




Studies & Research

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022



We have now entered the 'age of consequences': long, slow-moving crises such as climate change, whose effects are accelerating, and the major health, economic, and geopolitical shocks that may ensue as a result. Understanding the circumstances and analyzing long-term trends are essential for improving the quality of our operations and their impact using a country-specific approach.

This is the purpose of the studies and research carried out by AFD using a multi-disciplinary approach, in close collaboration with our partners in the Global South. This approach can be used to foster public policy dialogue as well as civic debate. Overlapping several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), research at AFD is grounded in the strong sustainability approach: it recognizes the interdependence of economic, environmental, and social transition trajectories, as well as the importance of involving citizens in shaping societal priorities related to these transitions – that are specific for each country.

This Studies and Research 2022 report lays out AFD Group's main trends for this work in terms of volume and topical, geographical, and partnership priorities, highlighting the main uses and flagship projects of our five signature approaches.

AFD Group's strategy for studies and research

Our strategy for studies and research is in line with the priorities of AFD's Strategy. Divided into five signature approaches, it emphasizes public policy dialogue and research in the Global South.

Why does AFD do research?

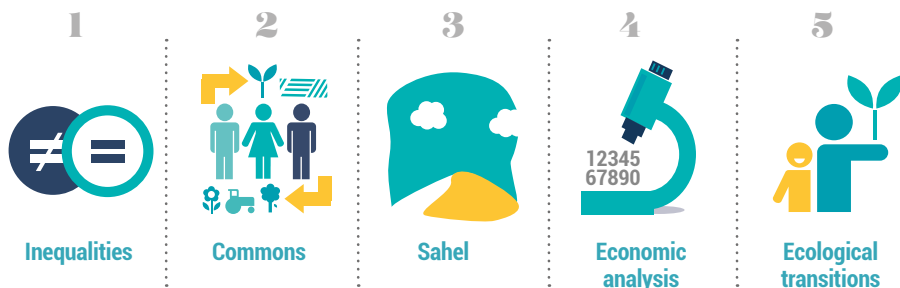
- To provide our partners with high quality research that informs and supports public policy.
- To enhance the visibility and reach of our operational and strategic activities.
- To reinforce our cooperation with research partners in developing countries.



● Learn more about AFD's research at afd.fr

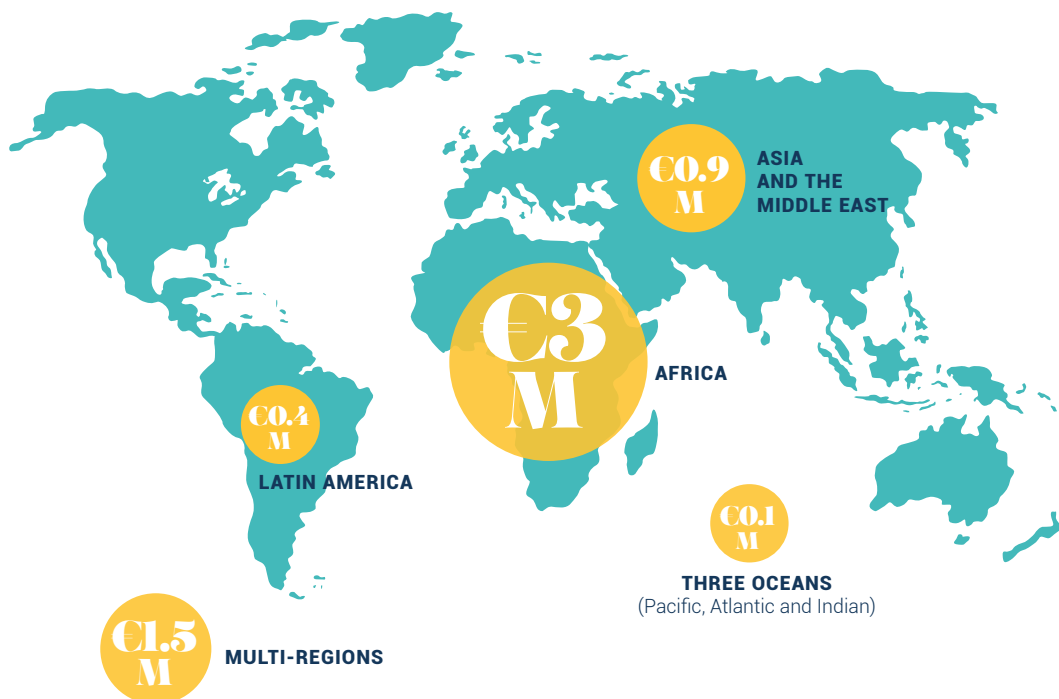


Our signature approaches



Studies and research funded in 2022

Amounts devoted to studies and research contracted in 2022, by region



125 contracted studies
and research projects
(€5.9 M)

+

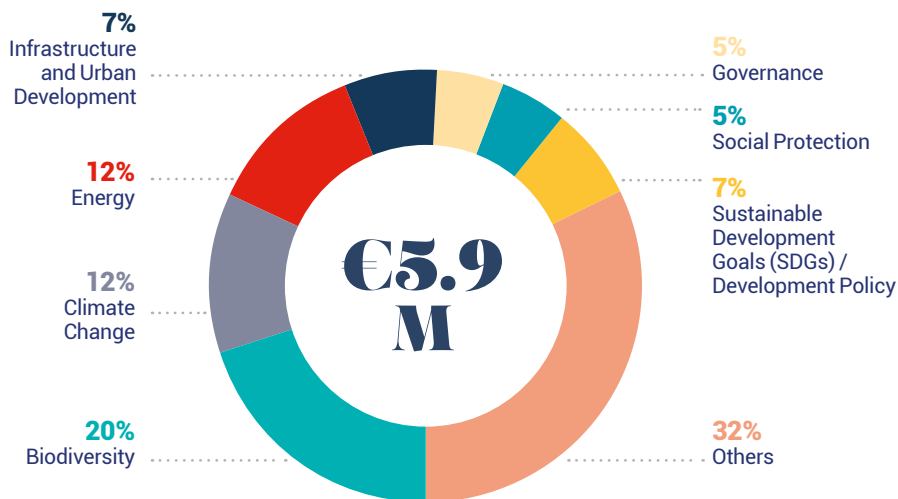


4 research projects
awarded to partners
(€5.5 M)



= €11.4 M devoted to research in 2022

Our studies and work by topic (% of amount)



Strong sustainability: a new area of research for AFD

AFD uses the concept of strong sustainability to shed new light on building development trajectories. Three principles are proposed to guide decision-makers in building trajectories that takes into account social and planetary boundaries, as well as macroeconomic constraints:

1. Non-substitutability between different types of capital (natural, economic, and social).
2. Production of multi-dimensional, science-based indicators and analyses.
3. Collectively defining a new social contract regarding the ideal state of affairs and the trajectories required to reach it.

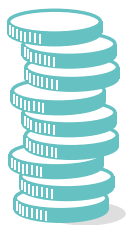
This approach contributes to the alignment of environmental, societal, and economic knowledge in order to achieve the SDGs and make this compass more effective.



● Discover our content on the 15th Research Conference on Strong Sustainability at afd.fr

Supporting research in the Global South

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires mobilizing research to better understand and anticipate sustainable development issues, propose science-based solutions, and inform the choices of decision-makers. Each country needs robust national research to grasp the specific challenges it faces and build its development agenda. However, research in many of the countries where we work is underfunded and not sufficiently linked to the public debate.



€2.3 M

The financial equivalent of studies and research contracted by AFD with the involvement of at least one partner from the region concerned



This is why AFD Group has made support for national research a full-fledged priority, by supporting **the production of knowledge, dissemination, and strengthening of research capacities.**

AFD Group supports and assists research in developing countries in various ways:

- **by systematically associating** local teams to the research projects it funds, as research partners who participate in developing the terms of reference for studies and share the intellectual property for the findings.
- **funding** research capacity building and networking projects, as well as initiatives to support young researchers.
- **producing and disseminating knowledge** about research in developing countries, and building on the findings to further improve its own practices.

Strengthening research capacities in the Global South

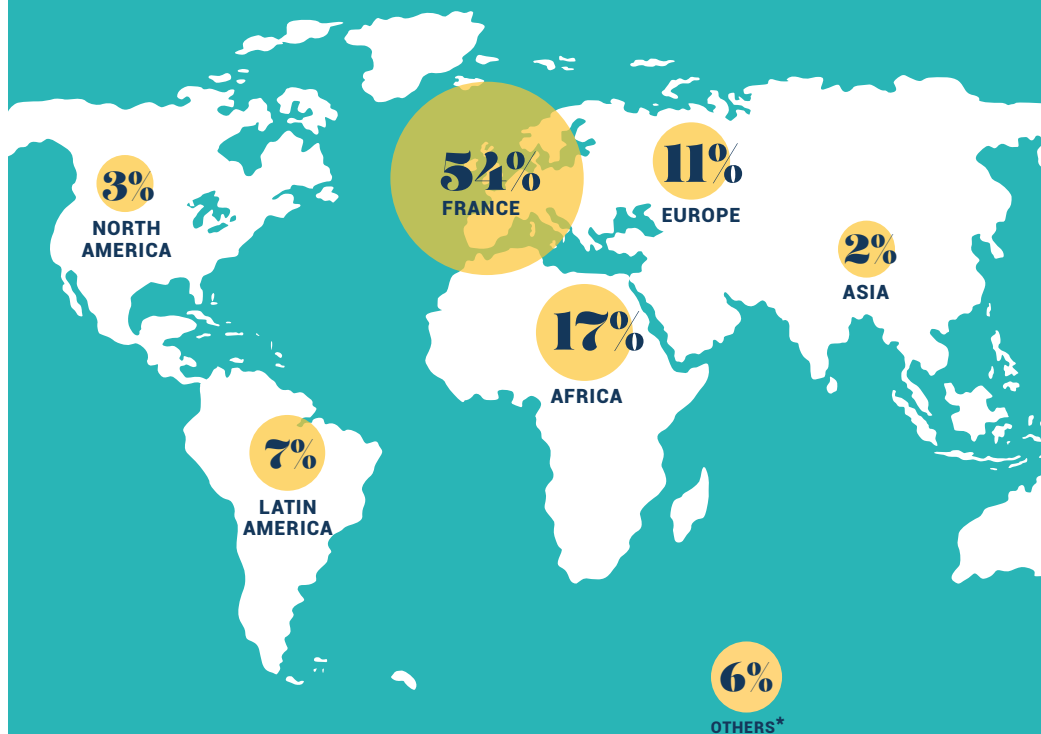
AFD funds many research capacity building projects in the countries where it operates: Global Africa for creating a multi-disciplinary scientific journal, 'ACE Impact' for developing programs of academic excellence, and PARTNER for creating regional networks and partnerships. AFD also works with the Global Development Network as part of the Clermont-Ferrand International Development Hub project.



● **Learn more at afd.fr**

Our partners

Breakdown of AFD Group partners on new studies and research in 2022
As a % of the number of partnerships

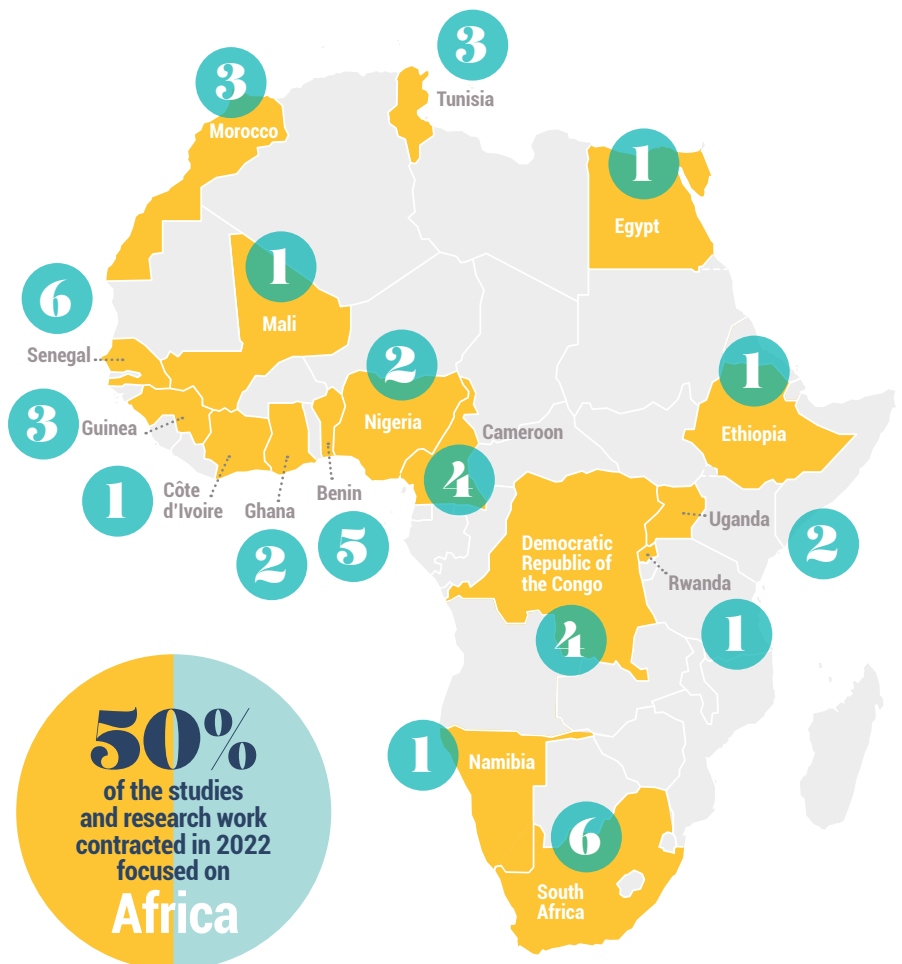


**Partnerships with international organizations*

Focus on Africa

AFD supports research in all of the areas where it operates, particularly in Africa where it supports African research organizations and researchers.

Number of African research partners involved in ongoing studies in 2022



Some flagship projects in 2022

on our signature approaches



Economy and biodiversity loss

This study analyzes several prospective scenarios found in the literature and the associated recommendations. The aim is to inform decision-makers about the consequences of biodiversity loss on the socio-economic and financial sectors.

● [Read the policy paper](#)

Indonesia: Marine protected areas & inequalities



Rising inequality, climate change, and deteriorating marine ecosystems are challenges for Indonesia. The EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities supports the government in its policy to develop marine protected areas and to analyze its social impact.

● [Read the research paper](#)



Producing knowledge on the Sahel

The Sahel Analysis, Monitoring and Learning Platform (PASAS) produces and capitalizes on knowledge to inform the interventions of development actors in the Sahel and Lake Chad region.

● [Find out more at pasas-minka.fr](#)



Digital Commons in Africa

Data, computer codes, shared knowledge... Our study has led to a mapping of the digital commons in sub-Saharan Africa and has analyzed their contribution to the SDGs.

● [Check it out at afd.fr](#)



MacroDev: focus on commodities

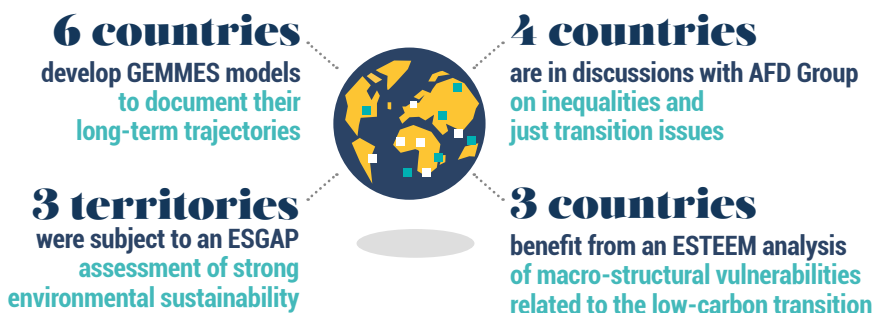
In addition to the macroeconomic repercussions of soaring commodity prices on emerging countries, the study points to particularly troubling social and political consequences. The rise in energy and metal prices also raises questions about the pace of a low-carbon transition, which is more important than ever.

● [Download it at afd.fr](#)

Public policy dialogue

At AFD Group, research sits at the intersection between the academic world and the world of decision-makers in order to contribute to public policy dialogue and civic debate.

Through its research, partner networks and field experience, AFD Group contributes to the public debate on public policy options that are compatible with sustainable development trajectories, taking into account planetary and social boundaries.



Colombia: Strong sustainability for a sustainable development trajectory

Energy transition, inequalities, macroeconomic and financial strategies: AFD's research teams work with the Colombian government on analyzing issues that are crucial to strong sustainability, in order to contribute to the implementation of public policies associated with the country's ambitious development agenda.



Citizen dialogue is key to re-greening Madagascar

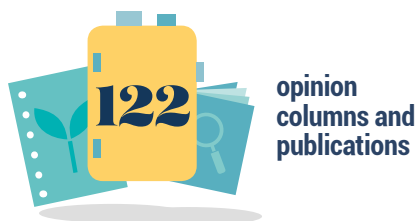
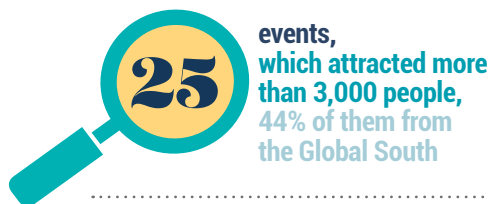
The Alamino initiative, coordinated by the Malagasy NGO Indri, aims to restore forest cover and to re-green the country's landscapes. It has identified ten principles for re-greening the island as well as strategic fire management measures. Citizen dialogue is key to this initiative: more than 200 organizations are involved, and there is a strong commitment from local communities and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.



● Learn more at afd.fr

Promoting studies and research

AFD's studies and research are disseminated in a variety of ways, including conferences, publications for experts and the general public.



Transitions in Overseas France: challenges and visions for the future

The 7th AFD-CEROM conference on Overseas France was held on October 13, 2022, after the first ARUM conference (Actes de la recherche ultramarine). Its theme was broken down into four sessions devoted to agri-food, energy and socio-economic transitions in Overseas France, as well as monitoring and steering tools.

There were 522 participants online and 150 in person.



● Check out our content at afd.fr



Finance in Common: a look at the research conference

Held in October 2022 in Abidjan, this conference highlighted:

- the role of public development banks (PDBs) as the financial arm of governments to support public policies.
- their role in the global financial structure.
- the alignment of PDBs with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.
- the role of African PDBs as an essential link to social inclusion.

In addition, as an extension of AFD's collaboration with Peking University, the database of PDBs around the world has been updated to include financial data on 528 institutions and to map their public policy objectives.



● Watch the conference on YouTube

Towards a World in Common

AFD Group contributes to the implementation of France's policies for sustainable development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector, NGOs, research and training; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to the private sector; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates the transitions needed for a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people in more than 150 countries, as well as in 11 French Overseas Departments and Territories. As part of the commitment of France and the French people to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, our teams are at work on more than 4,800 projects in the field. Our objective is to reconcile economic development with the preservation of common goods, from peace, the climate and biodiversity to health, education and gender equality. Towards a world in common.



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