

STUDYING THE LINK BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT



THE PROGRAM

Biodiversity is central to human survival. Yet, the interaction between biodiversity and development is complex and under-researched, especially in developing countries. The AFD-GDN Biodiversity & Development Award will create high-quality multidisciplinary knowledge on the link between biodiversity and development, and promote efforts that link research to action in local development policy.

Objectives

The program expands global knowledge through new, high-quality research, supports mainstreaming of the topic into local development policy, convenes high-quality academic thinking from a range of relevant disciplines, encourages research-practice collaboration, raises the profiles of promising Southern researchers, and strengthens the global visibility of biodiversity and development to enable sustained knowledge production and dissemination on this topic.

The three-year program supports four competitively selected individual research grants of up to 24 months, one of which is earmarked for Francophone Africa. Two additional grants were awarded for winners who successfully developed a multi-disciplinary project together.

PROGRAM

AFD-GDN Biodiversity & Development Program

FUNDING

€500,000 for a period of three years (2021-2024) from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

IMPLEMENTATION

Benin, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Madagascar, Vietnam

Research projects

A call for proposals, focused on a specific interaction of biodiversity management and development policy, and specifically around the operationalization of 'biodiversity mainstreaming,' closed in March 2021. Five individual proposals and two multi-disciplinary research projects were awarded:

- ETHIOPIA | Conservation of large carnivores in the Omo Valley, Southwest Ethiopia
- FIJI | Evaluation and review of the environmental impact assessment guidelines for Fiji
- GHANA | Assessment of ecosystem-based livelihoods on biodiversity of the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site in Ghana
- MADAGASCAR | Using ecosystem services provided by indigenous earthworms
- VIETNAM | Mainstreaming biodiversity in vegetable farming in Vietnam through promoting adoption of low chemical pesticide practices: a discrete choice experiment approach
- FIJI & GHANA | Strengthening science communication to enhance biodiversity mainstreaming within Ramsar-related coastal lagoons In Fiji & Ghana
- MADAGASCAR & VIETNAM | Agroecology for biodiversity conservation and welfare in Africa and Asia: a comparative RCTS study on indigenous earthworms utilization

Research lab

GDN organized a Research Lab as part of the selection process. Twenty-two shortlisted research teams took part in a five-day online event, focused on helping to shape compelling social science research questions on biodiversity mainstreaming and explore collaborations. An interactive online platform actively promoted conversations between shortlisted researchers to foster multidisciplinary engagements.

The lab featured a public talk by Professor Marie Stenseke, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Gothenburg (UG), Sweden, and Co-chair of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), focused on the role of social science in making peace with nature, and a policy panel opened by Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCBD.

For more information about the program, please contact Pablo Varela, Program Manger, Biodiversity & Development, on pvarela@gn.int

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