



Building a robust pipeline of scientists
leading climate change research in Africa





What

Various interventions are being crafted to combat the well-known threats and devastating impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement, for instance, aims to strengthen the global response by strengthening the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. The One Planet Coalition, established in 2017, put forward concrete Commitments and Actions that will accelerate the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Announced at the inaugural One Planet Summit in December 2017, the One Planet Fellowship is Action no. 1 of Commitment no. 3 of the 12 One Planet Summit Commitments focused on mobilizing researchers and young people to work for the climate. The One Planet Fellowship is a career development program that is building a robust pipeline of scientists equipped to lead climate change research in Africa. It is establishing an intergenerational network of scientists across Africa and Europe to foster research collaborations.

The Fellowship is a unique collaboration between the private sector, civil society, public research, and private philanthropy that brings gender to the center of the climate change research. Active financing collaboration between the private sector, civil society, public research, and private philanthropy is critical for mobilizing researchers and young people to work toward climate solutions, especially those targeted at African smallholder farmers. By building the capacity of young high-potential researchers to develop gender-responsive, relevant interventions toward combating climate change, this Action is a vital part of that commitment.



Why

Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change with hundreds of millions of lives at risk of hunger and starvation if the continent remains unable to feed its growing population. Research and innovation can help, but only if substantial investments are made now to build a pipeline of talented scientists equipped to lead the climate change research.

Climate change has gendered impacts, and scientists must learn how to use a gender lens as they innovate solutions. To ensure the sustainability of climate research, we must invest in building cross-continental, intergenerational, and cross-disciplinary networks of scientists. Further, accelerated innovation for climate change adaptation and mitigation can only be found in the synergy between the emerging African scientists and their emerging European scientist counterparts about the realities of climate science in Africa.

How

The One Planet Fellowship is building a robust pipeline of highly connected, inter-generational scientists equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers cope with climate change. The Fellowship is targeting more than 600 African and European scientists to enhance their leadership skills and catalyze research partnerships and networks to provide valuable exposure for contextualization of climate change research in Africa.

The Fellowship is designed to build and enhance the mentoring, scientific, networking, and leadership skills of scientists working on the nexus between agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The scientists will also focus on the multi-dimensional impacts of climate change on food systems while also identifying and developing innovative solutions to effectively respond to the challenges, needs, and priorities of diverse population groups across the continent.

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Inspired by the AWARD Fellowship Model (www.awardfellowships.org), the One Planet Fellowship entails the following activities:



A highly competitive selection process

For candidates who will become One Planet Laureates upon completion of the three-year non-residential fellowship process. Recipients are selected based on their merit, competence, and other relevant eligibility criteria that include:

- be a citizen of one of the eligible countries announced during each call
- be aged 40 years or less as of the application deadline;
- have attained a minimum education level of a bachelor's degree
- reside in Africa and be actively engaged in research, policy, and practice relevant to climate change and Africa's smallholder agriculture

Detailed eligibility criteria are outlined for every application round and published on the Fellowship website (www.oneplanetfellowship.org)



A three-tiered mentoring program

The One Planet Laureate candidates are paired with more established African scientists (Mentors) who are carefully chosen to match their area of expertise and career objectives. The proposed Laureate-Mentor pairs commence a year-long mentorship relationship and are supported to build successful partnerships geared toward enhancing the Laureates' career growth.

In the third year of the Fellowship, the Laureate candidates select emerging African and European scientists (also known as Learning Partners) to whom they serve as Mentors. This model creates a mentorship pod of three generations of scientists working on innovations to help African smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate..



A series of training and scientific events

The Laureate candidates, their Mentors, and Learning Partners are supported to attend various AWARD Training courses including, the Mentoring Orientation Workshops, the Leadership, Gender-Responsive Research, and Science skills courses, and other events jointly organized by AWARD and partners.



Advanced Science Training (AST)

In the second year of the Fellowship, Candidates are competitively supported to participate in research placements at internationally recognized research institutes. This process will require the candidates to work closely with renowned scientists (also referred to as Research Supervisors) from across the world on mutually agreed research projects on climate and agriculture-related issues.



Laureates' ceremony

At the end of the three-year process, candidates who satisfactorily complete all elements of the Fellowship will be named One Planet Laureates and will join an elite cohort of scientists.



Establishment of a One Planet Community of Practice

To facilitate a sustainable pipeline of climate science leaders, the Fellowship will support the formation and establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) on climate change and agricultural development. This CoP will be facilitated to grow and support continuous learning among climate change researchers.





Which

Successful implementation of these activities is expected to yield the following:

- 1 A pipeline of scientists, working on climate change, comprised of One Planet Laureates as champions of sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 2 Increased Africa-Europe research collaborations on climate change
- 3 A mentoring culture to support continuous development of capable, confident climate change researchers
- 4 A pool of scientists equipped to analyze the potential of their research to bridge the gender gap in African agriculture and ability to cope with climate change

Where

The One Planet Fellowship is a global initiative focusing on African and European scientists and forging south-south and north-south collaborations.



One Planet Fellowship at a glance

A **five-year** **USD 20 million**
initiative



Targets **>600**
agricultural scientists
in a **career-acceleration**
process aimed at:



- Fostering leadership skills
- Sharpening scientific skills
- Enhancing scientists' capacity to integrate gender into their research
- Catalyzing research partnerships and networks
- Fostering south-south and north-south collaborations



Competitive
selection



Mentoring
partnerships



Customized
learning
experiences



One Planet
Research
Community
of Practice







The One Planet Fellowship is a career development initiative that is building a robust pipeline of highly connected, inter-generational scientists equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers cope with climate change.

The One Planet Fellowship is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the BNP Paribas Foundation, the European Union and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and Agropolis Fondation are jointly implementing the Fellowship.

**BILL & MELINDA
GATES** *foundation*



**FONDATION
BNP PARIBAS**



EUROPEAN UNION



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada



Any queries? Please send an email to oneplanet.award@cgiar.org

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