



## Call for Applications for an Evidence Leadership Award for AAS Fellows, Affiliates & Grantees

### Overview of Evidence Leaders in Africa Initiative

The Award is part of the *Evidence Leaders in Africa (ELA)* initiative, which is working to expand leadership for the use of evidence in policy formulation and implementation by African governments. The initiative is a collaboration between the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), and is implemented in East and West Africa. The initiative is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The initiative seeks to inspire and empower AAS scholars to proactively engage governments to use science and innovation, as well as champion Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) in East and West Africa. Specifically, the project seeks to:

1. Increase the number of academic leaders championing EIDM in Africa
2. Increase the number of government agencies in East and West Africa taking specific actions to institutionalise EIDM
3. Deepen evidence and expand space for EIDM learning in Africa

### The Evidence Leadership Award

The ELA initiative invites AAS fellows, affiliates and grantees who are innovating with interventions that promote, support and enable the use of evidence in decision-making in government institutions to apply for a leadership award to recognize these efforts.

The purpose of the Award is to increase efforts by AAS scholars and researchers that seek to promote, support, and enable evidence-informed decision-making within government agencies in their countries.

The award will be given to individuals only and will cover initiatives that promote, support or enable EIDM including but not limited to initiatives that:

- Synthesise and repackage evidence for decision-makers
- Repackage evidence for decision-makers
- Use multi-media/innovative technologies in repackaging and presenting evidence to decision-makers
- Facilitate regular discussions of evidence on policy issues by policymakers and researchers (dialogues)
- Build and sustain relationships and interactions between researchers and policymakers
- Engage and facilitate media to improve media coverage of research and other evidence
- Engage civil society and communities with evidence

- Build capacity of decision-makers or other evidence users in interpretation and application of evidence to improve the uptake of evidence in decision-making
- Advocate for and/or support the development of tools and guidelines that support evidence use
- Provide technical advice to decision-makers to improve decision-making
- Advocate for and support the strengthening of institutional leadership, systems, structures, budgets, and capacities for enabling EIDM
- Assess and evaluate the effectiveness of EIDM interventions

### The Award

- The award will have a monetary value of US\$ 5,000 for the winner, and US\$ 2,500 for two runners-up. Winners will use the prize money to conduct evidence-to-policy activities with policymakers and researchers, for participation in relevant conferences, or to attend relevant professional development courses or programmes.
- The top winner will have an opportunity to speak at the evidence uptake Virtual conference that will be hosted in November 2020 in Nairobi for AAS scholars, researchers and policymakers. Participation to the conference will be covered.
- The winners profiles will be published in the websites of AFIDEP and AAS, social media and the conference report.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for the Award must:

- Be an AAS fellow, grantee or affiliate.
- Be from one of the eligible countries in East and West Africa (**East Africa**: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. **West Africa**: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo).
- Be able to communicate in English.
- The awardee should also be available to participate in the November Evidence uptake conference in Nairobi.
- Provide at least 3 referees who will attest to their EIDM initiative(s) and its/their contribution to enabling evidence use. One of these referees must be a policymaker whom your work has benefited or impacted.

### Assessment Criteria

- How long has the applicant been evidently promoting, or enabling, the use of evidence in policy decisions?
- What is the level of innovation and/or creativity demonstrated in the applicant's efforts?
- How effective have the applicant's initiatives been in promoting or enabling increased use or consideration of evidence? (effectiveness of their interventions)
- How sustainable are the applicant's EIDM efforts?

- Has the applicant received other relevant prizes, awards or other forms of recognition related to the promotion of evidence uptake?
- How has this applicant demonstrated leadership in EIDM?
- Have the applicant's efforts involved a mix of varied interventions to promote or enable evidence uptake?

Award timelines	
Call for applicants	August 7, 2019
Submission deadline	Extended to August 31, 2020
Review and selection	September 21, 2020
Notification of Awardees	October 9, 2020
Award Ceremony	November 2020

## Application Requirements

Applicants are expected to fill an application form which requires the following information:

- Basic demographic information
- Name, institutional affiliation and position held
- Short public biography of the applicant.
- A narrative on the initiatives they have been engaged in that enhance evidence uptake in government institutions.
- CV (no more than 4 pages)
- Contact details of at least three referees who are willing to attest to the applicants' contribution towards EIDM in Africa. The referees will be required to fill a nomination form and send it directly to the award organisers using [leadershipaward@afidep.org](mailto:leadershipaward@afidep.org).
- Sample of any articles about your work related to EIDM (if available).

## Application procedure

Please use the attached templates (Application form and Reference form). The reference form should be filled by your referee and mailed to the project team using the email [leadershipaward@afidep.org](mailto:leadershipaward@afidep.org) with the subject line **ELA Leadership Award: [Name of the Applicant]**

Please note that the forms should be completed in English. However, you are encouraged that this is **not** an award for English writing: applications will be judged on the merit of the applicant's contribution to EIDM and not on the English grammar.

All Applications must be submitted through the email: [leadershipaward@afidep.org](mailto:leadershipaward@afidep.org) by **31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020**. Any questions or inquiries for clarification should also be directed to the ELA Project Team using the email address ([leadershipaward@afidep.org](mailto:leadershipaward@afidep.org)).

## Contact:

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