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# BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Awards

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Award program is a global competitive research program jointly launched by the Global Development Network (GDN) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It targets researchers based in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and aims to identify and support productive multidisciplinary engagements on biodiversity mainstreaming, including multi-country projects, and to boost the availability and use of quality evidence in public debates and corporate practices.



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## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program aims to expand global knowledge on the link between biodiversity and development through high-quality research in LMICs. It seeks to mainstream this topic in local development policy debates by increasing visibility and international recognition for research-practice collaboration. Renowned scholars from various disciplines, including French institutions, will contribute to academic thinking on biodiversity and development. The project promotes collaborations between local researchers, policymakers, and civil society, facilitating productive interactions. It also aims to enhance the profile and capacity of promising Southern researchers dedicated to advancing policy debates on biodiversity and development.

## BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

### **Multidisciplinary Research**

Multidisciplinary research can play a crucial role in mainstreaming biodiversity across different sectors and levels of governance. Biodiversity mainstreaming involves integrating biodiversity considerations into decision-making processes and policies across different sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and energy, as well as at different levels, from local to global. Multidisciplinary research can contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity by providing a more comprehensive and integrated understanding of biodiversity's ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

### **The Role of Social Sciences**

Social sciences play a significant role in biodiversity research by examining how human behavior, social structures, and institutions impact biodiversity conservation efforts. They help identify the social, economic, and cultural factors that drive biodiversity loss, and how we can address these issues through policies, governance, and community-based initiatives. Social science research also helps us understand how different stakeholders perceive and value biodiversity and how we can promote greater awareness and engagement among diverse groups.



## AWARDED PROJECTS

Five individual and two collaborative research projects in five countries were awarded a three-year research grant. These are:

- **ETHIOPIA** - Conservation of Large Carnivore in the Omo Valley.
- **FIJI** - Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Sustainable Development into the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) System of Fiji.
- **GHANA** - Assessment of Ecosystem-Base Livelihoods on Biodiversity of the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) in Ghana.
- **MADAGASCAR** - Using ecosystem services provided by indigenous Earthworms through vermiculture and vermicompost to innovative Rice-Fish Farming for Malagasy smallholder Farmers.
- **VIETNAM** - Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Vegetable Farming in Vietnam through Promoting Adoption of Low Chemical Pesticide Practices: A Discrete Choice Experiment Approach.
- **FIJI and GHANA** - Assessing The Role of Different Types of Knowledge for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Ramsar Sites in Fiji and Ghana.
- **MADAGASCAR and VIETNAM** - Agroecology for Biodiversity mainstreaming and Welfare in Africa and Asia: A comparative Study on Organic Fertilizer Utilization.

## HOW WE WORK



### RESEARCH LAB

An interactive space that aims to enhance shortlisted proposals through interactions between candidates, global experts, and stakeholders. It provides feedback to improve the academic content, methodology, and policy relevance of research projects in the development stage. The Lab promotes collaboration, critical discussions, and peer engagement among applicants, facilitated by resource persons from different disciplines.



### MENTORING

This research program offers awarded researchers a unique opportunity to work closely with scientific-technical advisors. These advisors, seasoned professionals with extensive experience, provide tailored support throughout the project implementation. They guide researchers in selecting research methods, refining plans, and maintaining high professional standards. Advisors offer constructive feedback on draft outputs and provide written feedback on final outputs. They also assist researchers in the research dissemination process.



### MID-TERM REVIEW

Held at the Future Africa Institute, University of Pretoria, South Africa, from June 24 to 26, 2022. It provided an opportunity for research teams to gather, assess the progress of their projects, and receive feedback from peers, advisors, and GDN. The workshop enhanced ongoing remote interactions with advisors and offered valuable insights into other projects. During the workshop, teams shared draft papers, coinciding with the deadline for submitting the first draft of the primary research paper.



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## FUNDING

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

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS

**Elena Lazos**, Professor Researcher at Institute for Research (IIS), National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

**Luciano Andriamaro**, Director, Science and Knowledge Department, Conservation International, Madagascar

**Suneetha M. Subramanian**, Visiting Fellow, United Nations University and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan

**Thomas Elmqvist**, Professor, Natural Resource Management, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden

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**Anja Gassner**, Science and Policy Advisor, Global Landscapes Forum, Bonn, Germany

**Girma Kelboro**, Senior Researcher, Center for Development Research, Bonn, Germany

**Jorge Lozano**, Professor of Ecology, Ecology and Evolution of the Complutense University of Madrid

### PARTNERS

**Future Africa** - University of Pretoria

**South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)**

## GRANTEE SPEAK

“ During this project, I’ve been pushed to learn how to communicate better with policymakers and stakeholders working on development. ”

**Malalâtiana Razafindrakoto, Madagascar** | Awarded Researcher

“ I left the mid-term review with an appreciation for social science’s critical role in shaping the impact of our research. Integrating these perspectives led to a more holistic approach to my ecological research and a better understanding of human-environment interactions. ”

**Margaret Fafa, Ghana** | Awarded Researcher



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[www.gdn.int/biodiversity-and-development-awards](http://www.gdn.int/biodiversity-and-development-awards)

For more information about the program, write to  
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Scan the QR Code to visit the program on the website.



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