AFD-IRD PARTNERSHIP MOBILIZING RESEARCH TO CONDUCT IMPACT EVALUATIONS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Mobilizing research to conduct impact evaluations in the Global South

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What is PAIRES?
A €3M grant to the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) to finance and conduct impact evaluations in conjunction with research teams from the South.

Objectives
i. Strengthen impact evaluation skills and research practice in the Global South,
ii. Enrich dialogue with public authorities and stakeholders on development projects,
iii. Fuel academic debate on key development issues.
PAIRES
Financing criteria

• What criteria need to be met to apply for a PAIRES funding?
  i. A team composed of at least one researcher from an IRD laboratory and researchers and teacher-researchers from institutions in developing countries
  ii. The evaluation concerns a development intervention supported by the AFD Group and is of proven operational interest
  iii. The evaluation is of proven scientific interest

The project is identified at a sufficiently early stage, before the interventions are put in place, to enable an impact evaluation to be carried out.
PAIRES Governance

**PAIRES administration**
- 1 scientific coordinator
- 1 chief coordinator
- 1 project coordinator

- Identifies and supports new projects
- Coordinates the monitoring and promotion of IEs and the PAIRES program
- Acts as a bridge between the academic and operational worlds
- Provides operational and scientific support for IEs throughout their life cycle

**Scientific committee**
5 economists:
- Columbia University
- Bordeaux University
- Namur University
- CIRAD
- World Bank

- Examines research protocols and issues a scientific opinion on the project

**Steering committee**
- 1 IRD representative
- 1 AFD representative
- 1 DGT representative
- 1 DGM representative

- Examines new applications for IE project funding
- Selects projects for funding
- Ensures proper monitoring and overall management of the project

**Advisory group**
Researchers, operational staff, and selected experts by the research team and AFD

- Creating a framework for dialogue and consultation comprising researchers and operational staff
- Guides the IE
- Is kept informed of the progress of the AR
PAIRES
Advisory group

❖ A framework for dialogue and consultation between the project’s various stakeholders and external experts.

MEMBERS:
Operational and academic players (AFD, researchers, NGOs, MOA, government, etc.) with whom the subject of IE may resonate and who could capitalize on the lessons learned from this type of intervention.

❖ Guide the IE
- Give their expert opinion on the methodology, set-up, context and research results
- Suggest ways of improving the implementation and methodology of the IE, which should be taken into account by the research team

❖ Be kept informed of the progress, results and value-added of the IE, so that you can capitalize on what you have learned!
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ACTIVITIES

Sectors
Health, energy, biodiversity, education, gender equality, microfinance, agriculture

Financing
1,9M engaged
5 cofinanceors: ANRS, CEPREMAP, AFD-OSC, KfW, IRD
7 IE et 5 feasabilities financed
1 summer school

Collaborations
9 research institutions in intervention countries: Centre Muraz, Kathmandu University, ISER-N, CIFOR, Geocom, Université de Yaoundé II, Université Gamal Abdel Nasser, UCAD-ISED, KfW
6 french research laboratories: LEDa, CERDI, Espace Dev, PSL/PSE, ESE,CEPED...

Ongoing IE(7)
Feasibility(1)
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CURRENT IMPACT EVALUATION PART OF THE PAIRES PROGRAMME

REDGAS
Burkina Faso
Jan 2021 – Fév 2024
Gas stove distribution
Air pollution and health levels

Vahatra
Madagascar
Fév 2023 – Avril 2024
Domestic violence awareness
Domestic violence perception and reports

Chèque Santé
Cameroun
Fév 2022 – Avr 2024
Prepayment of maternal healthcare
Maternal and neonatal mortality

PEN
Népal
Jan 2023 – Oct 2024
Parental education campaign
Child development

Mutuelles Santé
Sénégal
Oct 2023 – Sep 2026
Departmentalisation of health insurers
Access to healthcare and penetration rates

PAF Basin du Congo
Jan 2021 – Sep 2026
Forest management plan and concession
Environmental and social indicators

Betsaka – Madagascar
Jan 2024 – Avr 2027
Protected areas
Environmental and socio-economic indicators
Key stages in the process and follow-up of an impact evaluation

**IDENTIFICATION**
- Identification of researchers + confirmation of scientific and operational interest

**FEASIBILITY**
- Conduct of feasibility study + drafting of protocol and summary. Feasibility report and/or protocol + summary for COPIL

**IMPACT EVALUATION**
- Conduct of the IE
- Deliverables: questionnaire, impact indicators, survey results, data analysis

**RESULTS**
- IE monitoring: Organize advisory group, coordination and methodological support
- Deliverables: blogs, working papers, publications in AFD format, scientific papers, presentations and reports.

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**Promotion:** blogpost, AFD publications, academic papers

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PAIRES funding application procedure (1/3)

You have a project in the identification or appraisal phase with major learning challenges in terms of the impact attributable to this project.

➢ Step 1: take a moment to discuss with the PAIRES secretariat to present an idea for an evaluation project (dallmanni@afd.fr; flore.gubert@ird.fr; charlene.belma@ird.fr)

➢ Step 2: discuss the project with the AFD project officer and the PAIRES project secretariat to check that the project meets the conditions for PAIRES funding, in particular to verify the operational interest of such a study for AFD.

➢ Step 3: setting up a research team researchers affiliated to institutions in the country of intervention as well as researchers affiliated to the IRD. The IRD may provide contacts with IRD researchers specializing in the field in question. The team may also include researchers from other affiliations.
If the feasibility of the IE is confirmed

- **Step 5**: the researchers will question the technical and institutional feasibility of the impact assessment, in close collaboration with the team and the project owner: Possibility of having adequate data? of constructing a counterfactual? support from project stakeholders for the idea of an evaluation, etc. PAIRES has a small budget (up to €15,000) for feasibility studies.

- **Step 6**: The research team submits an application for funding to the PAIRES secretariat and the EVI manager, who, after several revisions with the research team, forwards it to the governance bodies (Scientific Committee, then steering committee): An evaluation protocol and a pre-analysis plan; Letters from the AFD and the MOA or other project stakeholders to justify the operational benefit of conducting such a study.

- **Step 7**: Project submitted to the committees. Opinion of the Scientific Committee and funding decisions by the Steering Committee. The COPIL is consulted at the annual PAIRES COPIL meeting or on an ad hoc basis during the rest of the year.
If the project is selected:

➢ **Step 8** If your evaluation project is selected for PAIRES funding:
  Launch of the evaluation;
  The advisory group will be responsible for monitoring the evaluation and will be made up of stakeholders and institutions with operational and/or scientific expertise in relation to the project being evaluated.
THANK YOU!

PAIRES’ website

CONTACTS PAIRES SECRETAIRAT:

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