



AFD-GDN Biodiversity Awards

Scientific Committee – Terms of Reference

About the program

The AFD-GDN Biodiversity and Development Award program is a global competitive research program jointly launched by the Global Development Network and the French Development Agency. The award program targets researchers based in developing countries. It aims to identify and support multidisciplinary engagements on biodiversity mainstreaming, including across different countries, and to boost the use and quality of evidence used in debates on public policies and corporate practices. The program specifically targets researchers in developing countries.

The unique feature of the Program is its two-stage award process: in the first place, the program recognizes and encourages quality individual (or small-team) scientific endeavors, with competitive research grants and tailored support during their implementation; in addition, it promotes and incentivizes multidisciplinary collaborations among the awardees, who are asked to explore options for mutual collaboration from the earliest stages of the selection. Specifically, an additional grant is made to pairs of awarded researchers who develop enticing multidisciplinary activities building on their individual work, including but not limited to evidence synthesis from different disciplinary fields.

Through this call, GDN targets researchers from developing countries (see Call for Proposals and its annexes). GDN intends to assign competitively 4 individual research grants, each up to a maximum of USD 40,000 for a 24-months project starting in June 2021, and 2 additional multidisciplinary research grants of up to USD 15,000, to pairs of awardees. The two grants will run in parallel, or as per the proposal of the researchers.

Timeline of the program

Launch of the call for proposal	January 2021
Review of proposals	February 2021
Final selection	May 2021
Beginning of the research	June 2021
Mid-term workshop	May 2022

Closure of the research grant	June 2023
Publication of the studies	September 2023

Role of the Scientific Committee

The program is managed by GDN as the chosen partner of AFD under the supervision of a Scientific Committee. GDN proposes to mobilize as part of this Scientific Committee academics and practitioners with a proven world-class academic track record in relevant disciplines and countries, along with experts from AFD and a qualified representative from GDN. Specific members of the Scientific Committee will be invited, based-on their interest and expertise, to act as mentors to single awardees. In addition to guidance to the PIs, the Scientific Committee as a whole will be mobilized at key moments: at the outset of the program to define the Call for the Awards Program's first edition, at the time of the multi-stage selection to provide scientific feedback to the shortlisted researchers, at the award stage as part of the Awards Jury, and finally during midterm and final events of the Awards Program. Through these engagements, this body will provide the Program with a central quality control mechanism. More specifically, the role of the Scientific Committee is:

- (i) to advise on the overall program strategy (throughout);
- (ii) to review and validate the call for expression of interests (Dec 2020/Jan 2021);
- (iii) to participate in the selection of the received research proposals (April-May 2021);
- (iv) to provide overall quality oversight during project implementation, including at the mid-term review workshop (May 2022) and review the final research outputs (May 2023).

In addition, GDN aims to give Scientific Committee members priority in the selection of Scientific and Technical Advisors to specific awardees, based on thematic expertise, country experience and personal interest. A separate TOR and contract will be issued to SC members who accept to play the role of Scientific and Technical Advisor to one of the selected researchers. For reference, as opposed to overall high-level guidance to GDN and researchers provided by SC members, Advisors :

1. guide the researchers in selecting the most appropriate research methods and frameworks to conduct their research by drawing upon cutting-edge developments within their disciplines;
2. provide advice and guidance on needs basis to the team and ensure that the research processes and outputs adhere to high professional standards;
3. provide written feedback on draft papers submitted by the team;

An individual honorarium of USD 5,000 is attached to the position of Scientific Committee members, for the duration of the program. An additional honorarium of USD 5,000 is attached to the position of Scientific and Technical Advisor, for the duration of the program.

Key Deliverables for Scientific Committee members

	Due date	Deliverable
1	Jan 3rd 2021	Feedback on the call for expression of interest submitted
2	March/April 2021	Provide guidance to shortlisted proposals to build the full proposal during a Research Lab (virtual or in presence, TBD)
4	May 31st 2021	Final review of full proposals submitted
5	May 31 st 2022	Review and written feedback on the submission of first draft report submitted by the team of researchers and attendance of the peer-review workshop (workshop to be planned in May 2021, tbc).
6	June 30 th 2023	Review and written feedback on the final draft submitted by the Principal investigator. A brief report to GDN assessing the interactions with the research teams, activities undertaken, challenges faced and the final outcome.