

Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	<u>2024-080</u>
Title:	Junior Professional Officer (Environmental Economist)
Grade:	UC
Division/VPU:	The Environment Natural Resources and Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice (GP) Global Platform Unit (SENGL)/ Sustainable Development Vice-Presidency (GGSVP)
Duty Location:	Washington, D.C
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

Global Practice Context:

Sustainable environment and natural resources management (ENRM) is at the heart of the WBG poverty agenda. Biodiversity and natural resources constitute the social safety net of the poor, representing a food bank and often a vital source of livelihood. Sustainable ENRM promotes a green, clean, and resilient world where natural resources—from forests to fisheries, freshwater, oceans, coastal zones, and ecosystems—are managed to support livelihoods and strong economies. Sustainable ENRM builds a world better prepared for shocks and global challenges, helping countries limit their exposure to resource scarcity, more-volatile weather patterns, and the long-term consequences of climate change.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/overview>

The Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice (GP) has been set up to deliver on the opportunities, benefits and outcomes offered by enhanced management of the environment and natural resources.

ENB has the following business lines:

- Green: Forests, Biodiversity, Watersheds & Sustainable Landscapes - managing renewable natural capital across landscapes.
- Blue: Marine, Coastal & Aquatic Resources - unlocking the wealth of marine, coastal and freshwater economies.
- Clean: Circular Economy, Management of Pollution & Environmental Health - reducing pollution to improve environmental conditions.
- Environmental Economics and Institutions: Fostering economies and institutions for low carbon, healthy and sustainable growth; and
- Environmental Risk Management and Sustainability: Managing risks and creating opportunity to advance sustainable development in accordance with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Position:

The World Bank is seeking a Junior Professional Officer based in Washington, D.C. The work program for this position will focus on providing technical contributions to the economic analysis of natural resource management in low- and middle-income countries. The relationship between natural resources and poverty is complex and varies across space and time. Understanding these relationships can help design more effective lending programs, to meet the World Bank Group's mission of ending poverty on a livable planet.

The Junior Professional Officer will have the following key responsibilities as agreed with his/her Practice Manager based on an annual Results Agreement.

- **Technical Advisory Work.** As a member of the Global Platform Unit, the incumbent will work with other economists in the unit to provide evidence-based advice on a broad range of solutions related to natural resource management, biodiversity, poverty and inclusion. The Environment Global Practice focuses on managing forests, fisheries (coastal and marine), land degradation and watersheds to in a complex environment where the poor are often dependent on them for their livelihoods, or where the vulnerable are often most affected by environmental disamenities. The advisory work will focus on identifying options where natural resources can be better managed to address the challenges of poverty.
- **Analytical Work Program.** The incumbent is also expected to contribute to the analytical work led by the Global Platform Unit. The Global Platform Unit conducts analytics at the global and country level to understand the biophysical status of natural resources; identify hotspots that deserve attention; the drivers of environmental challenges; and increasingly to highlight current and intertemporal tradeoffs in the nexus of managing environmental challenges, poverty and inclusion. These analytics are conducted to generate global public goods (knowledge) and to inform World Bank operations. A major global knowledge product on natural resources, poverty, gender and inclusion is being planned, to generate learning through a collection of country cases studies that the incumbent could contribute towards. The incumbent could also contribute to the high-level discussion on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; as well as support analytical studies that could guide how the framework could be operationalized into country support programs financed by the World Bank. As a member of the team of economists at the Global Platform Unit, the incumbent may also be requested to support other corporate priorities such as the WBG's Climate Change Action Plan (2021-2025) and IDA20. The incumbent may also be asked to support the Multilateral Development Bank Joint Statement on Nature, People and Planet; this will include supporting the operationalization of a methodology to identify, monitor, and track nature positive WBG investments in support of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as the development of a Program of Programs under the World Bank Global Challenge Program on Forests for development, Climate and Biodiversity.
- **Global Outreach.** The incumbent will be expected to provide input into the World Bank's global outreach on environment and climate change issues. This will include providing input to briefs and presentations for the Bank's senior management for engagement in international conferences, negotiations, and bilateral cooperation. The Junior Professional Officer will be expected to provide input to Bank's participation in the follow up to the CBD COP-16, on collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, and on coordination with Multilateral Development Banks on implementation of the MDB joint statement. The Junior Professional Officer will also be expected to contribute to presenting the Bank's work at technical conferences and workshops.

- **Program Administration and Fundraising.** The Junior Professional Officer will be expected to contribute to the technical aspects of trust funded programs, supporting and help maintaining development partner relations and day to day management¹.
- **Knowledge Management.** The incumbent is expected to maintain effective communication with relevant communities of practice, including NGOs, academia, civil society, the private sector as well as specialized international organizations. In particular, active participation in communities of practice and global level technical innovation and knowledge sharing in the area of biodiversity mainstreaming will be an important component of this position. Supporting the coordination and carrying out other tasks as requested by the relevant Manager such as for example, contribute to the organization of training or knowledge sharing events.

The Junior Professional Officer is expected to learn World Bank Group procedures, and contribute to their improvement, by participating in training offered, by developing a personal training program, keeping abreast of research and development knowledge in the environment and natural resources sector, and relevant safeguard management process.

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving their own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Master's degree (PhD preferred) in environmental economics, agricultural economics, forestry economics, applied economics, or public policy, with a strong preference for candidates with a rigorous technical academic training combined with some field research and/or policy experience.
- A minimum of three years of full-time relevant professional experience in environmental economics and policy analysis is required.
- Expertise in micro-econometrics—the empirical analysis of microdata—is required.
- Experience in collecting primary data is highly desirable.
- Experience working in developing countries, understanding the institutional and political context and exposure to national environmental policy challenges is highly desirable is.
- Proven teamwork and successful experience working in multi-disciplinary teams; ability to work independently with limited supervision.
- Fluency in English is required; a second language (French, Spanish, or Portuguese) would be highly beneficial.
- Willingness to travel, including to remote rural areas.

¹ SENGL administers large trust funds that fund activities in environment, natural resources, and pollution management, including PROGREEN, PROBLUE and the Global Program for Sustainability