

1. OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICA EVIDENCE NETWORK

The Africa Evidence Network (AEN) is a broad community of diverse people who share a common commitment to producing and using evidence for decision-making in Africa. This pan-African network is open to all who live and work on the continent, and is unique in six broad dimensions because it spans:

- i) All countries in Africa;
- ii) All sectors including members working across all the areas within the Sustainable Development Goals;
- iii) All spheres including government, academia, civil society and all intermediaries;
- iv) The full diversity of roles within these spheres from members of parliament and directors of companies, to researchers and programme managers;
- v) All elements of the evidence production and use cycle, from the generation of evidence to its integration into policy and implementation; and
- vi) All types of evidence from administrative data, evaluations of all kinds, experimental research, citizen experiences and systematic syntheses of primary studies.

As of January 2019, the Network's membership includes over 2000 people from 40 different countries, including more than 20 African governments. The AEN has a growing reputation for leadership in evidence for decision-making and is regularly consulted with by individuals wanting to produce better evidence, use evidence for a range of decisions, and get advice on how to set up regional networks elsewhere. The Africa Evidence Network is supported by a Secretariat based at the Africa Centre for Evidence hosted by the University of Johannesburg.

2. THE AFRICA EVIDENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Africa Evidence Leadership Award works on a nomination basis and is awarded annually. The Award¹ was established in 2018 by the AEN, with the threefold purpose of:

1. Increasing awareness of evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in Africa;
2. Raising the status of evidence amongst decision-makers in Africa; and
3. Showcasing the status of Africa in EIDM discussions by recognising impactful, insightful, effective, and/or innovative work that supports EIDM in Africa.

3. WHAT DOES THE AWARD CONSIST OF?

The recipient of the award will receive:

- A space in the biennial Evidence programme to deliver a keynote address on their work
- Registration, economy return flights from their African country of residence, and accommodation while attending the biennial Evidence conference taking place on September 14-18, 2020 in Kampala, Uganda²

¹ The award feeds into Outcome 4 of the Africa Evidence Network's impact and learning summary as submitted as part of a Hewlett Foundation grant application. Outcome four aims to raise awareness of EIDM, and the status of evidence amongst decision-makers, as well as the status of Africa in EIDM discussions.

² Note that airport transfers, visa costs, and daily living expenses (per diem) are not covered beyond the meals provided within the conference programme.

- Up to USD1500 travel grant towards attending a high-profile course or event on EIDM³
- A token of recognition presented at Evidence 2020
- Publication of winner's the profile in an academic journal

4. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This award is a given to individuals only. Only AEN members can nominate other AEN members to receive this award.

To be eligible for the award, the nominee must:

- Be a member of the AEN,
- Be a leader in and influential contributor to EIDM in Africa,
- Work in any sector as long as they can motivate their **participation in EIDM**⁴ as an evidence-user, evidence-producer, evidence-broker or any combination of these,
- Provide proof of citizenship of and/or residence in an African country (as defined by the United Nations),
- Be able and available to travel to and attend all four days of Evidence 2020 on 14 to 18 September 2020 in Kampala, Uganda, and must commit to giving a keynote address at the event,
- Be willing to have their profile publicised in a journal and on any of the AEN public platforms, and
- Be able to provide clear evidence of an exceptional contribution to EIDM.

5. WHAT IS THE NOMINATION PROCEDURE?

This Award considers nominations only; no applications are taken into consideration for the Africa Evidence Leadership Award⁵.

To nominate someone for the Award, you should submit the following by 8 April 2019 23:59 SAT:

- Nomination form completed by the person nominating the potential award winner⁶
- Contact details for at least three referees. Referees can be based inside or outside of Africa. Referees should be familiar with the nominee's contribution to EIDM in Africa and should be contactable. The referees should ideally be from diverse backgrounds and cannot be the nominator.
- Records of the nominee's contribution towards EIDM in Africa (academic papers or other written outputs)
- Additional material such as media articles about the nominee's work (if available)

³ Some eligible events or courses include: Global Evidence Summit, Global Evidence and Implementation Summit, biennial conference of the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence, Cochrane Colloquium. Award winners are welcome to propose to the award committee additional events or courses not listed here.

⁴ For the purposes of the award, the EIDM sector is defined as both the supply and demand/use of research evidence (which includes monitoring and evaluation, impact evaluations, evidence synthesis, and data and knowledge management). This definition is intended to be broad so as to be as inclusive as possible. If you feel your work is not represented by this definition, kindly contact us at ace@uj.ac.za.

⁵ This is a change from the 2018 Award and is in response to feedback from AEN members as reported in the 2018 annual member survey, available online via www.africaevidencenetwork.org.

⁶ Please alert the referees that the AEN awards committee may be contacting them to verify their recommendation. Nominations without contactable referees or with fewer than three referees risk disqualification.

All documentation should be emailed in **PDF format** to the AEN secretariat at ace@uj.ac.za⁷ with the subject line **AEN AWARD NOMINATION**.

Nominations must be completed in English due to language-translation resource constraints. However, you are encouraged that **this is not an award for English** writing: nominations will be judged on the merit of the nominated person's contribution to EIDM and not on the level of English of the nomination.

Deadline for nominations is **8 April 2019**.

6. WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE?

- After the deadline, the nominations will be reviewed by the AEN awards committee, and a list of shortlisted nominees will be prepared by **16 April 2019**.
- Online profiles of shortlisted nominees (protecting the contact information of applicants; shared publicly only with their permission) will be shared via the AEN. Each AEN member will have one opportunity to vote for their preferred shortlisted nominee until **17 May 2019**.
- The final shortlisted nominations will be considered by the governance structure of the AEN, with one award-winner and two honourable mentions being announced on **31 May 2019**.

7. WHAT ARE THE ASSESEMENT CRITERIA?

- **Experience**
 - How long has the nominee been evidently engaging with EIDM?
 - How diverse are the nominee's output / publication topics?
 - Has the nominee received other relevant prizes, awards or other forms of recognition?
- **Leadership**
 - How has this nominee demonstrated leadership in EIDM?
 - Does this nominee advocate EIDM outside 'working hours' via social media for example?
- **Knowledge**
 - Has this nominee sustained engagement with EIDM throughout different projects they have managed?
 - How diverse are the sectors that this nominee's referees are from?

8. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The recipient of the award will be required to sign a contract of more specific terms and conditions.
- The award money covers:
 - Evidence 2020 registration fee
 - One economy return flight to Evidence 2020

⁷ Nominations in other formats where online access is problematic will be accepted on condition that the nominee have successfully contacted the AEN secretariat by phone or email by 2 April 2019 to arrange the alternative submission process. Nominations posted to us without prior agreement may not reach us timeously and therefore cannot be accepted.

- The equivalent of South African three-star accommodation for the duration of Evidence 2020 only; any additional days of accommodation will be for the account of the nominee and;
- Up to USD1500 travel grant towards attending a high-profile course or event on EIDM
- The award money **excludes**:
 - Per diem (daily subsistence costs, all meals not provided for by Evidence 2020 or accommodation)
 - Visa and passport costs
 - Airport transfers
 - Recreation costs
 - Changes in flights or accommodation after bookings have been secured by the AEN secretariat
- The award money is provided as a travel bursary and will be administered through the AEN secretariat who will coordinate with and pay event organisers directly. Award-winners will not be given any of the award money directly.

To enquire about the award or anything pertaining to the award, contact the AEN coordinator Precious Motha via ace@uj.ac.za or +27115591935.