



TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTERNSHIP TO BUILD THE GEF-9 STAR ALLOCATION SYSTEM

Data and Analytics Team, Global Environment Facility

Reference Number: INT2724

Application Deadline: July 31st, 2024 11:59PM EST

Duration: Six Months

Location: Washington, D.C., USA

Expected Start Date: October 1st, 2024

Description

Working at the World Bank Group provides a unique opportunity for you to help our clients solve their greatest development challenges. The World Bank Group is one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries—a unique global partnership of five institutions dedicated to ending extreme poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development. With 189 member countries and more than 120 offices worldwide, we work with public and private sector partners, investing in groundbreaking projects and using data, research, and technology to develop solutions to the most urgent global challenges. Visit www.worldbank.org

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, and supporting land and ocean health. Its financing enables developing countries to address complex challenges and work towards international environmental goals. The partnership includes 186 member governments as well as civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, with a focus on integration and inclusivity. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$25 billion in financing and mobilized \$145 billion for country-driven priority projects. The family of funds includes the Global

Environment Facility Trust Fund, [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#) (GBFF), [Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (LDCF), [Special Climate Change Fund](#) (SCCF), [Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund](#) (NPIF), and [Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Trust Fund](#) (CBIT).

The STAR Allocation System

The GEF introduced a performance-based Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) in 2005 as a system to allocate GEF resources to eligible recipient countries in the Biodiversity and Climate Change focal areas. Building on the experience with the RAF, the GEF replaced the RAF in 2010 with the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) for three of the five GEF focal areas – Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation. The STAR allocation system pre-allocates funds to these focal areas in eligible countries.

The STAR is comprised of three main categories of indices – a Global Benefits Index, a Country Performance Index, and a GDP Index. Each major index has series of sub-indices. All data is collected at the country level. The Global Benefits Index steers funds towards the countries that can potentially deliver the most global environmental benefits, and is calculated per country per focal area. The Country Performance Index assesses the internal and institutional capacity of countries to deliver on those potential benefits. The GDP Index is designed to marginally steer resources to low-income countries. Finally, there are a series of allocation ceilings and floors built into the system to ensure that there are no outlier allocation amounts.

The GEF Secretariat is currently initiating the process of updating the methodology and datasets of STAR allocation system for the upcoming GEF-9 Replenishment. This process includes revisiting the existing three major indices and their sub-indices. The existing weights of subcomponents and major indices will also be assessed, as well as the existing levels of floors and ceilings. Additionally, potential enhancements are being explored, such as integrating dimensions of vulnerability and policy coherence into the model.

Duties and Responsibilities

The selected candidate will become a part of the GEF's Data and Analytics team. Under the overall supervision of the CEO's Advisor, the purpose of this team is to focus on strategic data analytics to (i) support the GEF-9 replenishment (ii) internationally position the GEF as the environmental partner of choice, (iii) conduct strategic quantitative data mining of the

GEF's 30-plus years of data, (iv) maximize the impact of GEF programming by bringing a greater evidence-based perspective, and (v) establish the GEF as a global lead on key topics.

The primary responsibilities of the selected candidate are to (1) support the methodological and data updates of the existing STAR indices, (2) support the construction and introduction of potential vulnerability and policy coherence indices into the model, and (3) assist the team on additional analytical, operational, and organizational tasks, as needed.

Specifically, the selected candidate will:

- Conduct an overview of existing performance-based allocation systems
- Support the reassessment of the methodologies of the existing STAR indices and sub-indices to take into account latest scientific and policy advancements, collaborating with the relevant technical teams across the GEF Secretariat as needed
- Explore the latest available datasets for all existing indices, including public and non-public sources
- Undertake the extensive data updates for all existing indices and sub-indices
- Ensure quality assurance of the updated datasets across different layers
- Update and implement the existing protocols for missing data
- Support the assessment of the potential for the inclusion of parameters related to "vulnerability" in terms of methodology and data, through extensive literature and data reviews
- Support the assessment of the potential for the inclusion of parameters related to "policy coherence" in terms of methodology and data, through extensive literature and data reviews
- Support the construction of the GEF-9 STAR allocation model in Excel
- Support the building of a GEF-9 STAR dashboard in platforms such as R, Python or PowerBI
- Support extensive model simulations
- Support extensive trend and sensitivity analyses, including on the weights of indices and sub-indices
- Support the preparation of STAR briefing materials for the GEF Leadership Team, the GEF Council, and the wider GEF Partnership as needed
- Assist the Data and Analytics team in any other analytical, operational, and organizational tasks as needed

Selection Criteria

- Applicants must have an undergraduate degree and be enrolled or planning to enroll in a graduate study program in International Development, Environmental Policy, Environmental Economics, Environmental Science, or a related field relevant to GEF's work. There is no age limit.
- Proven academic, technical, and analytical background
- Strong research and data analysis skills
- The ability to review and summarize literature and international reports
- The ability to collate, manage, and analyze complex and interrelated datasets
- Knowledge and experience of international (UN and World Bank) datasets and databases on environmental indicators, economic development, vulnerability, and environmental policy indicators
- A proficiency in, and comfort with, quantitative and statistical data analyses
- Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office products, particularly Excel
- Proficiency in programming, statistical and econometric software, such R, Python, PowerBI, and STATA
- Sound organizational and data management skills
- Proven critical-thinking skills, with a willingness to learn new areas and explore unfamiliar issues
- Demonstrated ability to present and summarize ideas clearly, methodically, and concisely
- Well-organized, self-motivated, highly efficient, and dependable individual, with a demonstrated ability to manage multiple priorities, work under tight deadlines, and operate effectively in situations of high demands and pressure
- Outstanding interpersonal skills to work effectively across a multicultural organization

Interested applicants should [apply here](#) by submitting a statement of interest and a CV by 11:59 pm EST, 31 July 2024.