

TWAS - Elsevier Foundation Project Grants for Gender Equity and Climate Action

Application guidelines

We invite you to read these guidelines carefully and review the TWAS website for additional information on the project.

Background

The *Elsevier Foundation-TWAS Project Grants for Gender Equity and Climate Action* is a new programme aiming to support women involved in **concrete science-based projects**, with the aim of sustainably improving, through the promotion of women's well-being, the livelihood of their **entire community**. The grants will enable application and/or delivery of science knowledge, promoting **tangible change** related to climate action.

Sustainable development cannot happen without **gender equality** (SDG 5): the proposed programme aims to empower women to lead projects in **climate action** (SDG 13) that take them outside the lab. The project aims to support **capacity-building of female scientists**: women will be both the principal applicants and the project leaders, which will enable them to deepen their scientific skills, while acquiring, through training, soft skills such as project management and leadership.

A competitive, open call for applications will consider projects that respond to the needs of, and to the development requirements, of the applicants' community and/or country in one of the 66 scientifically and technologically lagging country (STLCs).

The grants are community focused.

Eligibility criteria

1. Submission of an action-based project with a direct impact on the community of a scientifically and technologically lagging country (<https://twas.org/66-countries>), with a primary focus on climate action (SDG 13) and secondary focus on gender equality (SDG 5).

2. The principal applicant and project leader must be a woman scientist, holding a PhD, living and working in a scientifically and technologically lagging country (<https://twas.org/66-countries>), employed at a university or research institute. The programme does not require a direct involvement of the university or of the research institute in the project. Proof of current employment will be asked to shortlisted candidates.

3. There is no age limitation for this programme.

4. The principal applicant will work in group with up to four (4) additional secondary applicants, also women, who are either scientists or technical experts in a field relevant to the project, from any developing country. The technical expertise would complement the work of the scientist(s) and thus enhance the potential of the team. The team must not include more than five (5) members in total.

5. Projects in any area with enough relevance to climate change and gender equality are eligible.

6. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcome.

[How the project team should be composed of?](#)

PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND PROJECT TEAM LEADER <i>only one</i>	A woman scientist, holding a PhD, living and working in a scientifically and technologically lagging country (STLCs), employed at a university or research institute
SECONDARY APPLICANTS <i>up to four (4)</i>	Also women, can either be scientists or technical experts in the field relevant to the project, from any developing country <i>(e.g., female scientists who are working on a similar or complementary project, social workers, desk officers/ technical experts working in local NGOs, local government agencies, charity institutions or leaders of local community organizations);</i>

[Examples of responsive project grants](#)

The table on the next page presents some examples of areas that the programme considers relevant. The topics listed in the table are only examples and the list provided is **not** an exhaustive one.

RESPONSIVE PROJECT GRANT	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES* OF AREAS/PROJECTS RELEVANT TO CLIMATE ACTION
Action on community	<i>The Collaborative Team members will join forces to carry out a community-based project in which science-driven solutions and innovative technologies will be used to improve livelihoods and support sustainable development.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irrigation methods for better water conservation ● Employment of drought-tolerant crops ● Virtuous and sustainable agriculture ● Waste fermentation and biogas for cooking ● Photovoltaic installations and storage batteries ● Better crops for plant-based diets ● Post-harvest food conservation ● Improving processes based on carbon-footprint assessments ● Tree-planting projects with fast-growing species ● Sustainable soil management ● Addressing methane emissions from ruminant livestock ● Carbon stocks: crops for carbon capture ● Setting up and training for solar thermal units ● Restoration and protection of mangroves ● Afforestation and reforestation ● Assessment of land use and increasing protected areas ● Water purification using solar technologies ● Sustainable cities and smart transportation/traffic management ● Waste and plastic management ● Reduction of emission through internal carbon fees ● Carbon-offsetting community projects ● Planning for mitigation and disaster reduction ● Training for disposal of and extraction from e-waste ● Community climate literacy courses

[What does the programme fund?](#)

The programme will award **three (3) grants** to **Collaborative Teams composed of 3–5 members**. These members will be either scientists or technical experts, or a mixture of both: the mix of competencies is meant to ensure that the project is backed by strong expertise.

The team leaders from the three (3) awarded groups will be invited to an initial training workshop. In case travel restrictions due to the global COVID-19 pandemic allow it, the training will be held face to face in Europe: the programme will cover the costs for flights, accommodation and food. This cost does not need to be included in your application’s project budget.

The project grant is designed to be flexible and modular, with a total value in the **USD 24,000-25,000 range**. It will allow for a variety of expenses **within a three-year timescale**, as long as these are clearly justified by the work tasks.

Table summarizing what resources are justified to be funded:

SOUTH-SOUTH	OUTLINE OF JUSTIFICATION	AMOUNT (in USD)
<p><i>Maximum value of grant</i></p>	<p>The Collaborative Team can request funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials - Consumables - Equipment - Travel to field/project areas - Teaching - Laptops - Insurance - Other clearly justifiable costs (i.e. publication costs, outreach and public information / communications work, etc.) <p>In each case, a clear and solid justification must be provided. Reviewers and Selection Committee members may deem it appropriate to award only part of the requested resources.</p> <p>The Team will also need to explain and justify the expenditure of funds according to the three-year timescale and specify the project milestones and its deliverable.</p>	<p>The overall value of one grant will be 24,000-25,000, depending on the specific project requests.</p>

What the programme does not fund

Funds for the salaries for the project teams cannot be provided.

Flights and unjustified travel or other costs that cause greenhouse gas emissions will not be supported.

Evaluation

The selection committee will look for evidence of **significant impact** on climate action and gender equity. They will look for evidence of the project’s likelihood of success in supporting women involved in concrete science-based projects. You must clearly demonstrate how you aim to improve, through the **promotion of women's well-being**, the livelihood of their **entire community** with specific reference to **climate change**.

The selection committee will look for applications with **evidence of support**, use, and/or **delivery of science knowledge at community level**, promoting tangible change related to climate action. They will look for women scientists able to lead impactful projects in climate action that takes them outside the lab, and that support the capacity-building of other women and women scientists.

Your application will be assessed primarily based on the **quality and feasibility of your project** proposal, the evidence of your proposed impact on gender and climate change, and the **nature**

of your collaborations with others. It will also be assessed based on evidence of your scientific merit.

Evidence of prior community work, outreach, civic engagement, or local leadership is not required, yet would be an added advantage.

Women working in particularly challenging circumstances are particularly invited to apply.

Upon application, candidates are required to share the following mandatory documents:

- A full budget in USD covering the whole duration of the project in Excel to be attached to the application form.
- Necessary documentation to prove eligibility for the programme needs to be uploaded as an attachment to the application form:
 - Passport or National Identity Document (of Principal Applicant and all co-applicants)
 - PhD Certificate (for Principal Applicant only)
 - Proof of employment at the university or research institution (for Principal Applicant only)
 - A partnership declaration signed by all team members

If a candidate is not able to provide such information, she will lose her eligibility to the programme.

How to apply

- The application must be submitted via the online form, the link to which can be found on the TWAS website (<https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-elsevier-project-grant>)
- A scientist may only submit one application at a time and for only one kind of grant (i.e. individual, research unit, IsDB-TWAS Research Grant or OWSD Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) Fellowship) for consideration by TWAS.
- When submitting the application via the online form the principal applicant needs to upload all required documentation as attachments to the form.

The omission of the documents above-mentioned will make the application ineligible. In case you have questions about this programme, please contact climatewomen@twas.org

When to apply

- The call for application will open on February 21, 2022.
- The deadline for receiving applications is May 19, 2022.

Notification of results

Candidates who are selected for this programme should expect to be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of 2022.