips, Hager & North Investment Funds Ltd. are principal distributors of, or may distribute certain series of units of, the Fund. Dealers may receive an ongoing commission based on the total value of their clients' investment in certain series of units of the Fund.

#### Registrars

RBC GAM, RBC Investor Services Trust ("RBC IS") or Royal Bank (or a combination thereof) are the registrars of the Fund and keep records of who owns units of the Fund. The registrars earn a fee, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

#### Custodian

RBC IS is the custodian and holds the assets of the Fund. RBC IS earns a fee as the custodian, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

# **Securities Lending Agent**

To the extent the Fund may engage in securities lending transactions, RBC IS may act as the Fund's securities lending agent. Any revenue earned on such securities lending is split between the Fund and the securities lending agent.

## Other Related-Party Transactions

Pursuant to applicable securities legislation, the Fund relied on the standing instructions from the Independent Review Committee with respect to one or more of the following transactions:

## Related-Party Trading Activities

- (a) trades in securities of Royal Bank;
- (b) investments in the securities of issuers for which a related-party dealer acted as an underwriter during the distribution of such securities and the 60-day period following the conclusion of such distribution of the underwritten securities to the public;
- (c) purchases of equity, debt securities or mortgages from or sales of equity, debt securities or mortgages to a related-party dealer, where it acted as principal; and

# Inter-Fund Trading

(d) purchases or sales of securities of an issuer from or to another investment fund or managed account managed by RBC GAM. The applicable standing instructions require that Related-Party Trading Activities and Inter-Fund Trading be conducted in accordance with RBC GAM policy and that RBC GAM advise the Independent Review Committee of a material breach of any standing instruction. RBC GAM policy requires that an investment decision in respect of Related-Party Trading Activities (i) is made free from any influence of Royal Bank or its associates or affiliates and without taking into account any consideration relevant to Royal Bank or its affiliates or associates, (ii) represents the business judgment of the portfolio manager, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best interests of the Fund, (iii) is in compliance with RBC GAM policies and procedures, and (iv) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the Fund. RBC GAM policy requires that an investment decision in respect of Inter-Fund Trading is in the best interests of each Fund.

(in USD)

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD)

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

# **Change in Net Assets Per Unit**

	_		Increase (Dec	rease) from C	perations <sup>1</sup>		Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>					
For the Year/ Period Ended	Net Assets Beginning of Year/Period	Total Revenue (Loss)	Total Expenses	Realized Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Total	From Income (Excluding Dividends)	From Dividends	From Capital Gains	Return of Capital	Total	Net Assets End of Year/Period
Series A									-			
Dec. 31, 2024	7.69	0.60	(0.13)	(0.35)	(0.55)	(0.43)	(0.36)	_	_	_	(0.36)	6.90
Dec. 31, 2023	7.11	0.40	(0.14)	(0.01)	0.54	0.79	(0.32)	_	_	_	(0.32)	7.69
Dec. 31, 2022	8.40	0.42	(0.13)	(1.28)	0.07	(0.92)	(0.26)	-	_	_	(0.26)	7.11
Dec. 31, 2021	9.82	0.42	(0.17)	(0.19)	(1.22)	(1.16)	(0.25)	_	_	_	(0.25)	8.40
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>3</sup>	10.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.45	(0.15)	0.01	0.07	0.38	(0.26)			_	(0.26)	9.82
Series D												
Dec. 31, 2024	7.68	0.53	(80.0)	(0.31)	1.23	1.37	(0.40)	_	_	_	(0.40)	6.90
Dec. 31, 2023	7.09	-	(80.0)	_	0.72	0.64	(0.36)	-	_	_	(0.36)	7.68
Dec. 31, 2022	8.40	0.39	(0.10)	(1.20)	(1.11)	(2.02)	(0.30)	-	_	_	(0.30)	7.09
Dec. 31, 2021	9.82	0.43	(0.10)	(0.20)	(1.49)	(1.36)	(0.32)	_	_	_	(0.32)	8.40
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>3</sup>	10.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.42	(0.11)	0.01	0.88	1.20	(0.31)	_			(0.31)	9.82
Series F												
Dec. 31, 2024	7.69	0.55	(0.07)	(0.32)	(0.49)	(0.33)	(0.42)	_	_	_	(0.42)	6.90
Dec. 31, 2023	7.11	0.45	(0.07)	(0.01)	0.65	1.02	(0.38)	-	_	_	(0.38)	7.69
Dec. 31, 2022	8.40	0.44	(0.07)	(1.35)	1.42	0.44	(0.32)	-	_	_	(0.32)	7.11
Dec. 31, 2021	9.81	0.42	(0.09)	(0.20)	(1.32)	(1.19)	(0.33)	-	_	_	(0.33)	8.40
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>3</sup>	10.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.45	(80.0)	0.01	0.06	0.44	(0.34)		_	_	(0.34)	9.81
Series 0												
Dec. 31, 2024	8.09	0.55	_	(0.32)	(0.55)	(0.32)	(0.51)	_	_	_	(0.51)	7.27
Dec. 31, 2023	7.49	0.48	-	(0.01)	0.61	1.08	(0.48)	-	-	-	(0.48)	8.09
Dec. 31, 2022	8.86	0.44	(0.01)	(1.34)	(0.13)	(1.04)	(0.41)	_	_	_	(0.41)	7.49
Dec. 31, 2021	10.35	0.44	(0.01)	(0.21)	(1.25)	(1.03)	(0.43)	_	_	_	(0.43)	8.86
Dec. 31, 2020	10.59	0.51	(0.01)	0.01	0.62	1.13	(0.45)		_		(0.45)	10.35

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per unit.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Distributions are reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From January 24, 2020.

<sup>†</sup> Initial offering net asset value per unit.



(in USD)

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD) (cont.)

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

	Net Asset Value	Net Asset Value	Number of Units	Management	MER Before	Portfolio	Trading
As at	Per Unit (\$)	(\$000s)	Outstanding (000s)	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
Series A							
Dec. 31, 2024	6.90	49	7	1.75	1.75	45.45	_
Dec. 31, 2023	7.69	57	7	1.82	1.82	37.57	_
Dec. 31, 2022	7.11	23	3	1.84	1.84	44.02	_
Dec. 31, 2021	8.40	21	3	1.84	1.84	48.34	_
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>4</sup>	9.82	24	2	1.81	1.81	82.94	_
Series D							
Dec. 31, 2024	6.90	2	_	1.16	1.16	45.45	_
Dec. 31, 2023	7.68	9	1	1.16	1.16	37.57	_
Dec. 31, 2022	7.09	1	_	1.24	1.24	44.02	_
Dec. 31, 2021	8.40	15	2	1.16	1.16	48.34	_
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>4</sup>	9.82	5	1	1.24	1.24	82.94	_
Series F							
Dec. 31, 2024	6.90	6,028	873	0.89	0.89	45.45	_
Dec. 31, 2023	7.69	5,863	763	0.89	0.89	37.57	-
Dec. 31, 2022	7.11	2,552	359	0.97	0.97	44.02	_
Dec. 31, 2021	8.40	1	_	0.97	0.97	48.34	-
Dec. 31, 2020 <sup>4</sup>	9.81	56	6	0.96	0.96	82.94	_
Series 0							_
Dec. 31, 2024	7.27	147,312	20,273	0.06	0.06	45.45	_
Dec. 31, 2023	8.09	135,413	16,724	0.06	0.06	37.57	-
Dec. 31, 2022	7.49	114,466	15,281	0.11	0.11	44.02	-
Dec. 31, 2021	8.86	166,314	18,773	0.11	0.11	48.34	
Dec. 31, 2020	10.35	156,743	15,139	0.11	0.11	82.94	_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on the direct expenses charged to the Fund and the Fund's proportionate share of the expenses of underlying funds, if any, for the stated period, excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period. RBC GAM may, at its discretion and without notice to unitholders, waive or absorb certain operating expenses. MER includes the waiver or absorption by RBC GAM of certain operating expenses, while the MER before absorption shows the MER prior to operating expenses being waived or absorbed by RBC GAM.

Effective January 1, 2023, the administration fees for Series 0 units were reduced to 0.05% from 0.10%. If the changes to the administration fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended December 31, 2022, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series 0 – 0.06%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate gives an indication of the level of activity employed by the portfolio manager. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher the Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of the Fund. The portfolio turnover rate is not applicable to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs of the Fund and the Fund's proportionate share of such costs of underlying funds expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. The trading expense ratio is not applicable to fixed-income transactions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> From January 24, 2020.



(in USD)

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD) (cont.)

#### **Management Fees and Administration Fees**

Management fees and administration fees of each series of the Fund are payable to RBC GAM and calculated at the following annual percentages, before GST/HST, of the daily net asset value of each series of the Fund. The management fee, breakdown of services received in consideration of the management fee, as a percentage of the management fee, and the administration fee for each series are as follows:

		Breakdown o		
	Management Fees	Distribution	Other*	Administration Fees <sup>†</sup>
Series A	1.50%	50%	50%	0.10%
Series D	1.00%	25%	75%	0.10%
Series F	0.75%	_	100%	0.10%
Series 0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.05%

Series 0 – no management fees are paid by the Fund with respect to Series 0 units. Series 0 unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to RBC GAM for investment-counselling services.

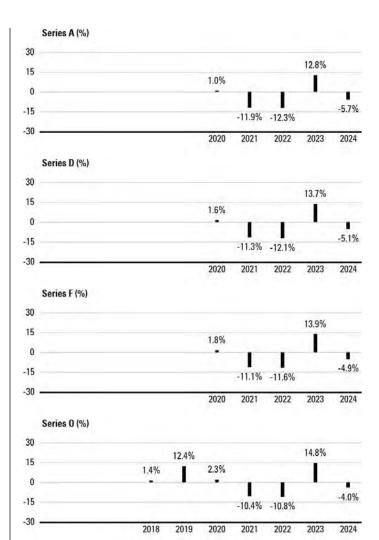
- \* Includes all costs related to management, trustee, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.
- <sup>†</sup> Effective January 1, 2023, the administration fees for Series 0 units were reduced to 0.05% from 0.10%.

#### **PAST PERFORMANCE (in USD)**

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the Fund and would be lower if distributions were not reinvested. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, optional charges or income taxes payable that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund may perform in the future. A fund with more than 10 years of performance history is only permitted to disclose the past 10 years.

#### Year-by-Year Returns (%)

The bar chart indicates the Fund's performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the end of the financial year.





(in USD)

## PAST PERFORMANCE (in USD) (cont.)

# **Annual Compound Returns (%)**

The table shows the annual compound returns for each series of the Fund and for each of the periods indicated ended on December 31, 2024, compared with the following benchmark:

JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified (USD)

	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Since Inception
Series A	-5.7	-2.3	- J Teals	-	-3.7
Benchmark	-2.4	-1.0	_	_	-1.7
Series D	-5.1	-1.7	_	_	-3.1
Benchmark	-2.4	-1.0	_	_	-1.7
Series F	-4.9	-1.4	_	_	-2.9
Benchmark	-2.4	-1.0	_	_	-1.7
Series 0	-4.0	-0.6	-2.1	_	0.5
Benchmark	-2.4	-1.0	-1.9	_	0.8

The returns of each series may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses. Benchmark and/or broad-based index returns do not include any costs of investing. See Management Discussion of Fund Performance for a discussion of performance relative to benchmark and/or broad-based indexes.

Series A, Series D and Series F units have been available for sale to unitholders since January 27, 2020 and Series O units since December 6, 2018.

Inception dates are not provided for series that have been in existence for more than 10 years.

#### INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

JPMorgan GBI-EM Global Diversified (USD) This index measures, in U.S. dollars, the performance of investable local-currency-denominated emerging-market debt in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The index limits the weights of countries with larger amounts of debt by including only a specific portion of their debt outstanding.

## **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (in USD)**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any) As at December 31, 2024

## **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Indonesia	8.1
South Africa	7.6
Supranational	7.2
Malaysia	7.1
Colombia	6.3
Mexico	6.2
United States	5.7
Peru	5.3
Brazil	4.9
China	4.9
Thailand	4.8
Czech Republic	4.7
Poland	4.6
Other Countries	16.1
Cash/Other	6.5

## **Top 25 Holdings**

	% of Net Asset Value
Republic of South Africa Government Bond 8.750%	
Jan 31, 2044	5.0
Indonesia Treasury Bond 7.125% Jun 15, 2038	4.9
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4.9
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. 3.100% Nov 28, 2034	4.9
Malaysia Government Bond 3.885% Aug 15, 2029	4.8
European Bank for Reconstruction & Development 6.500%	
Oct 03, 2036	3.7
Brazil Notas do Tesouro Nacional Serie F 10.000%	
Jan 01, 2035	3.3
Republic of Poland Government Bond 1.750% Apr 25, 2032	3.1
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank NA 3.130% Nov 23, 2029	3.1
International Bank for Reconstruction & Development	
2.720% Aug 16, 2034	3.0
Colombian TES 7.000% Jun 30, 2032	2.7
Mexican Bonos 8.500% Nov 18, 2038	2.6
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank NA 1.990% Apr 11, 2025	2.6
Czech Republic Government Bond 2.000% Oct 13, 2033	2.5
Republic of South Africa Government Bond 8.500%	
Jan 31, 2037	2.4
Romania Government Bond 4.250% Apr 28, 2036	2.4
Peruvian Government International Bond 7.600%	
Aug 12, 2039	2.0
Banco de Credito del Peru S.A. 7.850% Jan 11, 2029	2.0
Mexican Bonos 7.750% May 29, 2031	1.8
Mexican Bonos 7.750% Nov 13, 2042	1.8
Thailand Government Bond 3.300% Jun 17, 2038	1.8
Colombian TES 13.250% Feb 09, 2033	1.6
Indonesia Treasury Bond 7.500% May 15, 2038	1.5
Republic of Poland Government Bond 7.500% Jul 25, 2028	1.5
Czech Republic Government Bond 5.000% Sep 30, 2030	1.4
Top 25 Holdings	71.3

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and a quarterly update is available at www.rbcgam.com/regulatorydocuments.