**Reporting October 2024** 



# **Investment objective**

The Fund's objective is to outperform the JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Africa over the Fund's recommended investment horizon of 3 years. It offers investors geographic diversification of their bond investments and exposure to African transformation through a portfolio of debt securities issued by African countries, state-owned companies and supranational organizations, denominated in Hard currencies (USD, EUR) and listed on international markets.

### Investment team

frontoffice@qantara-am.com



#### James KUATE - CIO & Fund manager

25 years' experience as proprietary trader & fund manager in Fixed income and convertible Bonds.



#### Martin Ley

Senior Fund manager - Analyst

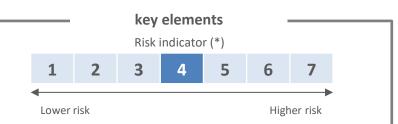
8 years' experience as Fixed income Fund manager.



### Perrine GUERIN

## **Chief Economist- Strategist**

6 years' experience as country risk economist on Africa



## Minimum recommended investment period : 3 years

Benchmark: JPM EMBI GD Africa Yield to maturity: 9.0% Duration: 5.9 Average rating: BB (linear) Average coupon: 7.0%

SFDR Classification : Article 8 Domiciliation : France Legal form: UCITS - FCP Launch date: 22/12/2023 Assets under management: 3.5 M€ Fund currency: EUR

Isin code: FR001400FLD9 Income distribution: Capitalization Date of 1<sup>st</sup> NAV: 22/12/2023 Original NAV: 100 NAV at 31/10/2024 : 110.5 Currency: USD

Minimum % of Taxonomy alignment: 0% Minimum % of sustainable investments: 0%

### **Management comments**

A more than expected resilient U.S. economy, combined with the increased likelihood of a Trump victory in the upcoming elections, led to a rise in U.S. rates and a general decline in risky assets. Emerging markets ended the month down on both fixed-income markets (-1.7% for the EMBI GD index) and equity markets (-4.4% for the MSCI Emerging). African Eurobonds fell less sharply, by -0.8%, due to the compression of risk premiums for certain issuers such as Kenya, Angola, Egypt and Gabon.

Qantara ASB fund proved resilient, ending the month with a positive performance. The main factors behind the fund's good performance are a better picking in Egypt and Nigeria (including BOI), where we favored short euro-denominated securities, and above all our positioning on the exchange offer for Ghanaian securities, some of which were at a significant discount to the restructuring terms. **Ghana** has now completed the restructuring of its Eurobonds and has new bonds available for trading.

On the primary market, Senegal reopened the 2031 issue of last June for USD 300 million. **Gabon** finalized a buyback of half of its Eurobond maturing in 2025, reassuring the market on its ability to meet its commitments. As a result, Gabon's average spread narrowed by 156 bps.

**Angola** benefited from the start of talks on a program with the IMF, which would be a major boost to credit given its high dependance on oil prices. The IMF has also renewed and recalibrated its support for **Kenya**, in view of the country's failure to improve its budget trajectory. **Egypt** has begun discussions to renegotiate the timetable of its current IMF program, citing regional circumstances and the burden on the population.

On the political front, **Tunisia'** s presidential elections saw the unsurprising victory of K. Saïed, who also put an end to the central bank's independence. Elections were also held in **Mozambique**, with the results disputed by the opposition, leading to violence in the country and a widening of the sovereign's spreads.

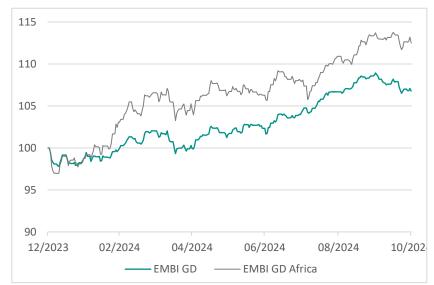
**Senegal** was downgraded by Moody's and saw its outlook lowered by S&P, decisions motivated by a more deteriorated debt and budget situation than initially announced. **Congo** was also downgraded to CCC+ by S&P following the announcement of the reprofiling of its domestic debt. **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Ghana** had their ratings upgraded to BB and Caa2 respectively.

On the supranational side, **Badea** increased its stake in **Boad** to 3% by contributing EUR 100 million, bringing its total commitment to the West African bank to over EUR 600 million.

US long rates are likely to remain volatile with US elections approaching. We remain overweight on euro-denominated securities, with short duration on securities with high spreads and long duration on good signatures.

Perfs in USD	MTD	YTD	1 Y	3 Y	5 Y	10 Y
Qantara ASB (*)						
EMBI GD Africa	-0.8%	12.5%	26.9%	9.4%	20.2%	60.8%
EMBI GD Emerging	-1.7%	6.8%	18.2%	-2.9%	2.3%	33.4%
IBOXX High Yield USD	-0.6%	7.2%	16.4%	9.1%	20.9%	52.1%
IBOXX Inv Grade USD	-3.0%	2.2%	15.2%	-8.3%	1.4%	30.0%

(\*) As the fund is less than one year old, regulations do not allow performance to be published in periodic reports.



#### **Emerging Africa and Global Emerging indexes**

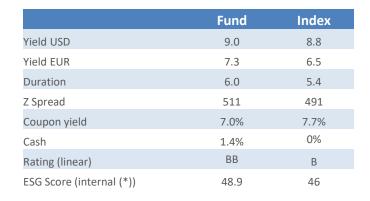


Source : Qantara AM, Bloomberg at 31/10/2024

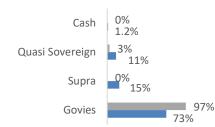
ASSET MANAGEMENT

# MAIN PARAMETERS AND POSITIONING

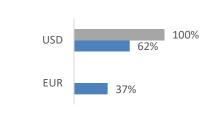
# October 2024



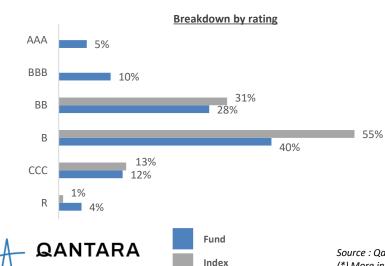
Breakdown by issuer

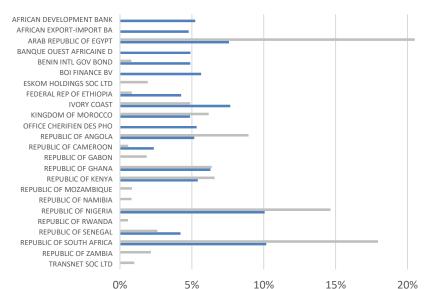


ASSET MANAGEMENT



Breakdown by currency





#### Main overweight

AFRICAN EXPORT-IMPORT BA BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE D AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OFFICE CHERIFIEN DES PHO BOI FINANCE BV



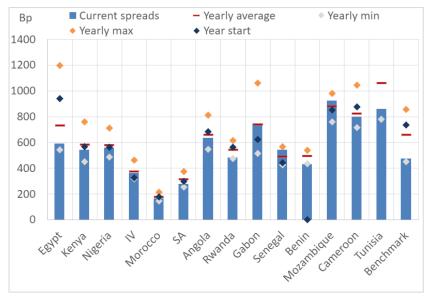


#### Breakdown by country

(\*) More information on ESG methodology is available at www.gantara-am.com

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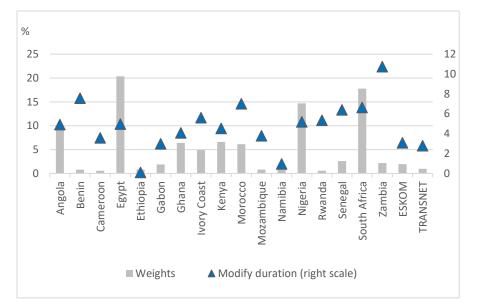
# UPDATE ON THE ASSET CLASS



Spreads evolution year on year

Issuer	Spread end of last month	Spread Variation
GABON	885	-156
RWANDA	506	-82
ANGOLA	683	-63
NAMIBIA	143	-44
KENYA	556	-42

Main spread movements: Tightening



Index breakdown by issuers & modify duration

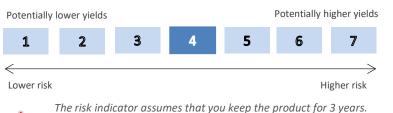
Issuer	Spread end of last month	Spread Variation
MOZAMBIQUE	877	39
SENEGAL	520	18
CAMEROON	778	15
SOUTH AFRICA	265	11
MOROCCO	156	3

#### Main spread movements: Widening



# SUMMARY OF FUND TERMS

Denomination	QANTARA AFRICAN SOVEREIGN BONDS
Domiciliation	France
Juridical form	UCITS FCP under French law
SFDR Category	Article 8
Classification	Emerging markets Bonds
Launch date / Original NAV	22 December 2023 / 100
Last VL	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 : 110.5
Benchmark	JPM EMBI GD Africa
recommended investment period	3 years
ISIN Codes	FR001400FLB3 (Part I, EUR Hedged) FR001400FLD9 (Part ID, USD Hedged) FR001400FLC1 (Part R, EUR Hedged) FR001400FLE7 (Part RD, USD Hedged)
Management fees	1% (Share I) – 1,5% (Share R)
Performance fees	None
Front Load	4% Max
Redemptions fees	None
Nav calculation	Weekly
Income distribution	Capitalization
Custodian	CACEIS BANK
Fund administration	CACEIS BANK
subscriptions / redemptions	Orders centralized before 12 pm on Friday
Fund's auditor	PWC



**Risk indicator** 

The real risk may be very different if you opt for an early exit, and you may get less in return. The synthetic risk indicator enables you to assess the level of risk of this product compared with others.

### Specific risks:

The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up, and the customer may not recover the full amount initially invested. This fund invests in emerging markets, which can be more volatile than more developed markets. This fund invests in bonds whose price is influenced by changes in interest rates, issuer credit ratings and other factors such as inflation and market dynamics. Generally, bond prices fall when interest rates rise. Default risk is a function of the issuer's ability to pay interest and repay the loan at maturity. Consequently, default risk may vary between issuing governments and entities. High-yield bonds are riskier. They present a greater risk of default, which can have a negative impact on the income and capital value of the fund investing in them. Given the greater risk of default, an investment in a corporate bond is generally less secure than an investment in a government bond. The fund may make greater and more complicated use of derivatives, which may result in leverage. In such situations, performance may rise or fall more sharply than in the absence of leverage. The fund may be exposed to a risk of financial loss in the event of subsequent default by a counterparty used for derivative instruments. The fund offers no guarantees or protection regarding performance, capital, net asset stability or volatility. Currency hedging is used to substantially reduce the risk of loss due to adverse movements in exchange rates on positions held in currencies other than the fund's trading currency. Currency hedging also has the effect of limiting the possibility of realizing foreign exchange gains.



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# GLOSSARY

Average rating : The average rating aggregates the ratings of issuers in the fund into a single rating by means of a weighted average.

**Classification SFDR** The Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) is a European regulation that requires asset managers to classify their funds as either "Article 8" funds that promote environmental and social characteristics, or "Article 9" funds that engage in sustainable investment with measurable objectives, or "Article 6" funds that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and have no sustainable objectives.

**Credit sensitivity** The Credit Sensitivity is a formula that expresses the measurable change in the value of a fixed income instrument in response to a change in credit spread. The credit sensitivity for the fund is calculated as the weighted average credit sensitivity of all underlying fixed income instruments

**Duration** The duration of a bond corresponds to the period after which its profitability is not affected by interest rate variations. Duration is defined as the average discounted life of all flows (interest and principal).

ESG : E- Environment, S- Social , G- Governance

**ESG methodology**: Qantara AM's ESG methodology is based on 3 pillars that represent major challenges for the African continent (Energy transition and adaptation to climate change, Education, Governance). A score is calculated using a proprietary method for each pillar, based on indicators from public sources.

ESG score calculation: Overall fund rating calculated according to Qantara AM's internal methodology: The final score ranges from 0 to 100, with 100 being the best score.

**Exposure**: The Exposure of a fund is expressed as a percentage of total portfolio holdings, considering the leverage of derivative instruments. It represents the amount an investor can lose from the risks unique to a particular investment.

**FCP**: "Fonds commun de placement" – Mutual funds

High Yield . An instrument is considered as a high yield instrument if its credit rating is below BBB-., because of its higher default risk. The rate of return on these securities is generally higher.

Investment grade : An instrument is considered as an investment grade instrument if its credit rating is above or equal to BBB-, indicating a generally relatively low risk of default.

**Modified duration** : The Modified Duration is a formula that expresses the measurable change in the value of a fixed income instrument in response to a change in interest rates The Modified Duration for the fund is calculated as the weighted average of all underlying fixed income instruments.

Net asset value (NAV) : Price of one share.

Rating : The rating is the financial rating used to measure the quality of the borrower's (bond issuer's) signature.

**Ratio de Sharpe** : The Sharpe Ratio measures the level of compensation an investment in the fund offered for the risk taken. It is calculated by subtracting the risk-free rate from the return of the fund and dividing that result by the volatility. The higher the Sharpe ratio the better, a negative ratio has no significance other than that the fund underperformed the risk-free rate.

**Tracking error**: Tracking error is a statistical measure of the dispersion of a fund's excess returns around the mean, which in effect is the volatility of the difference between the fund's performance and the performance of the benchmark index. A higher tracking error indicates a higher deviation from the benchmark.

UCITS Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities is a European directive aimed at harmonizing markets (European passport).

VaR Value at risk (VaR) represents an investor's maximum potential loss on the value of a portfolio of financial assets, given a holding horizon (20 days) and a confidence interval (99%). This potential loss is represented as a percentage of the portfolio's total assets. It is calculated based on a sample of historical data (over a 2-year period).

**Volatility** : The Volatility is the statistical measure of dispersion of returns for a fund around the mean. A higher volatility means that a fund's value can potentially be spread out over a larger range of values and makes the fund a riskier investment.

Yield to Maturity : Yield to is the actuarial rate of return. At the time of calculation, it is the estimated rate of return offered by a bond if it were held to maturity by the investor. Note that the indicated yield does not consider the effect of currency carry and the Fund's fees and expenses.



# DISCLAIMER

## QANTARA ASSET MANAGEMENT – QAM

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