



Call for Applications:

ProGREEN Leadership Fellows Program

Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy - West Africa

- Do you aspire to become an effective and inclusive leader in promoting renewable energy?
- Do you want to gain insights and understanding of how to collaborate more effectively with diverse communities and other stakeholders?
- Do you seek to be more connected with similarly focused scientists and professionals in the renewable energy space in West Africa?

START International is seeking applications from emerging renewable energy scientists and professionals working in universities, research centres, government institutions and civil society organizations in West Africa to be a part of the ProGREEN Leadership Fellows Program. Fellowships will run for ten months during 2022 and will feature virtual leadership labs, capacity strengthening in technical dimensions of renewable energy, training and experiential learning in strategic communications, and valuable networking opportunities.

About ProGREEN

Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy - West Africa ([ProGREEN](#)) is a project implemented by [START](#) with support from the [Research Fund of Quebec \(FRQ\)](#) that aims to enhance understanding of renewable energy transitions and their effects on development, particularly in terms of food and water security, as well as the well-being of rural populations. During Phase 1 of the project, START assembled multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral teams in Burkina Faso and Senegal to conduct in-depth assessments of key enabling and constraining factors for advancing renewable energy (RE) transitions in both countries. The project also engaged with broader renewable energy experts in West Africa through the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies in Rabat, Morocco to better understand the region's renewable energy landscape and potential opportunities. Building from insights gained in phase I of the project, START organized an Advanced Institute on renewable energy for 45 early and mid-career West African researchers in June, 2021.

During ProGREEN Phase I, the need for holistic capacity strengthening on engaging meaningfully in co-design processes, and communicating and collaborating effectively with diverse stakeholders, was highlighted as a critical need. START is now focusing on ProGREEN phase 2 to reinforce these capacities with the next generation of West African scientists and professionals in order to make meaningful progress towards achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all). Phase 2 will be anchored by the *ProGREEN Leadership Fellows* program.



ProGREEN Leadership Fellows Program

Fellowships will be offered for a ten month period in 2022 and are tailored to emerging renewable energy scientists and professionals working in universities, research centres, government institutions and civil society organizations in West Africa. Given the likelihood of continued COVID-related restrictions, along with certain benefits of being geographically untethered in terms of participation, the program will be primarily delivered virtually, though we will pursue in-person interactions when possible. Activities will include:

- In-depth virtual leadership labs that explore nuanced dimensions of transdisciplinary research and action, including rich examinations of power, internal leadership competencies and tools for collaborating with diverse others.
- Renewable energy- themed capacity strengthening labs where START and our partners will accompany Fellows on a deep-dive exploration of critical issues in this space including green energy finance and linkages with the SDGs.
- Training in strategic communications and proposal development to bolster Fellows' abilities to effectively tell the stories of their work and to translate those stories into successful proposals.
- Networking opportunities with START's renewable energy partners in the region.

These activities will aim to not only to increase skills, but to also achieve stronger integration of different knowledge types and bolstered connectivity among Fellows and regional actors.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Be citizens or residents of one of the following countries (If you are a citizen of one of these countries and a resident of another one of these countries that is allowed). -Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo
2. Be fluent in, or have a strong command of, spoken and written French.
3. Be either advanced graduate students/early career researchers (Masters students, PhD candidates and those with advanced degrees who have 5 years or less of post-graduate work experience) or early career professionals/practitioners (with 5 years or less of work experience). Those working in government ministries, civil society and the private sector are therefore eligible to apply.
4. Applicants' current work must relate to renewable energy and they must have knowledge and interest in renewable energy as it applies to one or more of the following areas: water, land use, food and agriculture, health, youth, gender, socio-economics, and small and medium enterprise development.
5. A signed *Institutional Support Form* (part of the application materials – see (Annex 1 below) must be submitted, confirming the applicant's Home Institution's formal endorsement of the applicant's participation in the Program and its commitment to involve the applicant in renewable energy related work after the Fellowship experience.



Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Language Requirements

All activities will be in French, however some knowledge of English will be beneficial.

Support

START will provide Fellows with a modest stipend as well as assistance to cover internet connectivity where needed.

Duration and Time Commitment

Fellows are expected to commit an average of 10 hours per month on tasks associated with their fellowship. This includes time spent on mandatory synchronous and asynchronous learning activities and strategic communications activities and may increase or decrease depending on that month's organized tasks.

Application Process

Applicants must follow these steps:

1. Complete and submit the Application Form by January 28, 2022 at this [link](#).
The application form includes space for the applicant to write their Motivation Statement reinforcing the applicant's willingness and availability to attend all virtual labs, sessions and events and addressing the applicant's interest and experience relating to the following:
 - a. Small-scale renewable energy
 - b. Strengthening personal and interpersonal leadership competencies
 - c. Collaborative work across sectors and scales
 - d. Networking and strategic communications
2. Submit a current curriculum vitae (CV) (Maximum 2 pages) to mcamara@start.org by January 28, 2022 with the subject line: *ProGREEN Leadership Fellowship and Your Name*
3. Submit a SIGNED Institutional Support Form from your Home Institution (See Annex 1 Below) to mcamara@start.org by January 28, 2022.

Selection Process

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for Fellowship interviews during February 2022, and successful applicants will be notified at the end of that month.

Questions

For further questions regarding the Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy (ProGREEN) – West Africa project or this Call for Applications, please contact Mariama Camara at mcamara@start.org or visit <https://start.org/programs/progreen>



Annex 1

PROGREEN FELLOWSHIP INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FORM

To be completed by the applicant:

Applicant Name:

To be completed by the Home Institution:

An appropriate representative of the applicant's Home Institution should complete this form. This representative can be the Director, Dean or Department Head of the Institution, or the direct supervisor of the applicant.

TO THE PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM: *The applicant whose name appears above is submitting an application to be a Fellow of the Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy - West Africa (ProGREEN) Leadership Fellows Program. **Please complete and return this Institutional Support Form to the applicant in a timely manner. Note, the applicant must submit this form before his/her application is considered complete.***

Declaration of Institutional Support

The Institution that I direct, represent, or of which I am a part has been informed that the person named above is applying to be a Fellow of the Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy- West Africa (ProGREEN) Leadership Fellows Program and agrees to support the applicant in this endeavour. It is understood that, if accepted, the applicant would participate in the ProGREEN Leadership Fellows Program for a period of 10 months, during which time the Fellow will spend an average of 10 hours per month on Fellowship tasks, with occasional increases in the time commitment depending on the activity.



By sponsoring the applicant, we confirm and agree:

- That the applicant named above is a member of the Institution listed below and will (barring any unforeseen circumstances) continue to be a member of that Institution during their Fellowship experience;
- That the applicant is actively working on a renewable energy project at our institution;
- That, if accepted, the applicant has permission to spend the required time to execute his/her Fellowship activities including synchronous and asynchronous virtual labs, exercises and events;
- That our Institution will support the applicant in sharing his/her experience and skills with the broader Home Institution.

If selected, ProGREEN Fellows will be awarded a small stipend to support their efforts during the Fellowship along with potential connectivity support if needed for virtual engagements. **A Fellow’s Home Institution is required to maintain their normal financial support during his/her Fellowship as the ProGREEN Fellowship will not be a substitute for this.**

Signature:

Printed Name of Signatory:

Title:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Date of Signature:

Please complete and return this Institutional Support Form to the applicant in a timely manner. Note, the applicant must submit this form before his/her application is considered complete.

